

**EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH
CLERK OF COURT**

Financial Report

Year Ended June 30, 2024

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Honorable Doug Welborn
East Baton Rouge Parish Clerk of Court
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Qualified and Unmodified Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the East Baton Rouge Clerk of Court (hereinafter "Clerk of Court"), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Clerk of Court's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Qualified Opinion on the Aggregate Remaining Fund Information

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified and Unmodified Opinions section of our report, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the aggregate remaining fund information of the Clerk of Court, as of June 30, 2024, and the changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Unmodified Opinions on the Governmental Activities and the Major Fund

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and the major fund of the Clerk of Court, as of June 30, 2024, 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.

Basis for Qualified and Unmodified Opinions

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. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Clerk of Court, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified and unmodified audit opinions.

Matter Giving Rise to the Qualified Opinion on the Aggregate Remaining Fund Information

Due to the Clerk of Court's inability to reconcile the individual suit balances in its Advanced Deposit Fund with the corresponding unsettled deposits recorded on its statement of fiduciary net position at June 30, 2024, we were unable to satisfy ourselves by any auditing procedures, as to the reasonableness of the accounts receivable and unsettled deposits account balances reported at June 30, 2024. The effect on the financial statements of not reconciling these individual suit balances cannot be reasonably determined.

Responsibilities of Management 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, and for 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.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Clerk of Court's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. We obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Clerk of Court's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed. We evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements. We conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Clerk of Court's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the budgetary comparison schedule, the schedule of changes in total OPEB liability and related ratios, employer's share of net pension liability and employer contributions, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, 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.

Management has omitted the management's discussion and analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing 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. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Clerk of Court's basic financial statements. The comparative statements and the justice system funding schedules are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is 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. The 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 comparative statements and justice system funding schedules are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

The prior year comparative information was derived from the Clerk of Court's 2023 financial statements, which were 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, and, in our opinion, were fairly presented in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole from which they have been derived.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. The other information comprises the budgetary comparison schedules but does not include the basic financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinions on the basic financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 31, 2024, on our consideration of the Clerk of Court'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 Clerk of Court'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 Clerk of Court's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Kolder, Slaven & Company, LLC

Certified Public Accountants

Lafayette, Louisiana
December 31, 2024

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**GOVERNMENT-WIDE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (GWFS)**

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH CLERK OF COURT
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Statement of Net Position
June 30, 2024

	Governmental Activities
<hr/>	
ASSETS	
Current assets:	
Cash and interest-bearing deposits	\$ 18,894,635
Receivables, net	<u>163,971</u>
Total current assets	19,058,606
Noncurrent assets:	
Capital assets, net	<u>1,291,292</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>20,349,898</u>
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Deferred outflows of resources related to pension	5,632,878
Deferred outflows of resources related to postemployment benefit obligation	<u>1,653,069</u>
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>7,285,947</u>
Current liabilities:	
Accounts payable	64,176
Accrued expenses	24,191
Accrued payroll liabilities	518,325
Accrued health insurance claims	507,817
Due to other governments	<u>119,610</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>1,234,119</u>
Noncurrent liabilities:	
Compensated absences	983,989
Postemployment benefit obligation	41,439,201
Net pension liability	<u>18,176,448</u>
Total noncurrent liabilities	<u>60,599,638</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>61,833,757</u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Deferred inflows of resources related to pension	251,188
Deferred inflows of resources related to postemployment benefit obligation	<u>13,364,182</u>
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>13,615,370</u>
NET POSITION	
Net investment in capital assets	1,291,292
Unrestricted (deficit)	<u>(49,104,574)</u>
TOTAL NET POSITION	<u>\$ (47,813,282)</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

EAST BATON ROUGE CLERK OF COURT
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

Activities	Expenses	Program Revenues		Net (Expense) Revenues and Changes in Net Position Governmental Activities
		Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	
Governmental activities:				
General government	<u>\$ 17,706,258</u>	<u>\$ 17,160,529</u>	<u>\$ 312,251</u>	<u>\$ (233,478)</u>
General revenues:				
Interest and investment earnings				1,941,848
Non-employer pension contribution				<u>1,069,276</u>
Total general revenues				<u>3,011,124</u>
Change in net position				2,777,646
Net position (deficit) - July 1, 2023				<u>(50,590,928)</u>
Net position (deficit) - June 30, 2024				<u>\$ (47,813,282)</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (FFS)

EAST BATON ROUGE CLERK OF COURT
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Balance Sheet - Governmental Fund
June 30, 2024

	<u>General Fund</u>
ASSETS	
Cash and interest-bearing deposits	\$ 18,894,635
Accounts receivable, net	<u>163,971</u>
 Total assets	 <u>\$ 19,058,606</u>
 LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	
Liabilities:	
Accounts payable	\$ 64,176
Accrued expenses	24,191
Accrued payroll liabilities	518,325
Accrued health insurance claims	507,817
Due to other governments	<u>119,610</u>
Total liabilities	<u>1,234,119</u>
 Fund balance:	
Unassigned	<u>17,824,487</u>
 Total liabilities and fund balance	 <u>\$ 19,058,606</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

EAST BATON ROUGE CLERK OF COURT
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Reconciliation of the Governmental Fund Balance Sheet
to the Statement of Net Position
June 30, 2024

Total fund balance for the governmental fund at June 30, 2024 \$ 17,824,487

Total net position reported for governmental activities in the statements of net position is different because:

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources, and therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds.

Capital assets, net 1,291,292

The deferred outflows of contributions for the clerk employees' retirement system are not a use of current resources and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds.

5,632,878

The deferred outflows of expenditures for the postemployment benefit obligation are not a use of current resources and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds.

1,653,069

Long-term liabilities are not payable from current resources and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds.

Long-term liabilities at June 30, 2024 consist of:

Compensated absences payable	\$ (983,989)	
Post employment benefit obligation	(41,439,201)	
Net pension payable	<u>(18,176,448)</u>	(60,599,638)

The deferred inflows of contributions for the clerk employees' retirement system are not available resources and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds.

(251,188)

The deferred inflows of contributions for the postemployment benefit obligation are not available resources and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds.

(13,364,182)

Net position (deficit) at June 30, 2024 \$ (47,813,282)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

EAST BATON ROUGE CLERK OF COURT
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance -
Governmental Fund
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

	<u>General Fund</u>
Revenues:	
Fees, charges and commissions for services:	
Recordings	\$ 5,615,135
Uniform Commercial Code fees	270,141
Cancellations	544,230
Mortgage certificates	274,228
Court minute fees	39,357
Photocopies	1,617,798
Fines and forfeitures	234,596
Suits and successions	8,052,300
Other fees	474,230
Intergovernmental	312,251
Licenses	38,512
Interest revenue	<u>1,941,848</u>
Total revenues	<u>19,414,626</u>
Expenditures:	
Current -	
General government:	
Personnel services and related benefits	16,273,591
Materials and supplies	260,258
Operating services	1,353,734
Auto and travel	19,456
Capital outlay	<u>3,791</u>
Total expenditures	<u>17,910,830</u>
Excess of revenues over expenditures	1,503,796
Fund balance, beginning of year	<u>16,320,691</u>
Fund balance, end of year	<u>\$ 17,824,487</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

EAST BATON ROUGE CLERK OF COURT
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and
Changes in Fund Balance of the Governmental Fund
to the Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

Total net change in fund balance for the year ended June 30, 2024 per Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance	\$ 1,503,796
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The change in net position reported for governmental activities in the
statement of activities is different because:

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 and reported as depreciation expense.

Capital outlay	\$ 3,791	
Depreciation expense	<u>(219,446)</u>	(215,655)

Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require the use
of current financial resources and therefore are not reported as
expenditures in the governmental fund:

Compensated absences	53,290	
OPEB benefits	2,361,178	
Pension expense	<u>(1,994,239)</u>	420,229

Nonemployer's contributions to the Louisiana Clerk's of Court Retirement and Relief Fund	<u>1,069,276</u>
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Total change in net position for the year ended June 30, 2024 per Statement of Activities	<u>\$ 2,777,646</u>
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH CLERK OF COURT
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Statement of Fiduciary Net Position
June 30, 2024

	<u>Custodial Funds</u>
ASSETS	
Cash	\$ 73,994,525
Interest-bearing deposits	18,123,716
Accounts receivable	3,235,392
Other	<u>212</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 95,353,845</u>
NET POSITION	
Restricted for litigants and others	<u>\$ 95,353,845</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH CLERK OF COURT
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

	<u>Custodial Funds</u>
Additions:	
Suits and successions	\$ 25,201,271
Judgments	14,677,876
Interest earned	<u>34,418</u>
Total additions	<u>39,913,565</u>
Reductions:	
Clerk's costs (transferred to General Fund)	8,052,300
Settlements to litigants	10,276,089
Refunds	3,255,946
Sheriff's fees	1,896,372
Judicial expense fund	364,744
Adjustment to accounts receivable	(446,007)
Other reductions	<u>8,073,107</u>
Total reductions	<u>31,472,551</u>
Net increase in fiduciary net position	8,441,014
Net position - beginning	<u>86,912,831</u>
Net position - ending	<u>\$ 95,353,845</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH CLERK OF COURT
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies.

The accompanying financial statements of the (Clerk of Court) have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. GAAP includes all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements. The accounting and reporting framework and the more significant accounting policies are discussed in subsequent subsections of this note.

Such accounting and reporting procedures also conform to the requirements of Louisiana Revised Statutes 24:513 and to the industry audit guide, *Audits of State and Local Governmental Units*.

The following is a summary of certain significant accounting policies:

A. Organization and Nature of Operations

As provided by Article V, Section 28 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, the Clerk of Court (Clerk) serves as the ex-officio notary public and the parish recorder of conveyances, mortgages, and other acts, and has other duties and powers provided by law. The Clerk is elected for a term of four years.

These financial statements only include funds and activities that are controlled by the Clerk of Court as an independently elected parish official. As an independently elected official, the Clerk of Court is solely responsible for the operations of his office, which includes the hiring or retention of employees, authority over budgeting, responsibility for deficits, and the receipt and disbursement of funds.

B. Basis of Statement Presentation

The accompanying basic financial statements of the Clerk of Court have been prepared in conformity with governmental accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

Government-Wide Financial Statements (GWFS)

The statement of net position and statement of activities display information about the reporting government as a whole. They include all funds of the reporting entity, which are considered to be governmental activities. Fiduciary funds are not included in the GWFS. Fiduciary funds are reported only in the Statement of Fiduciary Net Position and the Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position.

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH CLERK OF COURT
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

The statement of activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each function of the Clerk of Court's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a program or function and, therefore, are clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues include (a) fees and charges paid by the recipients for goods or services offered by the programs, and (b) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Revenues that are not classified as program revenues, including all taxes, are presented as general revenues.

Fund Financial Statements (FFS)

The accounts of the Clerk of Court are organized and operated on the basis of funds. A fund is an independent fiscal and accounting entity with a separate set of self-balancing accounts. Fund accounting segregates funds according to their intended purpose and is used to aid management in demonstrating compliance with finance-related legal and contractual provisions. The minimum number of funds is maintained consistent with legal and managerial requirements.

The various funds of the Clerk of Court are classified into two categories: governmental and fiduciary. The emphasis on fund financial statements is on major governmental funds, each displayed in a separate column. A fund is considered major if it is the primary operating fund of the entity or meets the following criteria:

- a. Total assets, liabilities, revenues, or expenses of that individual governmental fund are at least 10 percent of the corresponding total for all funds of that category or type; and
- b. Total assets, liabilities, revenues, or expenses of the individual governmental fund are at least 5 percent of the corresponding total for all governmental and enterprise funds combined.

The major fund of the Clerk of Court is described below:

Governmental Fund -

General Fund

The General Fund, as provided by Louisiana Revised Statute 13:781, is the principal fund of the Clerk of Court and is used to account for the operations of the Clerk of Court's office. The various fees and charges due to the Clerk of Court's office are accounted for in this fund. General operating expenditures are paid from this fund.

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH CLERK OF COURT
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

Additionally, the Clerk of Court reports the following fund type:

Fiduciary Funds -

Fiduciary funds account for assets held by the government in a trustee capacity or as an agent on behalf of other funds within the Clerk of Court. The funds accounted for in this category by the Clerk of Court are the custodial funds. The custodial funds are as follows:

Advance Deposit Fund – accounts for advance deposits on suits filed by litigants.

Registry of the Court Fund – accounts for funds which have been ordered by the court to be held until judgment has been rendered in court litigation.

Bond Fund – accounts for bond deposits which have been ordered by the court to be held until judgment has been rendered in court litigation.

C. Measurement Focus/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

On the government-wide statement of net position and the statement of activities, governmental activities are presented using the economic resources measurement focus as defined in item b. below.

In the fund financial statements, the “current financial resources” measurement focus or the “economic resources” measurement focus is used as appropriate:

- a. The governmental fund utilizes a “current financial resources” measurement focus. Only current financial assets and liabilities are generally included on its balance sheet. Their operating statement presents sources and uses of available spendable financial resources during a given period. This fund uses fund balance as its measure of available spendable financial resources at the end of the period.
- b. The government-wide financial statement utilizes an “economic resources” measurement focus. The accounting objectives of this measurement focus are the determination of operating income, changes in net position (or cost recovery) and financial position. All assets and liabilities (whether current or noncurrent) associated with its activities are reported. Government-wide fund equity is classified as net position.

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH CLERK OF COURT
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

Basis of Accounting

In the government-wide statement of net position and statement of activities, the governmental activities are presented using the accrual basis of accounting. Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recorded when the liability is incurred or economic asset used. Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of resources resulting from exchange and exchange-like transactions are recognized when the exchange takes place. Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets, deferred outflows, of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources resulting from nonexchange transactions are recognized in accordance with professional standards.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the government considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures (including capital outlay) generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures are recorded only when payment is due.

D. Assets, Deferred Outflows of Resources, Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Equity

Cash and interest-bearing deposits

Cash includes amounts in demand deposits, interest-bearing demand deposits, and time deposits. The Clerk has defined cash and cash equivalents to include cash on hand, demand deposits, and time deposits with original maturities of 90 days or less. Under Louisiana Revised Statutes 39:1271 and 33:2955, the Clerk may deposit funds in demand deposits, interest-bearing demand deposits, or certificates of deposit with state banks organized under Louisiana law or any other state of the United States, or under the laws of the United States.

Investments

Investments are limited by Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 33:2955 and the Clerk's investment policy. Investments are reported at fair value which is determined using selected bases. Short-term investments are reported at cost, which approximates fair value. The term "short-term" refers to investments which have a remaining term of one year or less at time of purchase.

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH CLERK OF COURT
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

Receivables

In the government-wide statements, receivables consist of all revenues earned at year-end and not yet received. Major receivable balances for the governmental activities include fees and charges paid by the recipients for goods or services offered by the programs.

Capital Assets

Capital assets, which include property, plant, and equipment, are reported in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are capitalized at historical cost or estimated cost if historical cost is not available. Donated assets are recorded as capital assets at their estimated fair market value at the date of donation. The Clerk of Court maintains a threshold level of \$1,000 or more for capitalizing capital assets. The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend assets lives are not capitalized.

Depreciation of all exhaustible capital assets is recorded as an expense in the statement of activities, with accumulated depreciation reflected in the statement of net position. Depreciation is provided over the assets' estimated useful lives using the straight-line method of depreciation. Useful lives for furniture, equipment, and improvements range from five to ten years.

Compensated Absences

The Clerk accrues accumulated unpaid vacation and sick leave and associated employee-related costs when earned (or estimated to be earned) by the employee. The noncurrent portion (the amount estimated to be used in subsequent fiscal years) for governmental funds is maintained separately and represents a reconciling item between the fund and government-wide presentations.

The Clerk has the following policy related to annual and sick leave:

Annual leave is determined by the number of years of service and accrues each pay period. Accrued annual leave is carried over from year to year, with no limit on the amount that may be accumulated. Upon termination of employment for any cause, an employee will be paid for accrued annual leave not to exceed 280 hours. Regardless of the number of years of service, sick leave amounts to twelve days per year and accumulates each pay period. Sick leave carries over from year to year, with no limit on the amount that may be accumulated. Upon termination of employment for any cause, an employee will not be paid for any accumulated sick leave.

At June 30, 2024, employees of the Clerk had accumulated and vested \$983,989 of annual leave benefits, which was computed in accordance with professional standards. Compensated absences are liquidated through the general fund.

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH CLERK OF COURT
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources

In some instances, the GASB requires a government to delay recognition of decreases in net position as expenditures until a future period. In other instances, governments are required to delay recognition of increases in net position as revenues until a future period. In these circumstances, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources result from the delayed recognition of expenditures or revenues, respectively.

Equity Classifications

In the government-wide statements, equity is classified as net position and displayed in three components:

- a. Net investment in capital assets – Consists of net capital assets reduced by outstanding balances of any related debt obligations and deferred inflows of resources attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets and increased by balances of deferred outflows of resources related to those assets.
- b. Restricted net position – Net position is considered restricted if the use is constrained to a particular purpose. Restrictions are imposed by external organizations such as federal or state laws or buyers of the Clerk of Court's debt. Restricted net position is reduced by liabilities and deferred inflows of resources related to the restricted assets.
- c. Unrestricted net position – Consists of all other net position that does not meet the definition of the two above components and is available for general use by the Clerk of Court.

In the fund financial statements, governmental fund equity is classified as fund balance. As such fund balance of the governmental fund is classified as follows:

- a. Nonspendable – amounts that cannot be spent either because they are in nonspendable form or because they are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.
- b. Restricted – amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes because of constitutional provisions or enabling legislation or because of constraints that are externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or the laws or regulations of other governments.
- c. Committed – amounts that can be used only for specific purposes determined by a formal decision of the Clerk of Court, which is the highest level of decision-making authority for the Clerk of Court.

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH CLERK OF COURT
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Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

- d. Assigned – amounts that do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed but that are intended to be used for specific purposes. Under the Clerk of Court’s adopted policy only the Clerk of Court may assign amounts for specified purposes.
- e. Unassigned – all other spendable amounts.

When an expenditure is incurred for the purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted fund balance is available, the Clerk of Court considers restricted funds to have been spent first. When an expenditure is incurred for which committed, assigned, or unassigned fund balances are available, the Clerk of Court considers amounts to have been spent first out of committed funds, then assigned funds, and finally unassigned funds, as needed, unless the Clerk of Court has provided otherwise in his commitment or assignment actions.

R.S. 13:785 requires that every four years (at the close of the term of office) the Clerk of Court must pay the parish treasurer the portion of the General Fund’s fund balance that exceeds one-half of the revenues of the clerk’s last year of his term of office. This payment is limited to no more than that which was received by the clerk in accordance with R.S. 13:784(A) during said term of office. At the conclusion of the clerk’s term of office, \$244,218 will be due to the parish treasurer because the General Fund’s fund balance at June 30, 2024 exceeded one-half of the revenues of the General Fund for the last year of the clerk’s four-year term of office.

E. Revenues, Expenditures, and Expenses

Operating Revenues and Expenses

Operating revenues and expenses are those that result from providing services and producing and delivering goods and/or services. It also includes all revenue and expenses not related to capital and related financing, noncapital financing, or investing activities.

Expenditures/Expenses

In the government-wide financial statements, expenses are classified by function. In the fund financial statements, expenditures are classified as follows:

Governmental Funds – By Character and Function

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH CLERK OF COURT
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

F. Clerk's Fees Transferred from Advance Deposit Agency Fund

These fees represent revenue to the Clerk of Court earned from everyday operations such as copying and faxing for litigants and standard fees charged on suits. These fees are collected by a transfer of litigant's money deposited in the Advance Deposit Fund to the General Fund.

G. Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues, expenditures, and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

H. Pensions

The net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources, and deferred inflows of resources related to the pension, and pension expense has been determined using the flow of economic resources measurement focus and full accrual basis of accounting. Non-employer contributions are recognized as revenues in the government-wide financial statements. In the governmental fund financial statements contributions are recognized as expenditures when due.

I. Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions (OPEB)

The net OPEB liability, deferred outflows of resources, and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB, and OPEB expense has been determined using the flow of economic resources measurement focus and full accrual basis of accounting.

(2) Cash and Interest-Bearing Deposits

Under state law, the Clerk of Court may deposit funds within a fiscal agent bank organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana, the laws of any other state in the union, or the laws of the United States. The Clerk of Court may invest in United States bonds, treasury notes, or certificates and time deposits of state banks organized under Louisiana law and national banks having principal offices in Louisiana. At June 30, 2024, the Clerk of Court has cash and interest-bearing deposits (book balances) totaling \$111,012,876 as follows:

	Governmental Activities	Fiduciary Funds	Total
Cash	\$ 4,025	\$ 73,994,525	\$ 73,998,550
Time and money market deposits	18,890,610	18,123,716	37,014,326
Total	<u>\$18,894,635</u>	<u>\$ 92,118,241</u>	<u>\$ 111,012,876</u>

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH CLERK OF COURT
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Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, the Clerk of Court's deposits may not be recovered or will not be able to recover collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. These deposits are stated at cost, which approximates fair value. Under state law, these deposits (or the resulting bank balances) must be secured by federal deposit insurance or the pledge of securities owned by the fiscal agent bank. The fair 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.

The following is a summary of deposit balances (bank balances) at June 30, 2024, and the related federal insurance and pledged securities:

Bank balances	<u>\$ 112,825,454</u>
Federal insurance	\$ 37,792,242
Pledged securities	<u>75,033,212</u>
Total federal insurance and pledged securities	<u>\$ 112,825,454</u>

Deposits in the amount of \$75,033,212 were exposed to custodial credit risk. These deposits are uninsured and collateralized with securities held by the pledging institution's trust department or agent, but not in the Clerk of Court's name. The Clerk of Court does not have a formal written policy for custodial credit risk.

(3) Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable at June 30, 2024 consisted of the following:

General Fund:	
Trade accounts, net	\$ 52,932
Miscellaneous	96,513
NSF checks	<u>14,526</u>
Total account receivable, net	<u>\$ 163,971</u>

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH CLERK OF COURT
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Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

(4) Capital Assets

Capital asset balances and activity for the year ended June 30, 2024 is as follows:

	Balance 07/01/23	Additions	Deletions	Balance 06/30/24
Furniture, equipment, and improvements	\$9,922,152	\$ 3,791	\$ 5,438	\$9,920,505
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>8,415,205</u>	<u>219,446</u>	<u>5,438</u>	<u>8,629,213</u>
Net capital assets	<u>\$1,506,947</u>	<u>\$ (215,655)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$1,291,292</u>

Depreciation expense of \$219,446 was charged to the general government function in the Statement of Activities.

(5) Amounts Due to Other Governments

Amounts due to other governments at June 30, 2024 consisted of the following:

Due to other governments:

Due to 19th Judicial District Court
Judicial Expense Building Fund

\$ 119,610

(6) Changes in Compensated Absences

The following is a summary of compensated absences transactions of the Clerk of Court for the year ended June 30, 2024:

	Balance 07/01/23	Additions	Reductions	Balance 06/30/24
Governmental activities:				
Compensated absences	<u>\$ 1,037,279</u>	<u>\$ 97,958</u>	<u>\$ 151,248</u>	<u>\$ 983,989</u>

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Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

(7) Post-Retirement Health Care and Life Insurance Benefits (OPEB)

Plan description- The Clerk's defined benefit postemployment health care plan provides OPEB to eligible retired employees and their beneficiaries. The plan provides OPEB for permanent full-time employees of the Clerk. The Clerk's OPEB plan is a single employer defined benefit OPEB plan administered by the Clerk. Louisiana Revised Statute 13:783 grants the authority to establish and amend the benefit terms and financing requirements. No assets are accumulated in a trust that meets the criteria in paragraph 4 of Statement GASB 75.

Benefits provided- The Clerk provides medical, prescription drug, dental and life insurance benefits on behalf of its eligible retirees and dependents. To be eligible to continue coverage under the Clerk's plan, an employee must retire from the Clerk and be eligible to receive retirement funds under the Louisiana Clerks' of Court Retirement and Relief Fund ("CCRRF").

The Clerk maintains self-funded medical and dental plans covering current and retired employees and their dependents. Retirees are also eligible to continue their life insurance benefits with a reduced benefit amount.

Effective August 1, 2013, the Clerk began paying 100% of the group health benefit premiums for employees that retired at least age 55 with 12 years of service. After October 2016, the Clerk began requiring retirees to contribute \$150 per month for covered dependents.

Employees covered by benefit terms- At July 1, 2023, the following employees were covered by the benefit terms:

Inactive employees currently receiving benefit payments	92
Inactive employees entitled to but not yet receiving benefit terms	-
Active employees	<u>139</u>
Total	<u>231</u>

Total OPEB Liability

The Clerk's total OPEB liability of \$41,439,201 was measured as of June 30, 2024 and was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2023.

Actuarial assumptions and other inputs- The total OPEB liability in the June 30, 2024 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions and other inputs, applied to all periods included in the measurement, unless otherwise specified:

Inflation	2.40%
Salary increases, including inflation	3.00%
Discount Rate	3.97%
Prior year discount rate	3.86%
Retirees' share of benefit-related costs	None

The discount rate was based on the 6/30/2024 Fidelity General Obligation AA 20-Year Yield.

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Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

Mortality rates for active employees were based on the PubG.H-2010 Employee Mortality Table for males and females, as appropriate, with generational adjustments for mortality improvement based on Scale MP-2021.

Mortality rates for retirees were based on the PubG.H-2010 Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table for males and females, as appropriate, with generational adjustments for mortality improvement on Scale MP-2021.

Mortality rates for disabled retirees were based on the PubG.H-2010 Disabled Mortality Table for males and females, as appropriate, with generational adjustments for mortality improvement on Scale MP-2021.

Changes in Total OPEB Liability

Balance at June, 30 2023	<u>\$ 41,819,249</u>
Changes for the year:	
Service cost	887,640
Interest	1,624,941
Differences between expected and actual experience	1,714,704
Changes in assumptions/inputs	(3,396,114)
Benefit payments	<u>(1,211,219)</u>
Net changes	<u>(380,048)</u>
Balance at June 30, 2024	<u>\$ 41,439,201</u>

Sensitivity of the total OPEB liability to changes in the discount rate- The following presents the total OPEB liability to the Clerk, as well as what the Clerk's total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower 2.97% or 1-percentage-point higher 4.97% than the current discount rate:

	1% Decrease 2.97%	Discount Rate 3.97%	1% Increase 4.97%
Total OPEB Liability	<u>\$49,035,129</u>	<u>\$ 41,439,201</u>	<u>\$35,853,675</u>

Sensitivity of the total OPEB liability to changes in the healthcare cost trend rates – The following presents the total OPEB liability of the Clerk, as well as what the Clerk's total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using healthcare cost trend rates that are 1-percentage-point lower or 1 percentage-point higher than the current healthcare cost trend rate:

	1% Decrease	Trend Rate	1% Increase
Total OPEB Liability	<u>\$35,242,572</u>	<u>\$ 41,439,201</u>	<u>\$50,084,328</u>

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH CLERK OF COURT
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Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

OPEB Expense and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB

For the year ended June 30, 2024, the Clerk recognized an OPEB expense of \$(1,149,960). At June 30, 2024, the Clerk reported deferred outflows and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Difference between expected and actual experience	\$ 1,653,069	\$ 761,190
Changes of assumptions or other inputs	-	12,602,992
Total	<u>\$ 1,653,069</u>	<u>\$ 13,364,182</u>

Amounts reported as deferred outflows and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

Year Ended June 30,	
2025	\$ (5,079,826)
2026	(5,079,826)
2027	(1,215,179)
2028	(336,282)
Total	<u>\$ (11,711,113)</u>

(8) Pension Plan

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pension, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Louisiana Clerks' of Court Retirement and Relief Fund, and additions to/deductions from the system's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the systems. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

Plan Description: Substantially all employees of the Clerk of Court, except part-time and temporary employees, are members of the Louisiana Clerks' of Court Retirement and Relief Fund (Fund), a cost sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by a separate board of trustees.

The Fund was established for the purpose of providing retirement allowances and other benefits as stated under the provisions of R.S. Title 11:1501 for eligible employees of the clerk of the supreme court, each of the district courts, each of the courts of appeal, each of the city and traffic courts in cities having a population in excess of four hundred thousand at the time of entrance into the Fund, the Louisiana Clerks' of Court Association, the Louisiana Clerks of Court Insurance Fund, and the employees of the Fund.

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH CLERK OF COURT
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Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

The projection of benefit payments in the calculation of the total pension liability includes all benefits to be provided to current active and inactive employees through the Fund in accordance with the benefit terms and any additional legal agreements to provide benefits that are in force at the measurement date.

The Fund issues an annual publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for the Fund that may be accessed on their website as follows:

LACRF - <http://www.laclerksofcourt.org>

Retirement Benefits:

A member or former member shall be eligible for regular retirement benefits upon attaining twelve or more years of credited service, attaining the age of fifty-five years or more and terminating employment. Regular retirement benefits, payable monthly for life, equal 3 1/3 percent of the member's average final compensation multiplied by the number of years of credited service, not to exceed one hundred percent of the monthly average final compensation. Monthly average final compensation is based on the highest compensated thirty-six consecutive months, with a limit of increase of 10% in each of the last three years of measurement. For those members hired on or after July 1, 2006, compensation is based on the highest compensated sixty consecutive months with a limit of 10% increase in each of the last six years of measurement. Act 273 of the 2010 regular session applied the sixty consecutive months to all members. This Act has a transition period for those members who retire on or after January 1, 2011 and before December 31, 2012. Additionally, Act 273 of the 2010 regular session increased a member's retirement to age 60 with an accrual rate of 3% for all members hired on or after January 1, 2011.

A member leaving covered employment before attaining early retirement age but after completing twelve years' credited service becomes eligible for a deferred allowance provided the member lives to the minimum service retirement age and does not withdraw his or her accumulated contributions.

Disability Benefits:

Effective through June 30, 2008, a member who has been officially certified as totally and permanently disabled by the State Medical Disability Board shall be paid disability retirement benefits determined and computed as follows:

- a. A member who is totally and permanently disabled solely as the result of injuries sustained in the performance of his official duties shall be paid monthly benefits equal to the greater of one-half of his monthly average final compensation or, at the option of the disability retiree, two and one-half percent of his monthly average final compensation multiplied by the number of his years of credited service; however, such monthly benefit shall not exceed twenty-five dollars for each year of his credited service or two-thirds of his monthly average final compensation, whichever is less.

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Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

- b. A member who has ten or more years of credited service and who is totally and permanently disabled due to any cause not the result of injuries sustained in the performance of his official duties shall be paid monthly benefits equal to three percent of his monthly average final compensation multiplied by the number of his years of credited service; however, such monthly benefit shall not exceed thirty-five dollars for each year of his credited service or eighty percent of his monthly average final compensation, whichever is less.

The following is effective for any disability retiree whose application for disability retirement is approved on or after July 1, 2008. The provisions related to the calculation of benefits will apply to any disability retiree whose application for disability retirement was approved before July 1, 2008, for benefits due and payable on or after January 1, 2008.

A member is eligible to receive disability retirement benefits from the Fund if he or she is certified to be totally and permanently disabled pursuant to R.S. 11:218 and one of the following applies:

- a. The member's disability was caused solely as a result of injuries sustained in the performance of their official duties.
- b. The member has at least ten years of service credit.

A member who has been certified as totally and permanently disabled will be paid monthly disability retirement benefits equal to the greater of:

- a. Forty percent of their monthly average final compensation.
- b. Seventy-five percent of their monthly regular retirement benefit computed pursuant to R.S. 11:1521(c).

A member leaving covered employment before attaining early retirement age but after completing twelve years' credited service becomes eligible for a deferred allowance provided the member lives to the minimum service retirement age and does not withdraw his or her accumulated contributions.

Survivor Benefits:

If a member who has less than five years of credited service dies, his accumulated contributions are paid to his designated beneficiary. If the member has five or more years of credited service, automatic Option 2 benefits are payable to the surviving spouse. These benefits are based on the retirement benefits accrued at the member's date of death with option factors used as if the member had continued in service to earliest normal retirement age. Benefit payments are to commence on the date a member would have first become eligible for normal retirement assuming continued service until that time. In lieu of a deferred survivor benefit, the surviving spouse may elect benefits payable immediately with benefits reduced 1/4 of 1% for each month by which payments commence in advance of member's earliest normal retirement age. If a member has no surviving spouse, the surviving minor children under 18 or disabled children shall be paid 1/2 of the member's accrued retirement benefit in equal shares.

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Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

Upon the death of any former member with 12 or more years of service, automatic Option 2 benefits are payable to the surviving spouse with payments to commence on the member's retirement eligibility date. In lieu of periodic payments, the surviving spouse or children may receive a refund of the member's accumulated contributions.

Deferred Retirement Option Plan:

In lieu of terminating employment and accepting a service retirement allowance, any member of the Fund who is eligible for a service retirement allowance may elect to participate in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) for up to thirty-six months and defer the receipt of benefits. During the year ended June 30, 2007 participants had to have been an active contributing member for one full year before becoming eligible for DROP. Upon commencement of participation in the plan, active membership in the Fund terminates and the participant's contributions cease; however, employer contributions continue. Compensation and creditable service remain as they existed on the effective date of commencement of participation in the plan.

The monthly retirement benefits that would have been payable, had the member elected to cease employment and receive a service retirement allowance, are paid into the Deferred Retirement Option Plan account.

Upon termination of employment at the end of the specified period of participation, a participant in the program may receive, at his option, a lump sum payment from the Fund. If employment is not terminated at the end of the participation period, payments into the account cease and the member resumes active contributing membership in the Fund. Upon termination, the member receives a lump sum payment from the DROP fund equal to the payments made to that fund on his behalf, or a true annuity based on his account (subject to approval by the Board of Trustees). The monthly benefit payments that were being paid into the DROP fund are paid to the retiree and an additional benefit based on his additional service rendered since termination of DROP participation is calculated using the normal method of benefit computation.

The average compensation used to calculate the additional benefit is that used to calculate the original benefit unless his period of additional service is at least thirty-six months. In no event can the entire monthly benefit amount paid to the retiree exceed 100% of the average compensation used to compute the additional benefit. If a participant dies during the period of participation in the program, a lump sum payment equal to his account balance is paid to his named beneficiary or, if none, to his estate.

Cost of Living Adjustments:

The Board of Trustees is authorized to provide a cost of living increase to members who have been retired for at least one full calendar year. The increase cannot exceed the lesser of 2.5% of the retiree's benefit or an increase of forty dollars per month. The Louisiana statutes allow the Board to grant an additional cost of living increase to all retirees and beneficiaries over age 65 equal to 2% of the benefit paid on October 1, 1977 or the member's retirement date if later.

In lieu of granting a cost of living increase as described above, Louisiana statutes allow the board to grant a cost of living increase where the benefits shall be calculated using the number of years of service at retirement or at death plus the number of years since retirement or death multiplied by the cost of living amount which cannot exceed \$1.

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Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

In order to grant any cost of living increase, the ratio of the actuarial value of assets to the pension benefit obligation must equal or exceed a statutory target ratio.

Contributions:

According to state statute, contribution requirements for all employers are actuarially determined each year. For the year ending June 30, 2024, the actual employer contribution rate was 23.00%.

In accordance with state statute, the Fund also receives ad valorem taxes and state revenue sharing funds. These additional sources of income are used as employer contributions and are considered support from non-employer contributing entities, but are not considered special funding situations.

Schedule of Employer Allocations:

The schedule of employer allocations reports the required projected employer contributions in addition to the employer allocation percentage. The required employer contributions are used to determine the proportionate relationship of each employer to all employers of Louisiana Clerks' of Court Retirement and Relief Fund. The employer's proportion was determined on a basis that is consistent with the manner in which contributions to the pension plan are determined. The allocation percentages were used in calculating each employer's proportionate share of the pension amounts.

The allocation method used in determining each employer's proportion was based on each employer's contributions to the Fund during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 as compared to the total of all employers' contributions received by the Fund during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

The best estimates of geometric real rates of return for each major asset class included in the Fund's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2023 is summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	LACRF*	
	Target Allocation	Long-term Expected Real Rate of Return
Fixed Income:		
Domestic bonds		2.50%
International bonds	30.00%	3.50%
Domestic Equity	35.00%	7.50%
International Equity	20.00%	8.50%
Real Estate	15.00%	4.50%
Total	100.00%	

*Arithmetic real rates of return

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Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions:

At June 30, 2024, the Clerk reported a liability of \$18,176,448 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of 2023 and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The Clerk's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the Clerk's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating employers, actuarially determined. At June 30, 2023, the Clerk's proportion was 8.449266%, which was a decrease of .04791% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2022.

For the year ended June 30, 2024, the Clerk recognized pension expense of \$4,114,065 in addition to prior year employer's amortization of change in proportionate share and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions of \$7,357. At June 30, 2024, the Clerk reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Difference between expected and actual experience	\$ 98,155	\$ 185,013
Change of assumptions	906,126	-
Change in proportion and differences between the employer's contributions and the employer's proportionate share of contributions	2,501,412	66,175
Contributions subsequent to the measurement date	2,127,185	-
Total	<u>\$ 5,632,878</u>	<u>\$ 251,188</u>

Deferred outflows of resources of \$2,127,185 related to pensions resulting from the Clerk's contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended June 30, 2024. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year Ended June 30,	
2025	\$ 1,447,411
2026	253,142
2027	1,850,149
2028	(296,197)
Total	<u>\$ 3,254,505</u>

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Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

Schedule of Pension Amounts by Employer:

The schedule of pension amounts by employer displays each employer's allocation of the net pension liability. The schedule of pension amounts by employer was prepared using the allocations included in the schedule of employer allocation.

Actuarial Methods and Assumptions:

The net pension liability was measured as the portion of the present value of projected benefit payments to be provided through the pension plan to current active and inactive employees that is attributed to those employees' past periods of service, less the amount of the pension plan's fiduciary net position.

Investment Rate of Return	6.55%, net of investment expense
Projected Salary Increases	1-5 years of service - 6.2%, 5 years of service or more - 5%
Inflation	2.40%
Mortality rates	Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans multiplied by 120%. Mortality Table with full generational projection using the appropriate MP-2019 improvement scale.
Expected Remaining Service Lives	5 years
Cost of Living Adjustments	The present value of future retirement benefits is based on benefits currently being paid by the Fund and included previously granted cost of living increases. The present values do not include provisions for potential future increases not yet authorized by the Board of Trustees as they were deemed not to be substantially automatic.

The actuarial assumptions used are based on the assumptions used in the 2023 actuarial funding valuation which (with the exception of mortality) were based on results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2019, unless otherwise specified. In cases where benefit structures were changes after the experience study period, assumptions were based on future experiences.

The mortality rate assumption used was verified by combining data from this plan with three other statewide plans which have similar workforce composition in order to produce a credible experience. The aggregated data was collected over the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2019. The data was then assigned credibility weighting and combined with a standard table to produce current levels of mortality. This mortality was then projected forward to a period equivalent to the estimated duration of the Fund's liabilities. Annuity values calculated based on this mortality were compared to those produced by using a setback of standard tables. The result of the procedure indicated that these tables would produce liability values approximating the appropriate generational mortality tables used.

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Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 6.55%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members will be made at the current contribution rates and that contributions from participating employers will be made at the actuarially determined rates approved by PRSAC taking into consideration the recommendation of the Fund's actuary. Based on those assumptions, the Fund's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

Sensitivity to Changes in Discount Rate:

The following presents the net pension liability of the participating employers calculated using the discount rate of 6.55%, as well as what the employers' net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (5.55%) or one percentage point higher (7.55%) than the current rate.

	1% Decrease 5.55%	Current Discount Rate 6.55%	1% Increase 7.55%
Net Pension Liability	<u>\$ 27,131,339</u>	<u>\$ 18,176,448</u>	<u>\$ 10,628,155</u>

Contributions – Proportionate Share:

Differences between contributions remitted to the System and the employer's proportionate share are recognized in pension expense (benefit) using the straight line amortization method over a closed period equal to the average of the expected remaining service lives of all employees that are provided with a pension through the pension plan. The resulting deferred inflow/outflow and amortization is not reflected in the schedule of employer amounts due to differences that could arise between contributions reported by the Fund and contributions reported by the participating employer.

As of June 30, 2024, the Clerk owed \$224,365 to the Louisiana Clerks' of Court Retirement and Relief Fund.

(9) **Risk Management**

The Clerk is exposed to various risks of loss related to limited torts; theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions and natural disasters for which the Clerk carries commercial insurance. There have been no significant reductions in coverage from the prior year and settlements have not exceeded coverage in the past three years.

Workmen's compensation coverage is maintained by paying premiums to a commercial insurance carrier. The premium is based upon accident history and administrative costs.

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH CLERK OF COURT
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

The Clerk provides health care benefits for its employees through its self-funded employee medical benefit plan. This program provides employee health benefit coverage up to \$125,000 per insured per year. The Clerk purchases commercial insurance for claims in excess of this annual threshold. Several claims exceeded the commercial threshold during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

The claims liabilities of \$507,817 reported at June 30, 2024, is based on the requirement of Government Accounting Standards Board Statement 10, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Risk Financing and Related Insurance Issues, which requires that a liability for claims be reported if information prior to the issuance of the financial statements indicates that it is possible that a liability has been incurred at the date of the financial statements and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated.

As required by GASB 10, a reconciliation of the unpaid claims liability is shown below:

Unpaid claims and claim adjustment expenses at beginning of year	<u>\$ 526,861</u>
Incurred claims and claim adjustment expenses:	
Provision for insured events of the current fiscal year	3,193,000
Increase (decrease) in provision for insured events of prior fiscal years	<u>171,944</u>
Total incurred claims and claim adjustment expenses	<u>3,364,944</u>
Payments:	
Claims and claim adjustment expenses attributable to insured events of the current fiscal year	2,685,183
Claims and claim adjustment expenses attributable to insured events of prior fiscal years	<u>698,805</u>
Total payments	<u>3,383,988</u>
Unpaid claims and claim adjustment expenses at end of year	<u>\$ 507,817</u>

(10) Expenses of the Clerk Paid by the City-Parish

Certain operating expenditures of the Clerk's office are paid by the City of Baton Rouge/Parish of East Baton Rouge and are not included in the accompanying financial statements. The City Parish government paid juror and witness fees expenditures of \$581,970 for the year ending June 30, 2024.

(11) Litigation

The Clerk is involved in several legal actions, which arose during the ordinary course of business. In the opinion of the Clerk's legal counsel, the only exposure to the Clerk of Court would be any costs in defense of the lawsuits with no liability in excess of insurance coverage.

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH CLERK OF COURT
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

(12) Compensation, Benefits, and Other Payments to Agency Head

The schedule of compensation, benefits, and other payments to Doug Welborn, Clerk of Court, for the year ended June 30, 2024 follows:

Salary	\$ 169,989
Expense allowance	17,219
Benefits - insurance	1,910
Benefits - retirement	30,137
Vehicle Allowance	26,088
Per diem	1,114
Registration fees	1,275
Conference travel- hotel	3,520
Total	<u>\$ 251,252</u>

(13) Net Position

Net position is presented as net investment in capital assets, restricted, and unrestricted on the Clerk's government-wide statement of net position. The City's net position is affected by transactions that resulted in the recognition of deferred outflow of resources and deferred inflow of resources and the balance of the related asset of liability is significant. As discussed in notes 7 and 8, the Clerk's recognition of net pension liability and OPEB obligations in accordance with GASBS Nos. 68 and 75, respectively, significantly affected the Clerk's unrestricted component of net position as of June 30, 2024.

**REQUIRED
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH CLERK OF COURT
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Budgetary Comparison Schedule
General Fund
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budget		Actual	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
Revenues:				
Fees, charges and commissions for services:				
Recordings	\$ 6,243,000	\$ 6,243,000	\$ 5,615,135	\$ (627,865)
Uniform Commercial Code fees	248,000	248,000	270,141	22,141
Cancellations	627,000	627,000	544,230	(82,770)
Mortgage certificates	285,000	285,000	274,228	(10,772)
Court minute fees	-	-	39,357	39,357
Photocopies	1,648,000	1,648,000	1,617,798	(30,202)
Fines and forfeitures	256,000	256,000	234,596	(21,404)
Suits and successions	7,200,000	7,200,000	8,052,300	852,300
Other fees	568,500	568,500	474,230	(94,270)
Intergovernmental	40,000	40,000	312,251	272,251
Licenses	50,000	50,000	38,512	(11,488)
Interest revenue	1,043,000	1,043,000	1,941,848	898,848
Total revenues	<u>18,208,500</u>	<u>18,208,500</u>	<u>19,414,626</u>	<u>1,206,126</u>
Expenditures:				
Current -				
General government:				
Personnel services and related benefits	16,112,000	16,112,000	16,273,591	(161,591)
Materials and supplies	275,300	275,300	260,258	15,042
Operating services	1,454,050	1,454,050	1,353,734	100,316
Auto and travel	16,200	16,200	19,456	(3,256)
Capital outlay	200,000	200,000	3,791	196,209
Total expenditures	<u>18,057,550</u>	<u>18,057,550</u>	<u>17,910,830</u>	<u>146,720</u>
Excess of revenues over expenditures	150,950	150,950	1,503,796	1,352,846
Fund balance, beginning of year	<u>16,320,691</u>	<u>16,320,691</u>	<u>16,320,691</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund balance, end of year	<u>\$ 16,471,641</u>	<u>\$ 16,471,641</u>	<u>\$ 17,824,487</u>	<u>\$ 1,352,846</u>

See notes to the required supplementary information.

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH CLERK OF COURT
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Schedule of Changes in Total OPEB Liability and Related Ratios
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

Total OPEB Liability	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Service cost	\$ 887,640	\$ 978,120	\$ 1,136,285	\$ 889,765	\$ 530,879	\$ 413,179	\$ 401,145
Interest	1,624,941	1,673,865	1,231,007	1,403,208	1,318,581	1,137,952	1,297,239
Changes of benefit terms	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Differences between expected and actual experience	1,714,704	468,843	(1,902,974)	1,026,471	6,980,495	765,913	60,429
Changes in assumptions or other inputs	(3,396,114)	(4,863,330)	(17,420,258)	4,642,667	7,507,429	4,976,865	-
Benefit payments	<u>(1,211,219)</u>	<u>(1,698,750)</u>	<u>(1,504,433)</u>	<u>(1,250,543)</u>	<u>(1,768,086)</u>	<u>(1,524,370)</u>	<u>(1,045,039)</u>
Net changes	(380,048)	(3,441,252)	(18,460,373)	6,711,568	14,569,298	5,769,539	713,774
Total OPEB liability - beginning	<u>41,819,249</u>	<u>45,260,501</u>	<u>63,720,874</u>	<u>57,009,306</u>	<u>42,440,008</u>	<u>36,670,469</u>	<u>35,956,695</u>
Total OPEB liability - ending	<u>\$ 41,439,201</u>	<u>\$ 41,819,249</u>	<u>\$ 45,260,501</u>	<u>\$ 63,720,874</u>	<u>\$ 57,009,306</u>	<u>\$ 42,440,008</u>	<u>\$ 36,670,469</u>
Covered employee payroll	\$ 8,484,286	\$ 11,347,007	\$ 11,016,512	\$ 8,128,088	\$ 7,891,348	\$ 7,066,594	\$ 6,860,771
Total OPEB liability as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	.488.42%	368.55%	410.84%	783.96%	722.43%	600.60%	534.49%

This schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

See notes to the required supplementary information.

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH CLERK OF COURT
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Louisiana Clerks' of Court Retirement and Relief Fund
Schedule of Employer's Share of Net Pension Liability
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024*

Year ended June 30,	Employer Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	Employer Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	Employer's Covered Payroll	Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability
2015	7.968925%	\$ 10,748,977	\$ 6,214,037	173.0%	79.37%
2016	7.756947%	11,635,665	7,016,215	165.8%	78.13%
2017	7.099309%	13,133,537	6,480,345	202.7%	74.17%
2018	7.121090%	10,773,736	6,407,966	168.1%	79.69%
2019	7.488328%	12,455,340	6,950,031	179.2%	79.07%
2020	7.763423%	14,098,313	7,575,758	186.1%	77.93%
2021	7.881773%	18,962,482	7,817,016	242.6%	72.09%
2022	8.411550%	11,189,367	8,489,981	131.8%	85.40%
2023	8.497180%	20,595,157	8,705,968	236.6%	74.09%
2024	8.449266%	18,176,448	8,992,856	202.1%	77.56%

* The amounts presented have a measurement date of the previous fiscal year end.

This schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

See notes to the required supplementary information.

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH CLERK OF COURT
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Louisiana Clerks' of Court Retirement and Relief Fund
Schedule of Employer Contributions
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

Year ended June 30,	Contractually Required Contribution	Contributions in Relation to Contractual Required Contributions	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	Employer's Covered Payroll	Contributions as a % of Covered Payroll
2015	\$ 1,333,081	\$ 1,333,081	\$ -	\$ 7,016,215	19.00%
2016	1,231,266	1,231,266	-	6,480,345	19.00%
2017	1,217,514	1,217,514	-	6,407,966	19.00%
2018	1,320,506	1,320,506	-	6,950,031	19.00%
2019	1,439,394	1,439,394	-	7,575,758	19.00%
2020	1,485,233	1,485,233	-	7,817,016	19.00%
2021	1,782,896	1,782,896	-	8,489,981	21.00%
2022	1,937,078	1,937,078	-	8,705,968	22.25%
2023	2,000,911	2,000,911	-	8,992,856	22.25%
2024	2,124,884	2,124,884	-	9,238,625	23.00%

This schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

See notes to the required supplementary information.

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH CLERK OF COURT
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Notes to Required Supplementary Information
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

(1) Budgets and Budgetary Accounting

The Clerk of Court follows these procedures in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the financial statements:

- a. A proposed budget is prepared and submitted to the Clerk of Court for the fiscal year no later than fifteen days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year.
- b. A summary of the proposed budget is published and the public is notified that the proposed budget is available for public inspection. At the same time, a public hearing is called.
- c. A public hearing is held on the proposed budget at least ten days after publication of the call for a hearing.
- d. After the holding of the public hearing and completion of all action necessary to finalize and implement the budget, the budget is legally adopted prior to the commencement of the fiscal year for which the budget is being adopted.
- e. All budgetary appropriations lapse at the end of each fiscal year.
- f. The budget is adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Budgeted amounts included in the accompanying financial statements are as originally adopted or as finally amended by the Clerk of Court.

(2) Pension Plans

Changes of Assumptions – Changes of assumptions about future economic or demographic factors or of other inputs were recognized on pension expense using the straight line amortization method over a closed period equal to the average of the expected remaining service lives of all employees that are provided with pensions through the pension plan. These assumptions include the rate of investment return, mortality of plan members, rate of salary increases, rates of retirement, rates of termination, rates of disability, and various other factors that have an impact on the cost of the plan.

(3) Other Postemployment Benefits

- A. Benefit Changes – There were no changes of benefit terms.
- B. Changes of Assumptions –
 - a. The discount rate increased from 3.86% at June 30, 2023 to 3.97% at June 30, 2024.

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH CLERK OF COURT
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Notes to Required Supplementary Information (Continued)
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

(4) Excess of Expenditures Over Appropriations

For the year ended June 30, 2024, the following fund had actual expenditures over appropriations, at the functional level as follows:

<u>Fund and Function</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Excess</u>
General government:			
Personnel services and related benefits	\$16,112,000	\$ 16,273,591	\$(161,591)
Auto and travel	16,200	19,456	(3,256)

**SUPPLEMENTARY
INFORMATION**

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH CLERK OF COURT
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Comparative Statement of Net Position
June 30, 2024 and 2023

	Governmental Activities	
	2024	2023
ASSETS		
Current assets:		
Cash and interest-bearing deposits	\$ 18,894,635	\$ 17,761,622
Receivables, net	<u>163,971</u>	<u>139,089</u>
Total current assets	19,058,606	17,900,711
Noncurrent assets:		
Capital assets, net	<u>1,291,292</u>	<u>1,506,947</u>
Total assets	<u>20,349,898</u>	<u>19,407,658</u>
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES		
Deferred outflows of resources related to pension	5,632,878	8,912,572
Deferred outflows of resources related to postemployment benefit obligation	<u>1,653,069</u>	<u>1,792,359</u>
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>7,285,947</u>	<u>10,704,931</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	64,176	414,022
Accrued expenses	24,191	24,191
Accrued payroll liabilities	518,325	480,816
Accrued health insurance claims	507,817	526,861
Due to other governments	<u>119,610</u>	<u>134,130</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>1,234,119</u>	<u>1,580,020</u>
Noncurrent liabilities:		
Compensated absences payable	983,989	1,037,279
Post employment benefit obligation	41,439,201	41,819,249
Net pension liability	<u>18,176,448</u>	<u>20,595,157</u>
Total noncurrent liabilities	<u>60,599,638</u>	<u>63,451,685</u>
Total liabilities	<u>61,833,757</u>	<u>65,031,705</u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES		
Deferred inflows of resources related to pension	251,188	187,209
Deferred inflows of resources related to postemployment benefit obligation	<u>13,364,182</u>	<u>15,484,603</u>
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>13,615,370</u>	<u>15,671,812</u>
NET POSITION		
Net investment in capital assets	1,291,292	1,506,947
Unrestricted net position (deficit)	<u>(49,104,574)</u>	<u>(52,097,875)</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ (47,813,282)</u>	<u>\$ (50,590,928)</u>

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH CLERK OF COURT
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
General Fund

Comparative Balance Sheet
June 30, 2024 and 2023

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
ASSETS		
Cash and interest-bearing deposits	\$ 18,894,635	\$ 17,761,622
Accounts receivable, net	<u>163,971</u>	<u>139,089</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 19,058,606</u>	<u>\$ 17,900,711</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 64,176	\$ 414,022
Accrued expenses	24,191	24,191
Accrued payroll liabilities	518,325	480,816
Accrued health insurance claims	507,817	526,861
Due to other governments	<u>119,610</u>	<u>134,130</u>
Total liabilities	<u>1,234,119</u>	<u>1,580,020</u>
Fund balance:		
Unassigned	<u>17,824,487</u>	<u>16,320,691</u>
Total liabilities and fund balance	<u>\$ 19,058,606</u>	<u>\$ 17,900,711</u>

EAST BATON ROUGE CLERK OF COURT

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Justice System Funding Schedule - Receiving Entity

Year Ended June 30, 2024

	First Six Month Period Ended 12/31/2023	Second Six Month Period Ended 6/30/2024
Cash Basis Presentation		
Receipts from:		
Criminal Fines (Other) -		
East Baton Rouge Sheriff	\$ 69,548	\$ 79,422
Interest Earnings on Collected Balances	<u>392,803</u>	<u>418,728</u>
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 462,351</u>	<u>\$ 498,150</u>

EAST BATON ROUGE CLERK OF COURT

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Justice System Funding Schedule - Collecting/Disbursing Entity

Year Ended June 30, 2024

	First Six Month Period Ended 12/31/2023	Second Six Month Period Ended 6/30/2024
Cash Basis Presentation		
Beginning Balance of Amounts Collected	\$ 53,466,048	\$ 55,822,585
Add: Collections		
Civil Fees	12,704,202	12,497,069
Subtotal Collections	12,704,202	12,497,069
Less: Disbursements to Governments and Nonprofits		
Civil Fees -		
Baton Rouge Bar Association	25,196	23,778
Capital City Press-EBR Parish	412	-
Commissioner of Insurance	510	410
EBR Parish Jury Fee	4,204	1,428
Family Court of EBR-Family Expense	65,601	64,874
Family Court of EBR-MOU Payment	6,307	6,304
Family Court of EBR- Pro Bono Act	2,482	2,443
First Circuit Court of Appeal	17,882	20,764
Judicial Expense Fund	3,499,562	3,442,503
Juvenile Expense Fund	1,800	2,095
LA Dept of Treasury-Unclaimed	1,513	1,187
LA Supreme Court-Civil Case	1,980	560
LA Supreme Court-Judicial College	4,924	4,603
LA State Treasurer	296,711	284,133
Secretary of State	132,275	117,275
State Treasury Office-Fiscal	7,950	8,030
Acadia Parish Sheriff	478	235
Allen Parish Sheriff	60	78
Ascension Parish Sheriff	19,069	19,185
Assumption Parish Sheriff	833	611
Avoyelles Parish Sheriff	769	913
Beauregard Parish Sheriff	250	133
Bienville Parish Sheriff	-	76
Bossier Parish Sheriff	850	1,003
Caddo Parish Sheriff	2,871	3,823
Calcasieu Parish Sheriff	2,255	2,143
Caldwell Parish Sheriff	-	20
Catahoula Parish Sheriff	51	62
Claiborne Parish Sheriff	66	43
Concordia Parish Sheriff	135	155

(continued)

EAST BATON ROUGE CLERK OF COURT

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Justice System Funding Schedule - Collecting/Disbursing Entity (Continued)
Year Ended June 30, 2024

	First Six Month Period Ended 12/31/2023	Second Six Month Period Ended 6/30/2024
Desoto Parish Sheriff	29	105
East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff	835,404	765,743
East Carroll Parish Sheriff	37	43
East Feliciana Parish Sheriff	536	873
Evangeline Parish Sheriff	393	507
Franklin Parish Sheriff	194	-
Grant Parish Sheriff	112	119
Iberia Parish Sheriff	749	227
Iberville Parish Sheriff	2,482	1,636
Jackson Parish Sheriff	49	212
Jefferson Davis Parish Sheriff	123	136
Jefferson Parish Sheriff	14,755	18,854
Lafayette Parish Sheriff	9,259	8,502
Lafourche Parish Sheriff	991	1,453
Lasalle Parish Sheriff	31	17
Lincoln Parish Sheriff	134	326
Livingston Parish Sheriff	16,701	13,219
Madison Parish Sheriff	67	51
Morehouse Parish Sheriff	115	130
Natchitoches Parish Sheriff	664	168
Orleans Parish Sheriff	19,320	19,691
Ouachita Parish Sheriff	1,505	2,024
Plaquemines Parish Sheriff	528	405
Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff	3,676	3,485
Rapides Parish Sheriff	1,639	1,938
Richland Parish Sheriff	81	276
Sabine Parish Sheriff	15	-
St Bernard Parish Sheriff	412	774
St Charles Parish Sheriff	792	445
St Helena Parish Sheriff	1,088	923
St James Parish Sheriff	1,211	887
St John The Baptist Parish Sheriff	803	855
St Landry Parish Sheriff	1,036	1,609
St Martin Parish Sheriff	379	617
St Mary Parish Sheriff	1,065	355
St Tammany Parish Sheriff	13,945	18,000
Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff	11,583	13,128

(continued)

EAST BATON ROUGE CLERK OF COURT
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Justice System Funding Schedule - Collecting/Disbursing Entity (Continued)
Year Ended June 30, 2024

	First Six Month Period Ended 12/31/2023	Second Six Month Period Ended 6/30/2024
Terrebonne Parish Sheriff	2,073	3,222
Union Parish Sheriff	146	162
Vermillion Parish Sheriff	379	528
Vernon Parish Sheriff	242	259
Washington Parish Sheriff	955	1,195
Webster Parish Sheriff	190	170
West Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff	4,796	5,455
West Carroll Parish Sheriff	-	102
West Feliciana Parish Sheriff	1,259	1,308
Winn Parish Sheriff	241	21
Less: Amounts Retained by Collecting Agency		
Amounts "Self-Disbursed" to Collecting Agency	3,650,142	3,590,628
Less: Disbursements to Individuals/3rd Party Collection		
Civil Fee Refunds	1,641,354	1,614,592
Other Disbursements to Individuals	6,989	6,876
Subtotal Disbursements/Retainage	10,347,665	10,111,118
Ending Balance of Amounts Collected but not Disbursed/Retained	<u>\$ 55,822,585</u>	<u>\$ 58,208,536</u>

**OTHER
INFORMATION**

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH CLERK OF COURT
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
General Fund

Budgetary Comparison Schedule -
Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024
With Comparative Actual Amounts for the Year Ended June 30, 2023

	2024				
	Budget			Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)	2023 Actual
	Original	Final	Actual		
Revenues:					
Fees, charges and commissions for services:					
Recordings	\$ 6,243,000	\$ 6,243,000	\$ 5,615,135	\$ (627,865)	\$ 5,971,902
Uniform Commercial Code fees	248,000	248,000	270,141	22,141	236,071
Cancellations	627,000	627,000	544,230	(82,770)	610,185
Mortgage certificates	285,000	285,000	274,228	(10,772)	281,736
Court minute fees	-	-	39,357	39,357	41,185
Photocopies	1,648,000	1,648,000	1,617,798	(30,202)	1,617,165
Fines and forfeitures	256,000	256,000	234,596	(21,404)	251,221
Suits and successions	7,200,000	7,200,000	8,052,300	852,300	7,271,162
Other fees	568,500	568,500	474,230	(94,270)	462,081
Intergovernmental	40,000	40,000	312,251	272,251	227,948
Licenses	50,000	50,000	38,512	(11,488)	46,009
Interest revenue	1,043,000	1,043,000	1,941,848	898,848	1,083,083
Total revenues	<u>18,208,500</u>	<u>18,208,500</u>	<u>19,414,626</u>	<u>1,206,126</u>	<u>18,099,748</u>
Expenditures:					
Current -					
General government:					
Personnel services and related benefits	16,112,000	16,112,000	16,273,591	(161,591)	16,608,000
Materials and supplies	275,300	275,300	260,258	15,042	288,538
Operating services	1,454,050	1,454,050	1,353,734	100,316	1,375,668
Auto and travel	16,200	16,200	19,456	(3,256)	11,162
Capital outlay	200,000	200,000	3,791	196,209	221,954
Total expenditures	<u>18,057,550</u>	<u>18,057,550</u>	<u>17,910,830</u>	<u>146,720</u>	<u>18,505,322</u>
Excess/(deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	150,950	150,950	1,503,796	1,352,846	(405,574)
Fund balance, beginning of year	<u>16,320,691</u>	<u>16,320,691</u>	<u>16,320,691</u>	-	<u>16,726,265</u>
Fund balance, end of year	<u>\$ 16,471,641</u>	<u>\$ 16,471,641</u>	<u>\$ 17,824,487</u>	<u>\$ 1,352,846</u>	<u>\$ 16,320,691</u>

EAST BATON ROUGE CLERK OF COURT
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
General Fund

Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Revenues
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024
With Comparative Actual Amounts for the Year Ended June 30, 2023

	2024				
	Budget			Variance -	2023
	Original	Final	Actual	Positive (Negative)	Actual
Fees, charges, and commissions for services:					
Recordings	\$ 6,243,000	\$ 6,243,000	\$ 5,615,135	\$ (627,865)	\$ 5,971,902
Uniform Commercial Code fees	248,000	248,000	270,141	22,141	236,071
Cancellations	627,000	627,000	544,230	(82,770)	610,185
Mortgage and birth certificates	285,000	285,000	274,228	(10,772)	281,736
Court minute fees	-	-	39,357	39,357	41,185
Photocopies	1,648,000	1,648,000	1,617,798	(30,202)	1,617,165
Fines and forfeitures	256,000	256,000	234,596	(21,404)	251,221
Suits and successions	7,200,000	7,200,000	8,052,300	852,300	7,271,162
Other fees:					
Passports	189,000	189,000	156,328	(32,672)	180,317
Extract of court minutes	27,000	27,000	32,420	5,420	26,700
Credit card fees	49,000	49,000	101,452	52,452	45,317
Portal fees	207,000	207,000	130,545	(76,455)	159,878
Miscellaneous	96,500	96,500	53,485	(43,015)	49,869
Total fees, charges, and commissions for services	17,075,500	17,075,500	17,122,015	46,515	16,742,708
Intergovernmental:					
Reimbursed election expenses	-	-	160,576	160,576	188,569
City/Parish budget allocation	40,000	40,000	151,675	111,675	39,379
Total intergovernmental	40,000	40,000	312,251	272,251	227,948
Licenses	50,000	50,000	38,512	(11,488)	46,009
Interest revenue	1,043,000	1,043,000	1,941,848	898,848	1,083,083
Total revenues	\$ 18,208,500	\$ 18,208,500	\$ 19,414,626	\$ 1,206,126	\$18,099,748

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH CLERK OF COURT
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
General Fund

Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Expenditures
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024
With Comparative Actual Amounts for the Year Ended June 30, 2023

	2024			Variance -	2023
	Budget			Positive	
	Original	Final	Actual	(Negative)	Actual
Expenditures:					
Current -					
Personnel services					
and related benefits:					
Salaries	\$ 9,400,000	\$ 9,400,000	\$ 9,833,553	\$ (433,553)	\$ 9,599,304
Clerk's expense allowance	-	-	17,219	(17,219)	16,079
Clerk's auto allowance	5,000	5,000	26,068	(21,068)	26,068
Clerk's supplemental fund	66,000	66,000	69,600	(3,600)	69,300
Payroll taxes	159,000	159,000	164,974	(5,974)	157,075
Retirement	2,861,000	2,861,000	2,777,274	83,726	2,626,239
Group insurance	3,616,000	3,616,000	3,386,972	229,028	4,113,485
Worker's compensation	5,000	5,000	(2,069)	7,069	450
Total personnel services					
and related benefits	16,112,000	16,112,000	16,273,591	(161,591)	16,608,000
Materials and supplies:					
Printing and binding	59,000	59,000	67,801	(8,801)	51,966
Judges' supplies	5,800	5,800	4,713	1,087	6,014
Computer expenses	67,000	67,000	61,002	5,998	89,030
Office supplies	136,000	136,000	119,474	16,526	134,330
Repairs and maintenance	7,500	7,500	7,268	232	7,198
Total materials and supplies	275,300	275,300	260,258	15,042	288,538
Operating services:					
Accounting	175,000	175,000	140,476	34,524	160,499
Advertising	50	50	18	32	18
Archives and record retention	133,000	133,000	135,624	(2,624)	135,910
Computer software and services	550,000	550,000	481,973	68,027	382,110
Insurance	97,000	97,000	34,044	62,956	164,730
Legal	125,000	125,000	132,635	(7,635)	114,475
Postage	156,000	156,000	188,263	(32,263)	169,505
Telephone	51,000	51,000	52,900	(1,900)	58,107
Equipment rental and leases	28,000	28,000	43,892	(15,892)	62,641
Credit card fees	-	-	-	-	8,158
Miscellaneous	139,000	139,000	143,909	(4,909)	119,515
Total operating services	1,454,050	1,454,050	1,353,734	100,316	1,375,668
Auto and travel	16,200	16,200	19,456	(3,256)	11,162
Capital outlay	200,000	200,000	3,791	196,209	221,954
Total expenditures	\$ 18,057,550	\$ 18,057,550	\$ 17,910,830	\$ 146,720	\$ 18,505,322

**INTERNAL CONTROL, COMPLIANCE
AND OTHER MATTERS**

KOLDER, SLAVEN & COMPANY, LLC

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S 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 Doug Welborn
East Baton Rouge Parish Clerk of Court
Baton Rouge, 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, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the East Baton Rouge Parish Clerk of Court as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the East Baton Rouge Parish Clerk of Court's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated December 31, 2024. Our report qualifies an opinion on the aggregate remaining fund information due to the Clerk's inability to reconcile the individual suit balances in its Advanced Deposit Fund with the corresponding unsettled deposits recorded on its statement of fiduciary net position.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the East Baton Rouge Parish Clerk of Court's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing 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 East Baton Rouge Parish Clerk of Court's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the East Baton Rouge Parish Clerk of Court'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 a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity'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 and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We did identify a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying summary schedule of current and prior year audit findings and management's corrective action plan as item 2024-001 to be a material weakness.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the East Baton Rouge Parish Clerk of Court'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 financial statements. 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*.

East Baton Rouge Parish Clerk of Court's Response to Findings

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the East Baton Rouge Clerk of Court's response to the findings identified in our audit and described in the accompanying schedule of current and prior year findings and management's corrective action plan. East Baton Rouge Clerk of Court's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

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 entity'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 entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor as a public document.

Kolder, Slaven & Company, LLC

Certified Public Accountants

Lafayette, Louisiana
December 31, 2024

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH CLERK OF COURT
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Summary Schedule of Current and Prior Year Findings
and Management's Corrective Action Plan

Part I. Current Year Findings and Management's Corrective Action Plan

A. Internal Control Findings -

2024-001 Reconciliation of the Advanced Deposit Fund

Fiscal year finding initially occurred: 1980

CRITERIA: The Clerk should have a policy according to which all individual suit balances in the Clerk's Advanced Deposit Fund reconcile with the corresponding unsettled deposits.

CONDITION: The Clerk did not have adequate procedures in place to reconcile individual suit balances in the Clerk's Advanced Deposit Fund with the corresponding unsettled deposits.

CAUSE: Due to a lack of policies and procedures, monthly reconciliations are not being performed in the Advanced Deposit Fund.

EFFECT: The Clerk has numerous errors when reconciling the individual suit balances in the Clerk's Advanced Deposit Fund with the corresponding unsettled deposits.

RECOMMENDATION: The Clerk should establish policies and procedures to reconcile the individual suit balances in the Clerk's Advanced Deposit Fund with the corresponding unsettled deposits.

MANAGEMENT'S CORRECTION ACTION PLAN: The Clerk's office implemented an accounting application to administer the Advanced Deposit Fund in 2006, which significantly improved the accounting measures used in the administration of the Advanced Deposit Fund. Additionally, the Clerk's office has continued to monitor the monthly deposits and disbursements during the year ended June 30, 2024.

B. Compliance Findings –

There are no findings to report under this section.

Part II. Prior Year Findings

A. Internal Control Findings -

2023-001 Reconciliation of the Advanced Deposit Fund

Fiscal year finding initially occurred: 1980

CONDITION: The Clerk did not have adequate procedures in place to reconcile individual suit balances in the Clerk's Advanced Deposit Fund with the corresponding unsettled deposits.

RECOMMENDATION: The Clerk should establish policies and procedures to reconcile the individual suit balances in the Clerk's Advanced Deposit Fund with corresponding unsettled deposits.

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH CLERK OF COURT
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Summary Schedule of Current and Prior Year Findings
and Management's Corrective Action Plan (Continued)

Current Status: Unresolved. See Finding 2024-001.

B. Compliance Findings -

2023-002 Failure to File Audited Financial Statements Timely

Fiscal year finding initially occurred: 2022

CONDITION: The Clerk's annual audited financial statements were not filed in a timely manner for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

RECOMMENDATION: The Clerk should take necessary actions to ensure their annual financial statement audit is completed and submitted within six months of the close of their fiscal year.

Current Status: Resolved.

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH
CLERK OF COURT
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Agreed-Upon Procedures Report

Year Ended June 30, 2024

KOLDER, SLAVEN & COMPANY, LLC

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

The Honorable Doug Welborn
and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the control and compliance (C/C) areas identified in the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's (LLA's) Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures (SAUPs) for the fiscal period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. The East Baton Rouge Parish Clerk of Court (The Clerk) management is responsible for those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs.

The Clerk has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of the engagement, which is to perform specified procedures on the C/C areas identified in LLA's SAUPs for the fiscal period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Additionally, LLA has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate for its purposes. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of this report and may not meet the needs of all users of this report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

The procedures and associated findings are as follows:

Written Policies and Procedures

1. Obtain and inspect the Clerk's written policies and procedures and observed that they address each of the following categories and subcategories if applicable to public funds and the Clerk's operations:
 - a) ***Budgeting***, including preparing, adopting, monitoring, and amending the budget.
 - b) ***Purchasing***, including (1) how purchases are initiated; (2) how vendors are added to the vendor list; (3) the preparation and approval process of purchase requisitions and purchase orders; (4) controls to ensure compliance with the Public Bid Law; and (5) documentation required to be maintained for all bids and price quotes.
 - c) ***Disbursements***, including processing, reviewing, and approving.
 - d) ***Receipts/Collections***, including receiving, recording, and preparing deposits. Also, policies and procedures should include management's actions to determine the completeness of all collections for each type of revenue or agency fund additions (e.g. periodic confirmation with outside parties, reconciliation to utility billing after cutoff procedures, reconciliation of traffic ticket number sequences, agency fund forfeiture monies confirmation).
 - e) ***Payroll/Personnel***, including (1) payroll processing, (2) reviewing and approving time and attendance records, including leave and overtime worked, and (3) approval process for employee(s) rate of pay or approval and maintenance of pay rate schedules.

- f) **Contracting**, including (1) types of services requiring written contracts, (2) standard terms and conditions, (3) legal review, (4) approval process, and (5) monitoring process.
- g) **Travel and expense reimbursement**, including (1) allowable expenses, (2) dollar thresholds by category of expense, (3) documentation requirements, and (4) required approvers.
- h) **Credit Cards (and debit cards, fuel cards, P-Cards, if applicable)**, including (1) how cards are to be controlled, (2) allowable business uses, (3) documentation requirements, (4) required approvers of statements, and (5) monitoring card usage (e.g., determining the reasonableness of fuel card purchases).
- i) **Ethics**, including (1) the prohibitions as defined in Louisiana Revised Statute 42:1111-1121, (2) actions to be taken if an ethics violation takes place, (3) system to monitor possible ethics violations, and (4) a requirement that documentation is maintained to demonstrate that all employees and officials were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy.
- j) **Debt Service**, including (1) debt issuance approval, (2) continuing disclosure/EMMA reporting requirements, (3) debt reserve requirements, and (4) debt service requirements.
- k) **Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity**, including (1) identification of critical data and frequency of data backups, (2) storage of backups in separate physical location isolated from the network, (3) periodic testing/verification that backups can be restored, (4) use of antivirus software on all systems, (5) timely application of all available system and software patches/updates, and (6) identification of personnel, processes, and tools needed to recover operations after a critical event.
- l) **Prevention of Sexual Harassment**, including R.S. 42:342-344 requirements for (1) agency responsibilities and prohibitions, (2) annual employee training, and (3) annual reporting.

Board or Finance Committee

(The following procedures were not applicable to the Clerk.)

- 2. Obtain and inspect the board/finance committee minutes for the fiscal period, as well as the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or equivalent document in effect during the fiscal period, and:
 - a) Observe that the board/finance committee met with a quorum at least monthly, or on a frequency in accordance with the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or other equivalent document.
 - b) Observe that the minutes referenced or included monthly budget-to-actual comparisons on the General Fund, quarterly budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on proprietary funds, and semi-annual budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on all special revenue funds.
 - c) Obtain the prior year audit report and observe the unassigned fund balance in the General Fund. If the General Fund had a negative ending unassigned fund balance in the prior year audit report, observe that the minutes for at least one meeting during the fiscal period referenced or included a formal plan to eliminate the negative unassigned fund balance in the General Fund.
 - d) Observe whether the board/finance committee received written updates of the progress of resolving audit finding(s), according to management's corrective action plan at each meeting until the findings are considered fully resolved.

Bank Reconciliations

- 3. Obtain a listing of the Clerk's bank accounts for the fiscal period from management and management's representation that the listing is complete. Ask management to identify the Clerk's main operating account. Select the Clerk's main operating account and randomly select 4 additional accounts (or all accounts if less than 5). Randomly select one month from the fiscal period, obtain and inspect the corresponding bank statement and reconciliation for selected accounts, and observe that:

- a) Bank reconciliations included evidence that they were prepared within 2 months of the related statement closing date (e.g., initialed and dated, electronically logged);
- b) Bank reconciliations included evidence that a member of management who does not handle cash, post ledgers, or issue checks has reviewed each bank reconciliation within 1 month of the date the reconciliation was prepared (e.g., initialed and dated, electronically logged); and
- c) Management has documentation reflecting that it has researched reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than 12 months from the statement closing date, if applicable.

Collections (excluding electronic fund transfers)

- 4. Obtain a listing of deposit sites for the fiscal period where deposits for cash/checks/money orders (cash) are prepared and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 deposit sites (or all deposit sites if less than 5).
- 5. For each deposit site selected, obtain a listing of collection locations and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one collection location for each deposit site (i.e. 5 collection locations for 5 deposit sites), obtain and inspect written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if no written policies or procedures, inquire of employees about their job duties) at each collection location, and observe that job duties are properly segregated at each collection location such that:
 - a) Employees that are responsible for cash collections do not share cash drawers/registers.
 - b) Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not responsible for preparing/making bank deposits, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling collection documentation (e.g. pre-numbered receipts) to the deposit.
 - c) Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not responsible for posting collection entries to the general ledger or subsidiary ledgers, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling ledger postings to each other and to the deposit.
 - d) The employee(s) responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general ledger and/or subsidiary ledgers, by revenue source and/or agency fund additions are not responsible for collecting cash, unless another employee verifies the reconciliation.
- 6. Obtain from management a copy of the bond or insurance policy for theft covering all employees who have access to cash. Observe the bond or insurance policy for theft was enforced during the fiscal period.
- 7. Randomly select two deposit dates for each of the 5 bank accounts selected for procedure #3 under "Bank Reconciliations" above (select the next deposit date chronologically if no deposits were made on the dates randomly selected and randomly select a deposit if multiple deposits are made on the same day). *Alternately, the practitioner may use a source document other than bank statements when selecting the deposit dates for testing, such as a cash collection log, daily revenue report, receipt book, etc.* Obtain supporting documentation for each of the 10 deposits and:
 - a) Observe that receipts are sequentially pre-numbered.
 - b) Trace sequentially pre-numbered receipts, system reports, and other related collection documentation to the deposit slip.
 - c) Trace the deposit slip total to the actual deposit per the bank statement.
 - d) Observe that the deposit was made within one business day of receipt at the collection location (within one week if the depository is more than 10 miles from the collection location or the deposit is less than \$100 and the cash is stored securely in a locked safe or drawer).
 - e) Trace the actual deposit per the bank statement to the general ledger.

Non-Payroll Disbursements (excluding card purchases/payments, travel reimbursements, and petty cash purchases)

8. Obtain a listing of locations that process payments for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing was complete. Randomly select 5 locations (or all locations if less than 5).
9. For each location selected under #8 above, obtain a listing of those employees involved with non-payroll purchasing and payment functions. Obtain written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if the agency has no written policies and procedures, inquire of employees about their job duties), and observe that job duties are properly segregated such that:
 - a) At least two employees are involved in initiating a purchase request, approving a purchase, and placing an order/making the purchase.
 - b) At least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors.
 - c) The employee responsible for processing payments is prohibited from adding/modifying vendor files, unless another employee is responsible for periodically reviewing changes to vendor files.
 - d) Either the employee/official responsible for signing checks mails the payment or gives the signed checks to an employee to mail who is not responsible for processing payments.
 - e) Only employees/officials authorized to sign checks approve the electronic disbursement (release) of funds, whether through automated clearinghouse (ACH), electronic funds transfer (EFT), wire transfer, or some other electronic means.
10. For each location selected under #8 above, obtain the Clerk's non-payroll disbursement transaction population (excluding cards and travel reimbursements) and obtain management's representation that the population is complete. Randomly select 5 disbursements for each location, obtain supporting documentation for each transaction and:
 - a) Observe whether the disbursement matched the related original itemized invoice and supporting documentation indicates deliverables included on the invoice were received by the entity.
 - b) Observe that the disbursement documentation includes evidence (e.g., initial/date, electronic logging) of segregation of duties tested under #9, as applicable.
11. Using the entity's main operating account and month selected in Bank Reconciliations procedure #3, randomly select 5 non-payroll related electronic disbursements (or all electronic disbursements if less than 5) and observe that each electronic disbursement was:
 - a) Approved by only those persons authorized to disburse fund (e.g., sign checks) per the entity's policy, and
 - b) Approved by the required number of authorized signers per the entity's policy.

Credit Cards/Debit Cards/Fuel Cards/Purchase Cards (Cards)

12. Obtain from management a listing of all active credit cards, bank debit cards, fuel cards, and purchase cards (cards) for the fiscal period, including the card numbers and the names of the persons who maintained possession of the cards. Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete.
13. Using the listing prepared by management, randomly select 5 cards (or all cards if less than 5) that were used during the fiscal period. Randomly select one monthly statement or combined statement for each card (for a debit card, randomly select one monthly bank statement), obtain supporting documentation, and:
 - a) Observe that there is evidence that the monthly statement or combined statement and supporting documentation (e.g., original receipts for credit/debit card purchases, exception reports for excessive fuel card usage) was reviewed and approved, in writing (or electronically approved), by someone other than the authorized card holder.

- b) Observe that finance charges and late fees were not assessed on the selected statements.
14. Using the monthly statements or combined statements selected under #12 above, excluding fuel cards, randomly select 10 transactions (or all transactions if less than 10) from each statement, and obtain supporting documentation for the transactions (i.e. each card should have 10 transactions subject to testing). For each transaction, observe that it is supported by (1) an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased, (2) written documentation of the business/public purpose, and (3) documentation of the individuals participating in meals (for meal charges only). For missing receipts, describe the nature of the transaction and note whether management had a compensating control to address missing receipts, such as a “missing receipt statement” that is subject to increased scrutiny.

Travel and Travel-Related Expense Reimbursements (excluding card transactions)

15. Obtain from management a listing of all travel and travel-related expense reimbursements during the fiscal period and management’s representation that the listing or general ledger is complete. Randomly select 5 reimbursements, obtain the related expense reimbursement forms/prepaid expense documentation of each selected reimbursement, as well as the supporting documentation. For each of the 5 reimbursements selected:
- a) If reimbursed using a per diem, observe the approved reimbursement rate is no more than those rates established either by the State of Louisiana or the U.S. General Services Administration (www.gsa.gov).
 - b) If reimbursed using actual costs, observe that the reimbursement is supported by an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased.
 - c) Observe that each reimbursement is supported by documentation of the business/public purpose (for meal charges, observe that the documentation includes the names of those individuals participating) and other documentation required by written policy (procedure #1g).
 - d) Observe that each reimbursement was reviewed and approved, in writing, by someone other than the person receiving reimbursement.

Contracts

16. Obtain from management a listing of all agreements/contracts for professional services, materials and supplies, leases, and construction activities that were initiated or renewed during the fiscal period. *Alternately, the practitioner may use an equivalent selection source, such as an active vendor list.* Obtain management’s representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 contracts (or all contracts if less than 5) from the listing, excluding the practitioner’s contract, and:
- a) Observe that the contract was bid in accordance with the Louisiana Public Bid Law (e.g., solicited quotes or bids, advertised), if required by law.
 - b) Observe that the contract was approved by the governing body/board, if required by policy or law (e.g., Lawrason Act, Home Rule Charter).
 - c) If the contract was amended (e.g., change order), observe that the original contract terms provided for such an amendment and that amendments were made in compliance with the contract terms (e.g., if approval is required for any amendment, was approval documented).
 - d) Randomly select one payment from the fiscal period for each of the 5 contracts, obtain the supporting invoice, agree the invoice to the contract terms, and observe that the invoice and related payment agreed to the terms and conditions of the contract

Payroll and Personnel

17. Obtain a listing of employees/elected officials employed during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 employees/officials, obtain related paid salaries and personnel files, and agree paid salaries to authorized salaries/pay rates in the personnel files.
18. Randomly select one pay period during the fiscal period. For the 5 employees/officials selected under #17 above, obtain attendance records and leave documentation for the pay period, and:
 - a) Observe that all selected employees/officials documented their daily attendance and leave (e.g., vacation, sick, compensatory). (Note: Generally, an elected official is not eligible to earn leave and does not document his/her attendance and leave. However, if the elected official is earning leave according to policy and/or contract, the official should document his/her daily attendance and leave.)
 - b) Observe that supervisors approved the attendance and leave of the selected employees/officials.
 - c) Observe that any leave accrued or taken during the pay period is reflected in the Clerk's cumulative leave records.
 - d) Observe the rate paid to the employees or officials agree to the authorized salary/pay rate found within the personnel file.
19. Obtain a listing of those employees/officials that received termination payments during the fiscal period and management's representation that the list is complete. Randomly select two employees/officials, obtain related documentation of the hours and pay rates used in management's termination payment calculations and the Clerk's policy on termination payments. Agree the hours to the employee or officials' cumulate leave records, agree the pay rates to the employee/officials' authorized pay rates in the employee or officials' personnel files, and agree the termination payment to entity policy.
20. Obtain management's representation that employer and employee portions of third-party payroll related amounts (e.g., payroll taxes, retirement contributions, health insurance premiums, garnishments, workers' compensation premiums, etc.) have been paid, and any associated forms have been filed, by required deadlines.

Ethics

21. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from procedure #17 under "Payroll and Personnel" above, obtain ethics documentation from management, and:
 - a) Observe whether the documentation demonstrates that each employee/official completed one hour of ethics training during the calendar year as required by R.S. 42:1170.
 - b) Observe whether the entity maintains documentation which demonstrates each employee and official were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy during the fiscal period, as applicable.
22. Inquire and/or observe whether the agency has appointed an ethics designee as required by R.S. 42:1170.

Debt Service

(The Clerk does not have debt issued for the fiscal period; therefore, this procedure is not applicable.)

23. Obtain a listing of bonds/notes and other debt instruments issued during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all debt instruments on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe State Bond Commission approval was obtained for each debt instrument issued as required by Article VII, Section 8 of the Louisiana Constitution

24. Obtain a listing of bonds/notes outstanding at the end of the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one bond/note, inspect debt covenants, obtain supporting documentation for the reserve balance and payments, and agree actual reserve balances and payments to those required by debt covenants (including contingency funds, short-lived asset funds, or other funds required by the debt covenants).

Fraud Notice

25. Obtain a listing of misappropriations of public funds and assets during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing was complete. Select all misappropriations on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe that the Clerk reported the misappropriation(s) to the legislative auditor and the district attorney of the parish in which the Clerk is domiciled as required by R.S. 24:523.

The Clerk represented that there were no misappropriations of public funds and assets during the fiscal year.

26. Observe that the Clerk has posted on its premises and website, the notice required by R.S. 24:523.1 concerning the reporting of misappropriation, fraud, waste, or abuse of public funds.

Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity

27. Perform the following procedures, **verbally discuss the results with management, and report "We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management."**

- a) Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has backed up its critical data (if no written documentation, inquire of personnel responsible for backing up critical data) and observe evidence that such backup (a) occurred within the past week, (b) was not stored on the government's local server or network, and (c) was encrypted.

We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

- b) Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has tested/verified that its backups can be restored (if no written documentation, inquire of personnel responsible for testing/verifying backup restoration) and observe evidence that the test/verification was successfully performed within the past 3 months.

We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

- c) Obtain a listing of the entity's computers currently in use and their related locations, and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 computers and observe while management demonstrates that the selected computers have current and active antivirus software and that the operating system and accounting system software in use are currently supported by the vendor.

We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

28. Randomly select 5 terminated employees (or all terminated employees if less than 5) using the list of terminated employees obtained in procedure #19 above.

- a) Observe evidence that the selected terminated employees have been removed or disabled from the network.

29. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from procedure #17 under "Payroll and Personnel" above, obtain cybersecurity training documentation from management, and observe that the documentation demonstrates that the following employees/officials with access to the Clerk's information technology assets completed cybersecurity training as required by R.S. 42:1267.

- a) Completed the training if hired before June 9, 2020; and
b) Completed the training within 30 days of initial service or employment if hired on or after June 9, 2020.

Prevention of Sexual Harassment

30. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from procedure #17 under "Payroll and Personnel" above, obtain sexual harassment training documentation from management, and observe the documentation demonstrates each employee/official completed at least one hour of sexual harassment training during the calendar year, as required by R.S. 42:343.
31. Observe the entity has posted its sexual harassment policy and complaint procedure on its website (or in a conspicuous location on the entity's premises if the entity does not have a website).
32. Obtain the entity's annual sexual harassment report for the current fiscal period, observe that the report was dated on or before February 1, and observe it includes the applicable requirements of R.S. 42:344:
 - a) Number and percentage of public servants in the agency who have completed the training requirements;
 - b) Number of sexual harassment complaints received by the agency;
 - c) Number of complaints which resulted in a finding that sexual harassment occurred;
 - d) Number of complaints in which the finding of sexual harassment resulted in discipline or corrective action; and
 - e) Amount of time it took to resolve each complaint.

Exceptions:

No exceptions were found as a result of applying the procedures listed above except:

Bank Reconciliations

1. All bank reconciliations tested were not prepared within two months of the bank statement closing date.
2. All bank reconciliations tested lacked evidence that a member of management who does not handle cash, post ledgers, or issue checks had reviewed each bank reconciliation within 1 month of the date the reconciliation was prepared.
3. Of the five bank reconciliations selected, three reconciliations did not have documentation reflecting that management had researched reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than 12 months from the closing date.

Management's Response:

Management concurs with the exceptions noted and is working to address the deficiencies identified.

We were engaged by the Clerk to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and applicable standards of *Government Auditing Standards*. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent from the Clerk and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our agreed-upon procedures engagement.

This report is intended solely to describe the scope of testing performed on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs, and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the LLA as a public document.

Kolder, Slaven & Company, LLC
Certified Public Accountants

Lafayette, Louisiana
December 31, 2024