# ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

**DECEMBER 31, 2020** 

# TWENTY-SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

JUDICIAL EXPENSE FUND

Bossier and Webster Parishes State of Louisiana Annual Financial Report Year Ended December 31, 2020

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT	<u>Statement</u>	Page 1
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (PART I)		
Management's Discussion and Analysis		5
BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS		
Government-wide Financial Statements Statement of Net Position	А	11
Statement of Activities	В	12
Fund Financial Statements Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds	С	13
Reconciliation of the Governmental Funds Balance Sheet to the Statement of Net Position	D	14
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances – Governmental Funds	E	15
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities	F	16
Notes to the Financial Statements		17
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (PART II)	<u>Schedules</u>	
Budgetary Comparison Schedule – General Fund	la	30
Budgetary Comparison Schedule – Special Revenue Fund	1b	31
Notes to Required Supplementary Information on Budgetary Accounting and Control		32
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION		
Schedule of Compensation, Benefits and Other Payments to Agency Head	2	34

# TWENTY-SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDICIAL EXPENSE FUND Bossier and Webster Parishes State of Louisiana Annual Financial Report Year Ended December 31, 2020

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Schedules</b>	<u>Page</u>
Justice System Funding Schedule – Receiving Entity	3	35
OTHER REPORTS REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING ST	TANDARDS	
Independent Auditors' Report on Internal Control over Financial Report on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial State Performed in Accordance with <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>		37
OTHER INFORMATION		
Schedule of Current Year Audit Findings		40
Schedule of Prior Year Audit Findings		41

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# INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

The Honorable Judges of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court – Judicial Expense Fund Bossier and Webster Parishes, Louisiana

#### **Report on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court - Judicial Expense Fund as of and for the year ended December 31, 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the fund's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

# Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the fund's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the fund's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

#### Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court - Judicial Expense Fund as of December 31, 2020, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### **Other Matters**

#### Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison information on pages 5-9 and on pages 30-31 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

#### Supplementary and Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court – Judicial Expense Fund's basic financial statements. The supplementary information and the other information, as listed in the table of contents, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The schedule of compensation, benefits and other payments to agency head and the justice system funding schedule are the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the schedule of compensation, benefits and other payments to agency head and the justice system funding schedule are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

The other information, as listed in the table of contents, has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements, and accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

#### Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued a report dated June 30, 2021, on our consideration of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court - Judicial Expense Fund's internal control

over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court - Judicial Expense Fund's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court - Judicial Expense Fund's internal control over financial control over financial reporting or on compliance.

Wise Martin & Colo, LLC

Minden, Louisiana June 30, 2021 **REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (PART I)** 

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS (MD&A)

# TWENTY-SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

BOSSIER AND WEBSTER PARISHES

MELISSA W. FOX COURT ADMINISTRATOR SR. STAFF ATTORNEY PHONE: (318) 965-2217



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## MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Our discussion and analysis of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court - Judicial Expense Fund (JEF) provides an overview of the JEF's financial activities for the year ended December 31, 2020, in an easily readable analysis.

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The government-wide assets of the JEF exceeded its liabilities at the close of 2020 by \$2,092,729.
- The General fund's total fund revenues were \$303,627 in 2020, an increase of 46% over last year's revenues of \$208,407.
- The Child Support fund's (CSF) total fund revenues were \$527,354 in 2020, a decrease of 13% of last year's revenues of \$606,725.
- During the year ended December 31, 2020, the governmental funds, JEF and CSF had total expenses of \$502,796 and \$420,671, respectively.

# USING THIS ANNUAL REPORT

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements. The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities (on pages 11 & 12) provide information about the activities of the JEF as a whole and present a longer-term view of the JEF's finances. Fund financial statements tell how governmental activities were financed in the short term as well as what remains for future spending. Fund financial statements also report the JEF's operations in more detail than the government-wide statements by also providing information about all of the JEF's governmental funds.

These financial statements consist of three sections: Management's Discussion and Analysis, the basic financial statements (including the notes to the financial statements), and required supplementary information.

#### Reporting the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court - Judicial Expense Fund as a Whole

## The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities

Our analysis of the JEF as a whole begins on page 11. One of the most important questions asked about the JEF's finances is, "Is the JEF as a whole better off or worse off as a result of the year's activities?" The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities report information about the JEF as a whole and about its activities in a way that helps answer this question. These statements include *all* assets and liabilities using the *accrual basis of accounting* which is similar to the format used by most private-sector businesses. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are taken into account regardless of when cash is received or paid.

These two statements report the JEF's *net position* and changes in them. One could think of the JEF's net position — the difference between assets, liabilities and deferred inflows/outflows — as one way to measure the JEF's financial health or *financial position*. Over time, *increases* and *decreases* in the JEF's

net position are one indicator of whether its *financial health* is improving or deteriorating. One needs to consider other non-financial factors, however, such as changes in the number of cases handled by the District Court as well as the number of judgeships approved by the State Legislature and the State's economic condition, to assess the overall health of the JEF.

Currently, the JEF has only governmental activities that provide for personnel, equipment, supplies, and other costs related to the proper administration of the District Court. Court costs, fines, and fees primarily finance these activities.

#### Reporting the Funds of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court - Judicial Expense Fund

#### **Fund Financial Statements**

Our analysis of the major funds maintained by the JEF begins on page 13. The fund financial statements provide detailed information about the specific activities of the significant funds maintained by the JEF - not the JEF as a whole. In addition to the General fund, a separate fund may be established to satisfy managerial control over resources or to satisfy finance-related legal requirements established by external parties or governmental statutes or regulations. The JEF's *governmental funds* use the following accounting approach:

Governmental funds — All of the JEF's basic services are reported in governmental funds, which focus on how money flows into and out of those funds and the balances left at year-end that are available for spending. These funds are reported using the *modified accrual* accounting method, which measures cash and all other financial assets that can readily be converted to cash. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed *short-term view* of the JEF's general government operations and the expenses paid from those funds. Governmental fund information helps determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the JEF's programs. We describe the relationship (or differences) between governmental *activities* (reported in the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities) and governmental *funds* in a reconciliation following the fund financial statements.

# THE TWENTY-SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT - JUDICIAL EXPENSE FUND AS A WHOLE

The JEF's total net position changed from prior year, increasing from \$2,062,311 to \$2,092,729. Our analysis below focuses on the net position (Table 1) and changes in net position (Table 2) of the JEF's governmental activities.

#### Table 1 - Net Position

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Current and other assets Capital assets Total assets	\$ 1,991,563 <u>158,324</u> <u>2,149,887</u>	\$ 2,078,471 <u>36,397</u> <u>2,114,868</u>
Current liabilities Total liabilities	<u>57,158</u> <u>57,158</u>	<u> </u>
Net position: Invested in capital assets Unrestricted Total net position	158,324 <u>1,934,405</u> \$ <u>2,092,729</u>	36,397 <u>2,025,914</u> \$ <u>2,062,311</u>

Net position of the JEF's governmental activities increased overall by 30,418. Unrestricted net position – the part of net position that can be used to finance day-to-day operations without constraints established by debt covenants, enabling legislation, or other legal requirements – decreased by 91,509.

#### Table 2 - Changes in Net Position

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Revenues:		
Program revenues		
Charges for services	\$ 652,285	\$ 748,361
Operating grants/contributions	152,060	42,733
General revenues		
Interest earned	26,636	24,038
Total revenues	<u>830,981</u>	815,132
Expenses:		
Judicial expense	386,925	323,156
Child support	413,638	<u>371,629</u>
Total expenses	800,563	<u>694,785</u>
Increase (decrease) in net position	30,418	120,347
Net position, beginning	2,062,311	<u>1,941,964</u>
Net position, ending	\$ <u>2,092,729</u>	\$ <u>2,062,311</u>

The following program revenues were less than prior year:

- JEF collections of judicial fees and forfeited bonds were down by \$16,733
- Child Support collections were down by approximately \$79,343

Investment earnings and JEF operating grants/contributions were higher compared to last year. Capital grants of \$110,273 were received this year to cover 90% of the cost of court's case management software.

Overall, expenses of operating the court covered with the Judicial Expense and Child Support funds was approximately \$105,800 more than last year, mainly due to approximately:

- \$13,560 increase in personal costs due to COLA increases and raises
- \$80,000 increase in computer repairs and maintenance
- \$17,800 increase in internet legal research

# THE JEF's FUNDS

The focus of the District's governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflow, outflows and balances of spendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the District's financing requirements. In particular, unreserved fund balance may serve as a useful measure of a District's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year.

Judicial Expense fund (JEF) revenues for this year were approximately \$95,000 higher than last year's revenues. Collections of grants were up by approximately \$111,900, while fees and fines were \$16,700 lower.

Court expenses covered by the JEF for this year were approximately \$173,000 higher over last year's expenditures. A majority of the increase in expenses was due to \$39,700 more in repairs and maintenance. The JEF covered \$122,500 of the cost of case management software.

As mentioned earlier, the Child Support Fund (CSF) reported approximately \$79,343 less collections of fees assessed against persons owing child support compared to prior year. Overall expenditures for court operations covered by the CSF were approximately \$42,900 more this year. A majority of the increase in expenses was due to \$39,700 more in repairs and maintenance and \$10,000 more in internet legal research.

## **General Fund Budgetary Highlights**

The District Court adopted a budget for its General fund and its Special Revenue fund for the year ended December 31, 2020. During the year, one amendment was made to the General fund budget and one amendment was made to the Child Support Fund (CSF). The amendment to the General fund was made to increase grant revenues to be received from the Louisiana Supreme Court and to decrease transfers projected to come from the CSF. The amendment made to the CSF was made to increase projected revenues, to decrease projected expenditures, and to decrease transfers projected to go to the General fund. The budgetary comparison is presented as required supplementary information and shown on pages 30-31.

# CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION

# **Capital Assets**

At the end of December 31, 2020, the JEF had invested \$158,324 in capital assets.

# Table 3 Capital Assets at Year End (Net of Depreciation)

	Governmental activities		
	2020	<u>2019</u>	
Furniture and fixtures	\$-	\$ 4,621	
Equipment and software	<u>251,615</u>	<u>392,991</u>	
Total capital assets	251,615	397,612	
Less: accumulated depreciation	(93,291)	<u>(361,215</u> )	
Net capital assets	\$ <u>158,324</u>	\$ <u>36,397</u>	

During the year, capital assets acquired for a total of \$154,520, made up of computers and case management software. Depreciation for the year ended December 31, 2020, totaled \$27,537. More detailed information about the capital assets is presented in Note 5 to the financial statements.

#### DEBT

At December 31, 2020, the JEF had no outstanding bonded debt. More detailed information about the long-term obligations of the JEF is presented in Note 6 to the financial statements.

## ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEXT YEAR'S BUDGETS

The JEF's management considered many factors when setting a fiscal year December 31, 2021 budget. Court operations are funded extensively by the Parishes of Bossier and Webster. The most important factors affecting the budget are projected revenue from court costs, fines and fees. The 2021 fiscal budget was set for total projected revenues of \$181,000 and \$515,000 for JEF and Support Enforcement, respectively. Total projected expenditures of \$465,600 for the JEF program will be covered by bonds and fees and transfers from the Child Support Fund of \$59,000, the remaining costs of \$225,600 will come from accumulated resources available in net position.

# CONTACTING THE TWENTY-SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT - JUDICIAL EXPENSE FUND'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

This financial report is designed to provide citizens and taxpayers with a general overview of the JEF's finances for those funds maintained by the JEF and to show the JEF's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact Melissa Fox, Court Administrator at P.O. Box 310, Benton, Louisiana 71006.

# BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

# STATEMENT A

# TWENTY-SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDICIAL EXPENSE FUND Bossier and Webster Parishes

State of Louisiana

Statement of Net Position December 31, 2020

	Governmental Activities	
ASSETS		
Cash	\$	458,092
Investments		1,426,025
Receivable from other governments		51,734
Advance to other government		45,000
Prepaid items		10,712
Capital assets, net of depreciation		158,324
TOTAL ASSETS		2,149,887
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable		57,158
TOTAL LIABILITIES		57,158
NET POSITION		
Net investment in capital assets		158,324
Unrestricted		1,934,405
TOTAL NET POSITION	\$	2,092,729

# TWENTY-SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT -JUDICIAL EXPENSE FUND

Bossier and Webster Parishes State of Louisiana

# Statement of Activities For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

		F	Governmental <u>activities</u>		
Functions/programs	Expenses	Charges for services	Operating grants and contributions	Capital grants and <u>contributions</u>	Net (expenses)/ re <u>ven</u> ue
Governmental activities General government:					
Judicial expense fund	\$ 386,925	\$ 124,931 527,254	\$ 41,787	\$ 110,273	\$ (109,934)
Child support fund Total governmental activities	<u>413,638</u> <u>\$ 800,563</u>	<u>527,354</u> <u>\$652,285</u>	\$ 41,787	<u> </u>	<u>    113,716</u> 3,782
	General rever	nues:			
	Interest				26,636
	Total genera	l revenues			26,636
	Change in	net position			30,418
	Net position-	beginning			2,062,311
	Net position-	ending			\$ 2,092,729

# Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds December 31, 2020

	Judicial	Child	Totals
	Expense	Support	Governmental
	Fund	Fund	Funds
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 402,411	\$ 55,681	\$ 458,092
Investments	1,426,025	-	1,426,025
Receivable from other governments	9,958	41,776	51,734
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 1,838,394</u>	<u>\$ 97,457</u>	<u>\$ 1,935,851</u>
LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable	<u>\$ 28,460</u>	<u>\$ 28,698</u>	<u>\$ 57,158</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	28,460	28,698	57,158
FUND BALANCES			
Assigned	-	68,759	68,759
Unassigned	1,809,934	-	1,809,934
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	1,809,934	68,759	1,878,693
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND			
BALANCES	<u>\$ 1,838,394</u>	<u>\$ 97,457</u>	<u>\$ 1,935,851</u>

# Reconciliation of the Governmental Funds Balance Sheet to the Statement of Net Position December 31, 2020

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Net Position are different because:

Fund Balances, Total Governmental Funds (Statement C)	\$ 1,878,693
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds	158,324
Prepayments of some expenses are reported on the Statement of Net Position, however, prepayments are recognized as expenditures in the governmental funds	10,712
Advance to the Twenty-sixth Judicial District - Drug Court is reported in governmental activities, however, is not a financial resource, and therefore, not reported in the governmental funds	45,000
Net Position of Governmental Activities (Statement A)	<u>\$ 2,092,729</u>

State of Louisiana

# Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds Year Ended December 31, 2020

	Judicial expense	Child support	Total governmental
REVENUES	fund	fund	funds
Fees and fines	\$ 124,93	•	\$ 652,285
Intergovernmental grants	151,79		151,794
Investment earnings	26,63		26,636
Other income	26		266
TOTAL REVENUES	303,62	.7 527,354	830,981
EXPENDITURES			
Current:			
General government			
Personnel service & benefits	192,29	7 225,145	417,442
Travel, seminars, & conferences	6,39	7 11,720	18,117
Operating services	137,31	7 139,546	276,863
Professional services	5,35	0 5,350	10,700
Books & publications	25,76	0 25,760	51,520
Capital outlay	135,67	5 13,150	148,825
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	502,79	6 420,671	923,467
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over			
expenditures	(199,16	9) 106,683	(92,486)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)			
Operating transfers in	117,68	9 -	117,689
Operating transfers out		<u>- (117,689</u> )	(117,689)
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	117,68	9 (117,689)	-
(0020)			····
Net change in fund balances	(81,48	0) (11,006)	(92,486)
Fund balances - beginning	1,891,414	4 79,765	1,971,179
Fund balances - ending	<u>\$ 1,809,93</u>	4 <u>\$ 68,759</u>	<u>\$1,878,693</u>

# STATEMENT F

# TWENTY-SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDICIAL EXPENSE FUND Bossier and Webster Parishes

State of Louisiana

Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities December 31, 2020

Amounts reported for government activities in the Statement of Activities are different because:

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds (Statement E)	\$	(92,486)
Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the Statement of Activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which capital outlays exceeds depreciation in the current period.		121,927
Expenses reported in the Statement of Activities that do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in the governmental funds.		977
Change in net position of governmental activities (Statement B)	<u>\$</u>	30,418

Notes to the Financial Statements December 31, 2020

## INTRODUCTION

The Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court - Judicial Expense Fund was established under Louisiana Revised Statutes 13:996.50, which provides for a separate fund for the receipt and disbursement of designated court fines, costs or forfeitures imposed under the law. The Judicial Expense fund is administered by the judges, en banc, of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District. The monies of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court – Judicial Expense fund may be expended for those expenditures deemed necessary for the proper operation of the court, including necessary personnel, law library costs, court equipment and supplies, and travel expenses and fees incurred by any judge or clerk to attend seminars or conferences. No salaries may be paid to any of the judges of the Twenty-sixth Judicial District from the Judicial Expense fund.

The accounting and reporting policies of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court - Judicial Expense Fund conform to generally accepted accounting principles as applicable to governmental entities.

# 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### A. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying financial statements of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court - Judicial Expense Fund (JEF) have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

# **B. REPORTING ENTITY**

Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statements establish criteria for determining the governmental reporting entity and component units that should be included within the reporting entity. The basic criterion for including a potential component unit within the reporting entity is financial accountability. Oversight responsibility is determined on the basis of appointment of governing body, ability to significantly influence operations, accountability for fiscal matters, and the nature and significance of an organization's relationship with the primary government.

Based on consideration of the foregoing criteria, the Twenty-sixth Judicial District Court is deemed to be a separate reporting entity. These financial statements include only information pertaining to the transactions of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court - Judicial Expense Fund. Certain units of the local government over which the Court exercises no oversight responsibility, such as the Bossier and Webster Parish Police Juries, other independently elected officials, and municipalities within the parish

Notes to the Financial Statements December 31, 2020

are excluded from the accompanying financial statements. These units of government are considered separate reporting entities and issue financial statements separate from that of the Court.

# C. BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Government-wide Financial Statements – The JEF's basic financial statements include both government-wide (reporting the funds maintained by the JEF as a whole) and fund financial statements (reporting the JEF's major funds). Both the government-wide and fund financial statements categorize primary activities as either governmental or business-type. All of the JEF's activities are categorized as governmental activities. The JEF does not have any business-type activities.

In the government-wide Statement of Net Position, the governmental activities column is presented on a consolidated basis and is reported on a full accrual, economic resources basis, which recognizes all long-term assets and receivables as well as long-term debt and obligations.

The JEF's net position is reported in two parts - invested in capital assets, net of related debt and unrestricted net position.

Fiduciary funds are excluded from the government-wide financial statements.

The Statement of Activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or segment are offset by program revenues. Program revenues include 1) charges for services provided and 2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or segment. Program revenues reduce the costs of the function to be financed from the District's general revenues. Charges for services are primarily derived from the fines and fees collected from government agencies. Operating grants and contributions consist of grants from various government agencies, and expense reimbursements from judges. Capital grants consist of grants from the Supreme Court to cover the cost of case management software. Interest income and other items not properly included among program revenues are reported instead as general revenues.

Allocation of indirect expense - Indirect expenses not allocated to functions are reported separately in the Statement of Activities. The District reports all direct expenses by function in the Statement of Activities. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a function. Depreciation expense is specifically identified by function and is included as a direct expense of each function.

This government-wide focus is on the sustainability of the JEF as an entity and the change in the JEF's net position resulting from the current year's activities.

Notes to the Financial Statements December 31, 2020

*Fund Financial Statements* – The financial transactions of the JEF are recorded in individual funds in the fund financial statements. Each fund is accounted for by providing a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, deferred inflows/outflows, reserves, fund equity, revenues and expenditures/expenses. The various funds are reported by generic classification within the financial statements.

Only the governmental fund type is used by the JEF. The focus of the governmental funds' measurement is upon determination of financial position and changes in financial position (sources, uses, and balances of financials resources) rather than upon net income. The funds of the JEF are described as follows:

- *General fund* The General fund is the general operating fund and accounts for all activities of the JEF except those required to be accounted for in another fund.
- *Child Support fund* This fund accounts for the fees assessed against persons owing child support to fund the administrative costs of the court system engaged in establishing or enforcing a support obligation.

# D. MEASUREMENT FOCUS AND BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

Measurement focus is a term used to describe "which" transactions are recorded within the various financial statements. Basis of accounting refers to "when" transactions are recorded regardless of the measurement focus applied.

#### Measurement Focus –

<u>Government-wide financial statements</u> - The government-wide financial statements are presented using the economic resources measurement focus. The accounting objectives of this measurement focus are the determination of operating income, changes in net position and financial position. All assets and liabilities (whether current or non-current) associated with their activities are reported.

<u>Fund financial statements</u> - All governmental funds utilize a current financial resources measurement focus in the fund financial statements. Only current financial assets and liabilities are generally included on the balance sheet. Operating statements present sources and uses of available spendable financial resources during a given period. The fund balance is the measure of available spendable financial resources at the end of the period.

Notes to the Financial Statements December 31, 2020

Basis of Accounting -

<u>Government-wide financial statements</u> - The government-wide financial statements are presented using the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when incurred or economic assets are used. Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets, liabilities, and deferred outflows/inflows resulting from exchange and exchange-like transactions are recognized when the exchange takes place.

<u>Fund financial statements</u> - In the fund financial statements, governmental funds are presented on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when "measurable and available." "Measurable" means that the amount of a transaction can be determined, and "available" means that an amount is collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current period. The JEF considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 30 days of the end of the year. Expenditures (including capital outlay) are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for unmatured interest on general long-term debt which recognized when due, and certain compensated absences and claims and judgments which are recognized when the obligations are expected to be liquidated with expendable available financial resources.

*Revenues* - Revenues include fines, bonds forfeited, civil fees, probate fees, and adoption fees imposed by the District courts and are recorded in the year they are collected by the District courts within the judicial district. Child support fees represent a 5% surcharge on child support payments collected within the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District and are reported when the income is available.

Interest earned on investments is recorded when the investments have matured and the income is available. Substantially all other revenues are recorded when received.

*Expenditures* - Expenditures are generally recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related fund liability is incurred.

#### E. BUDGETS AND BUDGETARY ACCOUNTING

Annually, the Judges prepare a budget for the JEF on the cash basis of accounting. The authority to amend the budget is reserved by the Judges. Formal budget integration (in the accounting records) is employed as a management control device during the year. Appropriations lapse at year-end. Encumbrance accounting is not used by the JEF.

#### Notes to the Financial Statements December 31, 2020

For the year ended December 31, 2020, the Judges adopted budgets for the JEF and Child Support Fund (CSF). The revenues and expenditures shown on page 15 are reconciled with the amounts reflected on the budget comparison on pages 30 & 31 as follows:

		Judicial	Child
		expense	support
		<u>fund</u>	<u>fund</u>
Excess of revenues over expenditures, GAAP basi	S S	\$ (81,480)	\$ (11,006)
To adjust for receivables		(575)	10,784
To adjust for payables		<u>4,400</u>	(2,539)
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	,		
Budget – Cash basis		\$ <u>(77,655)</u>	\$ <u>(2,761)</u>
Excess of expenditures over appropriations	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actu</u>	al <u>Variance</u>
Child Support fund	\$ <u>422,000</u>	\$ <u>423,</u> 2	2 <u>11</u> \$ ( <u>1,211</u> )

# F. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash includes all demand deposits and interest-bearing demand deposits. Cash equivalents include amounts in time deposits and those investments with original maturities of 90 days or less. Cash and cash equivalents are reported at their carrying amounts that equal fair market value.

# G. INVESTMENTS

Investments are limited by R.S. 33:2955. Investments consist of time deposits with original maturities of 90 days or more. Investments in nonparticipating interest-earning contracts, such as nonnegotiable certificates of deposit with redemption terms that do not consider market rates, are reported using a cost-based measure as per GASB Statement No. 31.

The District Court has not formally adopted deposit and investment policies that limit the government's allowable deposits and investments and address the specific types of risk to which the government is exposed.

# H. INTERFUND RECEIVABLES AND PAYABLES

During the course of operations, transactions occur between funds that may result in amounts owed between funds. Those related to goods and services type transactions are classified as "due to and from other funds."

Notes to the Financial Statements December 31, 2020

## I. RECEIVABLES

In the government-wide statements, receivables consist of all revenues earned at year-end and not yet received. No allowance for uncollectible accounts receivable is established since all receivables are determined to be collectible. Major receivable balances for governmental activities include amounts due from the Parish Clerk of Courts and Sheriff Departments for collection of court costs, fines and other fees. Receivables are included in the fund financial statements if they are both measurable and available.

#### J. PREPAID ASSETS

Advance payments for software assurance licenses, dues, and insurance are expensed as the period on the contract or policy lapses. The balance in prepaid assets reflects costs applicable to future accounting periods and is recognized in the government-wide financial statements.

# K. CAPITAL ASSETS

In the government-wide financial statements, capital assets purchased or acquired with an original cost of \$2,500 or more are reported at historical cost. If the asset was donated, it is recorded at its acquisition value at the date of donation. Additions, improvements and other capital outlays that significantly extend the useful life of an asset are capitalized. Other costs incurred for repairs and maintenance are expensed as incurred. Depreciation on all assets is calculated on a straight-line basis over the following estimated useful lives:

Equipment, including software	5-10 years
Furniture and fixtures	10-20 years
Office renovations	10-20 years

In the fund financial statements, fixed assets are accounted for as capital outlay expenditures upon acquisition. Capital assets reported herein include only those assets purchased by the JEF or donated to the JEF, and do not reflect assets used by the court that are owned by other agencies like the Police Jury.

## L. DEFERRED OUTFLOWS/INFLOWS OF RESOURCES

In addition to assets, the financial statements will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred outflows of resources*, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized

## Notes to the Financial Statements December 31, 2020

as an outflow of resources (expenses/expenditure) until then. The Court has no items that qualify for reporting in this category.

In addition to liabilities, the financial statements will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred inflows of resources*, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenues) until that time. The Court has no items that qualify for reporting in this category.

#### M. FUND BALANCE

Governmental fund equity is called the fund balance. GASB Statement 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*, provides more clearly-defined fund balance categories to make the nature and extent of the constraints placed on a government's fund balance more transparent. Fund balance is classified as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned or unassigned. Fund balance of the JEF has been classified into the following categories:

<u>Non-spendable</u>: Fund balance that is not in spendable form or legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. This category includes items that are not easily converted to cash such as inventories and prepaid items.

<u>Restricted</u>: Fund balance that can be spent only for the specific purposes stipulated by constitution, external resource providers, or through enabling legislation.

<u>Committed</u>: Fund balance that can only be used for specific purposes determined by the Judges of the District, the highest level of decision making authority. Committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Judges remove or change the specified use by taking the same type of action it employed to previously commit the funds.

Committed fund balance is established, modified or rescinded by either a policy of the District or motions passed at a District meeting formally committing the funds. The motions passed are usually the result of budget revisions.

<u>Assigned</u> - Amounts that are constrained for a specific purpose by the Judges but are not spendable until a budget ordinance is passed.

<u>Unassigned</u>: This classification is the residual fund balance for the General fund. It also represents fund balance that has not been assigned to other funds and that has not been restricted, committed, or assigned to specific purposes within the General fund.

Notes to the Financial Statements December 31, 2020

When fund balance resources are available for a specific purpose, the Court would use the most restrictive funds first in the following order: restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned as they are needed. The Judges reduce restricted balances and then unrestricted balances when expenditure is incurred for which both restricted and unrestricted fund balance is available.

#### N. RESTRICTED NET POSITION

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the Court's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources when expenses are incurred for a purpose for which both restricted and unrestricted net position are available.

# **O. ELIMINATION AND RECLASSIFICATIONS**

In the process of aggregating data for the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities, some amounts reported as interfund activity and balances in the funds were eliminated or reclassified. Interfund receivables and payables were eliminated to minimize the "grossing up" effect on assets and liabilities within the governmental activities column.

# 2. CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS AND INVESTMENTS

At December 31, 2020, the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court - Judicial Expense Fund had cash and cash equivalents (book balances) of \$458,092.

At December 31, 2020, the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court - Judicial Expense Fund reported \$1,426,025 as investments. The investments are made up of certificates of deposit held with various banks.

These deposits are stated at cost, which approximates market. Under state law, these deposits must be secured by federal deposit insurance or the pledge of securities owned by the fiscal agent bank. The market value of the pledged securities plus the federal deposit insurance must at all times equal the amount on deposit with the fiscal agent. These securities are held in the name of the pledging fiscal agent bank in a holding or custodial bank that is mutually acceptable to both parties.

**Custodial Credit Risk – Deposits:** At December 31, 2020, the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court - Judicial Expense Fund has \$1,884,117 in bank balances. These deposits are secured from risk by \$1,512,323 of federal deposit insurance and \$1,409,867 of pledged securities held by the custodial bank in the name of the fiscal agent bank (GASB Category 3).

## Notes to the Financial Statements December 31, 2020

Even though the pledged securities are considered uncollateralized (Category 3) under the provisions of GASB Statement No. 3, Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1229 imposes a statutory requirement on the custodial bank to advertise and sell the pledged securities within 10 days of being notified by the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court - Judicial Expense Fund that the fiscal agent has failed to pay deposited funds upon demand. The District's policy does not address custodial credit risk.

Interest Rate Risk - Deposits: The District's policy does not address interest rate risk.

# 3. INTERGOVERNMENTAL RECEIVABLES

Amounts due from other governmental units reported in the Statement of Net Position as of December 31, 2020 is as follows:

LA Department of Social Services	\$ 41,775
Bossier Parish Clerk of Court	1,073
Bossier Parish Sheriff's Department	2,766
Webster Parish Clerk of Court	315
Webster Parish Police Jury	2,150
Webster Parish Sheriff's Department	3,655
Totals	\$ <u>_51,734</u>

There is no allowance for doubtful accounts since all receivables are deemed collectible.

# 4. ADVANCE TO OTHER GOVERNMENT

In December 2010, the Twenty-sixth Judicial District Court advanced a total of \$45,000 from the JEF to the 26<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Drug Court to provide cash upfront to use to pay its bills while waiting for reimbursements from the Louisiana Supreme Court.

The Drug Court program operates on funding which is provided by the Louisiana Supreme Court on a reimbursement basis. The funds advanced to Drug Court allow the Drug Court program to meet its cash flow deficiency created by having to cover its monthly payroll expenses on a timely basis as requested by the Bossier Parish Police Jury before reimbursement is received from the Louisiana Supreme Court.

The amount of \$45,000 is included as an advance to other governments on the Statement of Net Position and Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds as of December 31, 2020. In the event the Drug Court program is discontinued, the \$45,000 advance will be paid immediately to the Judicial Expense fund.

#### Notes to the Financial Statements December 31, 2020

#### 5. CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the year ended December 31, 2020 is as follows:

	Beginning			Ending
	Balance	Additions	<b>Deletions</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Equipment	\$ 392,991	\$ 154,520	\$ 295,896	\$ 251,615
Furniture and fixtures	4,621		4,621	
Totals	<u>397,612</u>	154,520	<u>300,517</u>	251,615
Accumulated depreciation	'n			
Equipment	356,594	27,537	290,840	93,291
Furniture and fixtures	4,621		4,621	
Totals	361,215	27,537	<u>295,461</u>	<u>98,291</u>
Capital assets, net	\$ <u>36,397</u>	\$ <u>126,983</u>	\$ <u>5,056</u>	\$ <u>158,324</u>

Depreciation expense was charged to governmental activities as follows:

Judicial Expense	\$ 20,933
Child Support	<u>6,604</u>
Total	\$ <u>27,537</u>

#### 6. LONG-TERM DEBT

As of December 31, 2020, the JEF had no governmental long-term debt.

All of the employees of the Judicial Expense fund are considered employees of either the Bossier or Webster Parish Police Juries with the exception of the hearing officer who is part time, and a direct employee of the Judicial Expense fund. According to the Judges' office policy, there are no accumulated and vested benefits relating to annual and sick leave that requires disclosure or accrual to conform to generally accepted accounting principles.

Notes to the Financial Statements December 31, 2020

# 7. SALARY EXPENDITURES

Personnel assigned to the judiciary include the court administrator, bookkeeper, and law clerks. These personnel are paid by the two parishes of the Twenty-sixth Judicial District (Bossier and Webster parishes). The Parishes administer the payroll for all District Court employees excluding the judges and the hearing officer. The JEF reimburses Bossier Parish for the salaries and related fringe benefits of certain court employees, the Court Administrator and the Law Clerks in general.

#### 8. PENSION PLAN

All of the JEF's full-time employees are considered employees of the Bossier and Webster Parish Police Juries and, accordingly, are enrolled by the respective Police Juries as members of Plan A of the Parochial Employees Retirement System of Louisiana ("System"), a multiple-employer (cost-sharing) public employee retirement system (PERS), controlled and administered by a separate board of trustees. The respective Police Juries and the Judicial Expense fund do not guarantee any of the benefits granted by the System.

#### 9. LEASES

The JEF does not have any capital leases or operating leases as of December 31, 2020.

# **10. LITIGATION**

At December 31, 2020, the JEF was involved in a few matters involving litigation. It is the opinion of the legal advisor of the JEF that ultimate resolution of these lawsuits would not materially affect the financial statements.

#### 11. ARRANGEMENTS WITH PARISH GOVERNMENTS

The district judges' office space, including utilities and certain office equipment and furniture, are furnished by the Bossier and Webster Parish Police Juries free of charge.

#### **12. ARRANGEMENTS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS**

Beginning in November 2011, the JEF entered into an agreement with the 26<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Drug Court to provide bookkeeping services to the Drug Court for a monthly fee of \$1,700.

Notes to the Financial Statements December 31, 2020

## **13. CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT FUND**

Louisiana Revised Statute 46:236.5 allows any court establishing or enforcing support obligations to implement an expedited process for the establishment or enforcement of support and provides that the judges of the appropriate court shall oversee the operations of the fund and shall appoint a hearing officer to hear support and support related matters. At the end of the reporting period all residual funds from the Child Support fund are to be transferred to the general operating account of the Judicial Expense fund. At December 31, 2020, \$117,689 was recognized as a transfer to the Judicial Expense fund.

# 14. DEFICIT FUND BALANCE

There were no deficit fund balances for the year ended December 31, 2020.

#### **15. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

Management has evaluated subsequent events through June 30, 2021, the date at which the financial statements were available to be issued.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION (PART II)

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# Budgetary Comparison Schedule - General Fund Judicial Expense Fund For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

		Budgeted	Am	ounts	I	Actual Amounts (Cash		ariance
		Driginal		Final	Basis)		(Unfavorable)	
REVENUES (inflows)	<del></del>		<u></u>				<u> </u>	
Fees and fines:								
Bossier Clerk of Court	\$	14,000	\$	13,500	\$	13,325	\$	(175)
Webster Clerk of Court		5,000		3,600		3,803		203
Bossier Parish Sheriff		51,000		43,000		43,120		120
Webster Parish Sheriff		20,000		15,200		10,794		(4,406)
Webster Parish Sheriff - bond fee		30,000		31,000		35,065		4,065
26th Judicial District Drug Court		20,400		20,400		20,400		-
Intergovernmental:								
FINS grant		31,700		33,000		32,922		(78)
Louisiana Supreme Court grant		-		110,000		110,273		273
Webster Parish Police Jury		-		6,400		6,450		50
Interest		18,000		23,500		26,636		3,136
Reimbursed judges travel	<u> </u>	2,500		400		266		(134)
Total revenues		192,600		300,000		303,054		3,054
EXPENDITURES (outflows)								
General government								
Judicial expenditures		458,100		466,200		464,364		1,836
FINS expenditures		38,000		34,000		34,034		(34)
Total expenditures		496,100		500,200		498,398		_1,802
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures		(303,500)		(200,200)		(195,344)		4,856
		,		,		,		-
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES) Transfer from Child Support fund				116,000		117,689		1,689
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other sources over expenditures and other uses		(303,500)		(84,200)		(77,655)		6,545
Fund balance at beginning of year	1	<u>,610,013</u>		1,906,089		1,906,089		
Fund balance at end of year	<u>\$ 1</u>	,306,513	<u>\$</u>	1,821,889	<u>\$</u>	1,828,434	\$	<u>6,545</u>

# Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Special Revenue Fund Child Support Fund For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

	Budgeted	Amounts	Actual Amounts (Cash	Variance Favorable	
	Original	Final	Basis)	(Unfavorable)	
<b>REVENUES</b> (inflows)					
Fees and fines:					
5% Support Enforcement fee	\$ 486,000	<u>\$ 538,000</u>	<u>\$    538,139</u>	<u>\$ 139</u>	
Total revenues	486,000	538,000	<u> </u>	139	
EXPENDITURES (outflows)					
General government					
FINS expenditures	33,500	31,000	30,359	641	
Child Support expenditures	452,500	391,000	392,852	(1,852)	
Total expenditures	486,000	422,000	423,211	(1,211)	
Excess of revenues over expenditures	-	116,000	114,928	(1,072)	
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES) Transfer to Judicial Expense fund		(116,000)	(117,689)	(1,689)	
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other sources over expenditures and other uses	-	-	(2,761)	(2,761)	
Fund balance at beginning of year	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	54,306	<u> </u>	
Fund balance at end of year	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$ 54,306</u>	<u>\$ 51,545</u>	<u>\$ (2,761</u> )	

Notes to Required Supplementary Information on Budgetary Accounting and Control December 31, 2020

# BUDGETARY ACCOUNTING AND CONTROL

#### **Budget Law**

The JEF prepares its annual operating budget under the provisions of the Louisiana Municipal Budget Act. In accordance with those provisions, the following procedures are used in adopting the annual budgets for the General fund:

- 1. An operating budget is prepared for the General fund at least fifteen days prior to the commencement of the budgetary fiscal year. The operating budget includes proposed expenditures and the means of financing them for the upcoming year.
- 2. The budget is available for public inspection at least fifteen days prior to the beginning of the fiscal year.
- 3. The budget is adopted after consideration of public comment, if any, and authorized for implementation on the first day of the fiscal year.
- 4. The General fund's budget is prepared on a detailed line item basis. Revenues are budgeted by source. Expenditures are budgeted by character (personnel services, group benefits, supplies, contractual services, and capital outlay, etc.) Total expenditures constitute the legal level of control. Expenditures may not exceed the sum of appropriations plus the unreserved prior year fund balance. The budget may be revised during the year as estimates regarding revenues and expenditures change.
- 5. Appropriations lapse at the end of each fiscal year.

The budget for the Child Support fund is prepared and submitted in conjunction with the budget for the Judicial Expense fund.

The annual operating budgets are prepared and presented on the cash basis of accounting.

# SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

# Schedule of Compensation, Benefits and Other Payments to Agency Head December 31, 2020

Decement	Judge Parker <u>Self</u>	Judge Mike <u>Nerren</u>	Judge Lane <u>Pittard</u>	Judge Mike <u>Craig</u>	Judge Charles <u>Jacobs</u>	Judge Charles <u>Smith</u>
Purpose:	¢ 040	¢ 1 660	<u>е</u>	<b># 1 500</b>	<b># 1 000</b>	¢
Cellphone	\$ 942	\$ 1,650	\$ -	\$ 1,580	\$ 1,800	\$-
Travel/conference registration	295	1,115	524	225	295	70
Dues	370	325	305	435	150	280
Professional liability	3,270	3,270	3,270	3,925	3,270	3,270
Meals	165	165	165	165	165	165
Other/Reimbursements	-	-	1,937	164	164	635
Less:						
Reimbursements from Judges	<u>(266</u> )	()	()	<u>()</u>	()	( <u>     -</u> )
Total	\$ <u>4,776</u>	\$ <u>6,525</u>	\$ <u>_6,201</u>	\$ <u>_6,494</u>	\$ <u>_5,844</u>	\$ <u>4,420</u>

# Justice System Funding Schedule - Receiving Entity For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

Cash Basis Presentation	First Six Month Period Ended 06/30/2020		Second Six Month Period Ended 12/31/2020	
Receipts From:				
Webster Parish Clerk of Court, Civil Fees	\$	1,830	\$	1,973
Bossier Parish Clerk of Court, Civil Fees		6,455		6,870
Bossier Parish Sheriff, Criminal Court Costs/Fees		21,217		21,903
Webster Parish Sheriff, Criminal Court Costs/Fees		21,974		23,885
Louisiana Department of Social Services, Criminal				-
Court Costs/Fees		280,665		257,474
Subtotal Receipts	\$	332,141	\$	312,105
Ending Balance of Amounts Assessed but Not Received	\$		\$	

OTHER REPORT

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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CARLOS E. MARTIN, CPA (2020)

MEMBERS AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

SOCIETY OF LOUISIANA CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

# INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

The Honorable Judges of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court – Judicial Expense Fund Bossier and Webster Parishes, Louisiana

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court - Judicial Expense Fund as of and for the year ended December 31, 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court - Judicial Expense Fund's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated June 30, 2021.

# Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court - Judicial Expense Fund's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court - Judicial Expense Fund's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial Expense Fund's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the fund's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any

MICHAEL W. WISE, CPA KRISTINE H. COLE, CPA

KRISTIE K. MARTIN, CPA HANNAH M. COLVIN, CPA deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

## **Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court - Judicial Expense Fund's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

# **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the fund's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the fund's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose. Although the intended purpose of these reports may be limited, under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the Office of the Louisiana Legislative Auditor as a public document.

Wise Martin & Cole LLC

Minden, Louisiana June 30, 2021 OTHER INFORMATION

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# TWENTY-SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT-JUDICIAL EXPENSE FUND Bossier and Webster Parishes

State of Louisiana

# SCHEDULE OF CURRENT YEAR AUDIT FINDINGS December 31, 2020

# Section I -- Internal Control and Compliance Material to the Financial Statements

The results of our auditing procedures of the basic financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2020, of the Twenty-sixth Judicial District – Judicial Expense Fund disclosed no items that are required to be reported in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.

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SCHEDULE OF PRIOR YEAR AUDIT FINDINGS December 31, 2020

There were no findings required to be reported during the December 31, 2019 year end.