

Financial Report

*Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Office
of the Public Defenders
Chalmette, Louisiana*

For the year ended June 30, 2025

Financial Report

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FINANCIAL SECTION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Thirty-Fourth Judicial District
Office of the Public Defenders,
Chalmette, Louisiana.

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, and the General Fund of the Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Office of the Public Defenders (the "Office"), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025 and related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Office's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

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 General Fund of the Office as of June 30, 2025 and the respective changes in net position and budgetary comparison for the General Fund for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

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 Office and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the 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 the 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 Office's ability to continue as a going concern for the 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 opinion. 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.
- 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.
- 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 Office's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- 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.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, which raise substantial doubt about the Office'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 Management's Discussion and Analysis on pages 5 through 9, the Schedule of the Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Office of the Public Defenders' Proportionate Share of the Net Pension (Asset) Liability and Schedule of the Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Office of the Public Defenders' Contributions on pages 32 and 33, 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 operations, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Office's basic financial statements. The Schedule of Compensation, Benefits, and Other Payments to Agency Head or Chief Executive Officer, on page 35, and the Justice System Funding Schedule - Receiving Entity as Required by Act 87 of the 2020 Regular Legislative Session, on page 36, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and is required by Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513 (A)(3) and is 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. This 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 information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 15, 2026, on our consideration of the Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Office of the Public Defenders' internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is 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 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 Office's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Bourgeois Bennett, L.L.C.

Certified Public Accountants.

New Orleans, Louisiana,
December 15, 2026.

MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Office of the Public Defenders Chalmette, Louisiana

June 30, 2025

The Management’s Discussion and Analysis of the Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Office of the Public Defenders (the “Office”) financial performance presents a narrative overview and analysis of the Office’s financial activities for the year ended June 30, 2025. This document focuses on the current period’s activities, resulting changes, and currently known facts. Please read this document in conjunction with the basic financial statements, which follow this section.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The Office’s assets and deferred outflows exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflows at the close of the year ended June 30, 2025 by \$180,859 (net position), which represents a 24% decrease as compared to the year ended June 30, 2024.

The Office’s revenues for the year ended June 30, 2025 decreased by \$163,377 (or 22%) compared to the year ended June 30, 2024. This is principally due to a decrease in state funding.

The Office’s expenses for the year ended June 30, 2025 increased by \$29,691 (or 5%) as compared to the year ended June 30, 2024. This is principally due to increases in personnel services and benefits and contractual services.

The Office did not have any funds with deficit fund balances.

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the Office’s basic financial statements. The Office’s financial report consists of three parts: (1) management’s discussion and analysis (this section), (2) basic financial statements, and (3) special reports by certified public accountants and management.

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

The basic financial statements include two kinds of statements that present different views of the Office:

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the Office's finances, in a manner similar to a private sector business. The Statement of Net Position presents information on all of the Office's assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources with the difference between the two reported as net position. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the Office is improving or deteriorating. The Statement of Activities presents information showing how the Office's net position changed during each fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs regardless of the timing of the related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods. The governmental activity of the Office is to provide legal defense to indigents.

Fund Financial Statements

A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. All of the funds of the Office are governmental funds.

Governmental Funds

Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund financial statements focus on near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources, as well as on balances of spendable resources available at the end of the fiscal year. Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for governmental funds with similar information presented for governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. Both the governmental fund balance sheet and the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between governmental funds and governmental activities.

The Office maintains one individual governmental fund. Information is presented separately in the governmental fund balance sheet and in the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances for the General Fund. The Office adopts an annual appropriated budget for the General Fund. A budgetary comparison statement has been provided for the General Fund to demonstrate compliance with this budget. The basic governmental fund financial statements can be found on pages 10 through 14 of this report.

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**Notes to the Financial Statements**

The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements. The notes to the financial statements can be found in Exhibit F of this report.

GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

As noted earlier, net assets may serve over time as a useful indicator of the Office's financial position. As of June 30, 2025, assets exceeded liabilities by \$180,859.

Condensed Statements of Net Position

	June 30, 2025	June 30, 2024	Dollar Change
Current and other assets	\$ 168,943	\$ 222,140	\$ (53,197)
Long-term assets	18,152	-	18,152
Total assets	187,095	222,140	(35,045)
Deferred outflows of resources	12,882	22,778	(9,896)
Current liabilities	8,875	5,359	3,516
Deferred inflows of resources	10,243	2,410	7,833
Total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources	19,118	7,769	11,349
Net position	\$ 180,859	\$ 237,149	\$ (56,290)
Net position: Unrestricted	\$ 180,859	\$ 237,149	\$ (56,290)

GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS (Continued)**Governmental Activities**

Governmental activities decreased the Office's net position by \$57,591. Key elements of this increase are as follows:

	For the Year Ended June 30, 2025	For the Year Ended June 30, 2024	Dollar Change	Total % Change
Revenues:				
Service fees	\$ 117,263	\$ 111,715	\$ 5,548	4.97%
State Revenue District Assistance Fund	458,963	632,801	(173,838)	-27.47%
Other	<u>20,070</u>	<u>15,157</u>	<u>4,913</u>	32.41%
Total revenues	596,296	759,673	(163,377)	-21.51%
Expenses:				
General and governmental	<u>652,586</u>	<u>622,895</u>	<u>29,691</u>	4.77%
Increase (decrease) in net position	(56,290)	136,778	(193,068)	-141.15%
Net position beginning of year	<u>237,149</u>	<u>100,371</u>	<u>136,778</u>	136.27%
Net position end of year	<u>\$ 180,859</u>	<u>\$ 237,149</u>	<u>\$ (56,290)</u>	-23.74%

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FUNDS

As noted earlier, the Office uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

Governmental Funds

The focus of the Office's governmental fund is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of spendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the Office's financing requirements. In particular, unreserved fund balance may serve as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending at the end of the current year. As of June 30, 2025, the Office's governmental funds reported a combined ending fund balance of \$160,068, a decrease of \$57,591 in comparison with the year ended June 30, 2024 that is available for spending at the Office's discretion.

CAPITAL ASSETS

The Office's investment in capital assets for its governmental activities as of June 30, 2025 and 2024 totaled to \$- , (net of accumulated depreciation), respectively. This investment in capital assets as of June 30, 2025 and 2024 includes office furniture and office equipment (see table below).

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Office furniture, fixtures, and equipment	\$ 18,104	\$ 18,104
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(18,104)</u>	<u>(18,104)</u>
	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

The budget was amended once during the year ended June 30, 2025. During the year ended June 30, 2025, revenues were less than budgetary estimates and expenditures exceeded budgetary estimates. Service fee revenue and other income reported a favorable budget variance of \$7,545, and \$11,905, respectively, while State Revenue District Assistance Fund revenue reported an unfavorable budget balance of \$33,503. Materials and supplies and Contracted Services reported an unfavorable budget variance of \$3,092 and \$5,812, respectively. Library research expenditures reported favorable budget variance of \$5,618. The Office reported a net unfavorable budget variance of \$10,562.

ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET AND RATES

The Office considered the following factors and indicators when setting next year's budget, rates, and fees. These factors and indicators include:

- Revenues were budgeted on the assumption that service fees and grant fees would increase in 2025.
- Expenses were budgeted based on the assumption that 2026 expenses would approximate 2025.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Office's finances for all those with an interest in the Office's finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to the District Public Defender of the Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Office of the Public Defenders, 2218 Jackson Blvd., Suite B, Chalmette, LA 70043.

**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION AND
GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCE SHEET**

**Thirty-Fourth Judicial District
Office of the Public Defenders
Chalmette, Louisiana**

For the year ended June 30, 2025

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Adjustments (Exhibit B)</u>	<u>Statement of Net Position</u>
Assets			
Cash	\$ 155,916	\$ -	\$ 155,916
Due from other governmental units	13,027	-	13,027
Net pension asset	<u>-</u>	<u>18,152</u>	<u>18,152</u>
Total assets	<u>168,943</u>	<u>18,152</u>	<u>187,095</u>
Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>-</u>	<u>12,882</u>	<u>12,882</u>
Total assets and deferred outflows of resources	<u><u>\$ 168,943</u></u>	<u><u>31,034</u></u>	<u><u>199,977</u></u>
Liabilities			
Accounts payable and accrued expenditures	\$ 8,875	-	8,875
Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>-</u>	<u>10,243</u>	<u>10,243</u>
Total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources	<u>8,875</u>	<u>10,243</u>	<u>19,118</u>
Fund Balance/Net Position			
Fund balance - unassigned	<u>160,068</u>	<u>(160,068)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total liabilities and fund balance	<u><u>\$ 168,943</u></u>	<u><u>(149,825)</u></u>	<u><u>19,118</u></u>
Net position:			
Unrestricted		<u><u>\$ 180,859</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 180,859</u></u>

See notes to financial statements.

**RECONCILIATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FUND
BALANCE SHEET TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION**

**Thirty-Fourth Judicial District
Office of the Public Defenders
Chalmette, Louisiana**

For the year ended June 30, 2025

Fund Balance - Governmental Fund		\$ 160,068
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position are different because:		
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore are not reported in the governmental fund.		
Governmental capital assets	\$ 18,104	
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(18,104)</u>	-
Long-term assets are financial resources and therefore are not reported in the governmental funds:		
Net pension asset		18,152
Deferred outflows of resources used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in governmental funds.		
		12,882
Deferred inflows of resources are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in governmental funds.		
		<u>(10,243)</u>
Net Position of Governmental Activities		<u><u>\$ 180,859</u></u>

See notes to financial statements.

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND STATEMENT OF
GOVERNMENTAL FUND REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE**

**Thirty-Fourth Judicial District
Office of the Public Defenders
Chalmette, Louisiana**

For the year ended June 30, 2025

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Adjustments (Exhibit D)</u>	<u>Statement of Activities</u>
Revenues			
Service fees:			
St. Bernard Parish Sheriff	\$ 117,263	\$ -	\$ 117,263
State Revenue District Assistance Fund:			
Louisiana Public Defender Board	458,963	-	458,963
Miscellaneous:			
Interest income	8,165	-	8,165
Other income	11,905	-	11,905
Total revenues	<u>596,296</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>596,296</u>
Expenditures/Expenses			
General government:			
Materials and supplies	6,092	-	6,092
Personnel services and benefits	155,483	(1,301)	154,182
Other services and charges:			
Contractual services	466,873	-	466,873
Professional services	18,000	-	18,000
Office	1,902	-	1,902
Miscellaneous	5,537	-	5,537
Depreciation	-	-	-
Total expenditures/expenses	653,887	(1,301)	652,586
Excess of Revenue Over Expenditures	(57,591)	57,591	-
Change in Net Position	-	(56,290)	(56,290)
Fund Balance/Net Position			
Beginning of year	217,659	19,490	237,149
End of year	<u>\$ 160,068</u>	<u>\$ 20,791</u>	<u>\$ 180,859</u>

See notes to financial statements.

**RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENTAL
FUND REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND
BALANCE TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**

**Thirty-Fourth Judicial District
Office of the Public Defenders
Chalmette, Louisiana**

For the year ended June 30, 2025

Net Change in Fund Balance - Governmental Fund	\$ (57,591)
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Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement
of activities are different because:

Some (expenses) benefits reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and therefore are not reported as (expenditures) benefits in governmental funds:	
Pension benefit	<u>1,301</u>

Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities	<u><u>\$ (56,290)</u></u>
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See notes to financial statements.

**STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENTAL FUND REVENUES,
EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE -
BUDGET AND ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND**

**Thirty-Fourth Judicial District
Office of the Public Defenders
Chalmette, Louisiana**

For the year ended June 30, 2025

	<u>Budget Original</u>	<u>Budget Final</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
Revenues				
Service fees:				
St. Bernard Parish Sheriff	\$ 134,338	\$ 109,718	\$ 117,263	\$ 7,545
State Revenue District Assistance				
Fund:				
Louisiana Public Defender Board	457,943	492,466	458,963	(33,503)
Interest income	3,500	8,006	8,165	159
Other income	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,905</u>	<u>11,905</u>
Total revenues	<u>595,781</u>	<u>610,190</u>	<u>596,296</u>	<u>(13,894)</u>
Expenditures				
General government:				
Materials and supplies	11,995	3,000	6,092	(3,092)
Personnel services and benefits	156,237	156,237	155,483	754
Other services and charges:				
Contractual services	447,780	461,061	466,873	(5,812)
Professional services	17,500	18,000	18,000	-
Library and research	5,306	5,618	-	5,618
Office	1,800	1,690	1,902	(212)
Miscellaneous	<u>5,500</u>	<u>4,949</u>	<u>5,537</u>	<u>(588)</u>
Total expenditures/capital outlay	<u>646,118</u>	<u>650,555</u>	<u>653,887</u>	<u>(3,332)</u>
Excess of Revenue Over Expenditures (Expenditures Over Revenue)	(50,337)	(40,365)	(57,591)	<u><u>\$ (10,562)</u></u>
Fund Balance				
Beginning of year	<u>213,024</u>	<u>217,659</u>	<u>217,659</u>	
End of year	<u><u>\$ 162,687</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 177,294</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 160,068</u></u>	

See notes to financial statements.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Office of the Public Defenders**

Chalmette, Louisiana

June 30, 2025

Note 1 - NATURE OF OPERATIONS AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Office of the Public Defenders (the “Office”) established in compliance with Louisiana Revised Statutes 15:146 et seq., provides counsel to represent indigents (needy individuals) in criminal, quasi-criminal, juvenile, municipal and traffic cases at the District Court level. The judicial district encompasses the Parish of St. Bernard, Louisiana. All duties and responsibilities for the management of the personnel, property, and funds will by virtue of Act 307 transfer to the Chief Public Defender who will then be referred to as District Public Defender. Revenues to finance the Office’s operations are derived from district assistance funds, court costs on fines imposed by the various courts within the district and other fees.

The accounting policies of the Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Office of the Public Defenders conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The following is a summary of significant accounting policies:

a. Reporting Entity

The Office has reviewed all of its activities and determined that there are no potential component units which should be included in its financial statements.

In accordance with Act 307 of the Louisiana Legislature for the year 2007, the Office passed a resolution transferring all of its powers and duties to the District Public Defender as of August 15, 2007 and ceased to exist. This act does not alter the entity or any of its activities or functions, only the governance. The District Public Defender’s authority is contingent upon the approval of the Louisiana Public Defender Board, who appointed and may relieve the District Public Defender of his duties.

b. Basis of Presentation

The Office’s basic financial statements consist of the government-wide statements on all activities of the Office and the governmental fund financial statements.

Note 1 - NATURE OF OPERATIONS AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

b. Basis of Presentation (Continued)

Government-Wide Financial Statements:

The government-wide financial statements include the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities for all activities of the Office. The government-wide presentation focuses primarily on the sustainability of the Office as an entity and the change in aggregate financial position resulting from the activities for the fiscal period. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other non-exchange revenues.

Fund Financial Statements:

The fund financial statements are very similar to the traditional government fund statements as presented by governments prior to the issuance of GASB Statement No. 34. Emphasis is now on major funds in governmental categories. The daily accounts and operations of the Office continue to be organized on the basis of a fund and account group, each of which is considered a separate accounting entity. The operations of the fund are accounted for with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund balance, revenues, and expenditures. Government resources are allocated to and accounted for in the fund based upon the purpose for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled. The following is the governmental fund of the Office:

General Fund - The General Fund is the general operating fund and is the only fund of the Office. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

c. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

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

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows.

Note 1 - NATURE OF OPERATIONS AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

c. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting (Continued)

Fund Financial Statements

All governmental funds are accounted for using a current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities generally are included on the balance sheet. Operating statements of these funds present increases (revenues and other financing sources) and decreases (expenditures and other uses) in net current assets. Governmental funds are maintained on the modified accrual basis of accounting.

Revenues

Governmental fund revenues resulting from exchange transactions are recognized in the fiscal year in which the exchange takes place and meets the government's availability criteria (susceptible to accrual). Available means that the resources will be collected within the current year or are expected to be collected soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current fiscal year. For this purpose, the Office considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal year. Court costs on fines and forfeitures imposed by the Office and courts, reported as service fees, are recorded in the year they are collected by intermediate collectors. Fees from indigents are recorded when available. Interest income on cash balances is recorded as revenue when the income is available. Grants and miscellaneous revenues are recorded as revenues when received in cash by the Office because they are generally not measurable until actually received.

Expenditures

Expenditures are generally recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related fund liability is incurred. Allocations of cost such as depreciation are not recognized in the governmental funds.

d. Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Note 1 - NATURE OF OPERATIONS AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

e. Operating Budgetary Data

As required by the Louisiana Revised Statutes 39:1303, the Office adopted a budget for the General Fund. For budgets exceeding \$500,000, the budgetary practices include public notice of the proposed budget, public inspection, and a public hearing on the budget prior to adoption. Any amendment involving the transfer of monies from one function to another or increases in expenditures must be approved by the District Public Defender. All budgeted amounts which are not expended, or obligated through contracts, lapse at year-end.

The General Fund budget is adopted on a basis of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The General Fund budget presentation is included in the basic financial statements.

f. Accounts Receivable

The financial statements of the Office contain no allowance for bad debts. Uncollectible amounts due for receivables are recognized as bad debts at the time information becomes available, which would indicate the uncollectability of the particular receivable. These amounts are not considered to be material in relation to the financial position or operation of the funds.

g. Capital Assets

The accounting treatment over property and equipment (capital assets) depends on whether the assets are reported in the government-wide or fund financial statements.

Government-Wide Financial Statements:

In the government-wide financial statements, property and equipment is accounted for as capital assets. Capital assets purchased or acquired with an original cost of \$500 or more are valued at historical cost or estimated historical cost if actual is unavailable, except for donated capital assets which are recorded at their estimated fair value at the date of donation. Additions, improvements, and other capital outlays that significantly extend the useful life of an asset are capitalized. Other costs incurred for repairs and maintenance is expensed as incurred.

Note 1 - NATURE OF OPERATIONS AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

g. Capital Assets (Continued)

Depreciation of all exhaustible capital assets is recorded as an expense in the Statement of Activities, with cost less 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. The range of estimated useful lives by type of asset is as follows:

Office furniture, fixtures, and equipment	5 - 10 years
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Fund Financial Statements:

In the fund financial statements, capital assets used in governmental fund operations are accounted for as capital outlay expenditures of the governmental fund upon acquisition.

h. Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the Statement of Financial Position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred outflows of resources, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expenses/expenditures) until then. In addition to liabilities, the Statement of Financial Position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred inflows of resources, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until then.

i. Pensions

For purposes of measuring the net pension asset or liability, deferred outflow of resources and deferred inflow of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Parochial Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana (the "System") and additions to/deductions from the System's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the System. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms.

Note 1 - NATURE OF OPERATIONS AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

j. Vacation and Sick Leave

The District Public Defender after the first year of employment earns three weeks of annual leave per calendar year, four weeks after two years of employment, six weeks after three years of employment, and eight weeks after five years of employment. The annual leave does not accrue and is not paid at the end of employment. Sick time will accrue at 12.30 hours per payroll until it reaches a maximum of 800 hours. Unused accumulated sick time may be paid to the District Public Defender upon leaving the office. The amount will be a forty-hour, five-day work week, hourly rate calculated from the yearly salary amount paid at the time of retirement and/or leaving employment of the Office.

k. Fund Equity

Government-Wide Statements:

Equity is classified as net position and displayed in three components:

- a. Invested in capital assets - Consists of capital assets including restricted capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes, or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets. As of June 30, 2025, there were no outstanding balances of debt.
- b. Restricted net assets - Consists of net assets with constraints placed on the use either by (1) external groups such as creditors, grantors, contributions or laws or regulations of other governments; or (2) law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
- c. Unrestricted net assets - All other net assets that do not meet the definition of “restricted” or “invested in capital assets”.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the Office’s policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources as they are needed. As of June 30, 2025 and for the year then ended, the Office did not have or receive restricted net assets.

Note 1 - NATURE OF OPERATIONS AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

k. Fund Equity (Continued)

Fund Financial Statements:

In the fund financial statements, governmental fund equity is classified as fund balance. Fund balance is further classified as follows:

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. There was no nonspendable fund balance as of June 30, 2025.

Restricted - amounts that can be spent only for a specific purpose because of constitutional provisions or enabling legislation or because of constraints that are externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributions, or the laws or regulations of other governments. There was no restricted fund balance as of June 30, 2025.

Committed - amounts that can be used only for specific purposes determined by a formal decision of the Office. There was no committed fund balance as of June 30, 2025.

Assigned - amounts that do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed but that are intended to be used for a specific purpose. There was no assigned fund balance as of June 30, 2025.

Unassigned - all other spendable amounts.

For classification of Governmental Fund balances, the Office considers expenditures to be made from the most restrictive first when more than one classification is available. The Office's fund balance as of June 30, 2025 totaled \$160,068, all of which was classified as unassigned.

l. New Pronouncements

During the year ended June 30, 2025, the Office implemented the following GASB Statements:

Statement No. 101, "*Compensated Absences*" provides guidance to better meet the information needs of financial statement users by updating the recognition and measurement guidance for compensated absences. That objective is achieved by aligning the recognition and measurement guidance under a unified model and by amending certain previously required disclosures. This Statement did not affect the financial statements as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025.

Note 1 - NATURE OF OPERATIONS AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

I. New Pronouncements (Continued)

Statement No. 102 “*Certain Risk Disclosures*” defines concentrations and constraints. The Statement also requires governments to assess whether a concentration or constraint makes the primary government reporting unit or other reporting units that report a liability for revenue debt vulnerable to the risk of a substantial impact and whether an event or events associated with a concentration or constraint that could cause the substantial impact have occurred, have begun to occur, or are more likely than not to begin to occur within 12 months of the date the financial statements are issued. Additional disclosures are to be included if reporting criteria is met which will provide users of government financial statements with essential information about risks related to a government’s vulnerabilities due to certain concentrations or constraints. This Statement did not affect the financial statements as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025.

The GASB has issued the following Statements which will become effective in future years as shown below:

Statement No. 103, “*Financial Reporting Model Improvements*” provides guidance to improve key components of the financial reporting model to enhance its effectiveness in providing information that is essential for decision making and assessing a government’s accountability. The Statement establishes new or modifies existing requirements related to Management’s Discussion and Analysis (MD&A), unusual or infrequent items, presentation of proprietary fund statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in fund net position, information about major component units in basic financial statements, and budgetary comparison information. The requirements of this Statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2025, and all reporting periods thereafter. Management has yet to determine the effect of this Statement on the financial statements.

Statement No. 104, “*Disclosure of Certain Capital Assets*” provides guidance on the requirements of certain types of capital assets disclosed separately in the capital assets note disclosures required by Statement 34. Lease assets recognized in accordance with Statement No. 87, “*Leases*”, and intangible right-to-use assets recognized in accordance with Statement No. 94, “*Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements*”, should be disclosed separately by major class of underlying asset in the capital assets note disclosures. Subscription assets recognized in accordance with Statement No. 96, “*Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements*”, also should be separately disclosed. In addition, this Statement requires intangible assets other than those three types to be disclosed separately by major class. This Statement also requires additional disclosures for capital assets held for sale. A capital asset is a capital asset held for sale if (a) the government has decided to pursue

Note 1 - NATURE OF OPERATIONS AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

l. New Pronouncements (Continued)

the sale of the capital asset and (b) it is probable that the sale will be finalized within one year of the financial statement date. Governments should consider relevant factors to evaluate the likelihood of the capital asset being sold within the established time frame. This Statement requires that capital assets held for sale be evaluated each reporting period. Governments should disclose (1) the ending balance of capital assets held for sale, with separate disclosure for historical cost and accumulated depreciation by major class of asset, and (2) the carrying amount of debt for which the capital assets held for sale are pledged as collateral for each major class of asset. The requirements of this Statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2025, and all reporting periods thereafter. Management has yet to determine the effect of this Statement on the financial statements.

m. Subsequent Events

The Office evaluates events occurring subsequent to the date of the financial statements in determining the accounting for and disclosure of transactions and events that affect the financial statements. Subsequent events have been evaluated through December 15, 2026, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

Note 2 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

Louisiana state law allows all political subdivisions to invest excess funds in obligations of the United States or other federally insured investments, certificates of deposit of any bank domiciled or having a branch office in the State of Louisiana, guaranteed investments contracts and investment grade (A-1/P-1) commercial paper of domestic corporations.

Bank Deposits:

State law requires deposits (cash) of all political subdivisions to be fully collateralized at all times. Acceptable collateralization includes FDIC insurance and the market value of securities purchased and pledged to the political subdivision. Obligations of the United States, the State of Louisiana, and certain political subdivisions are allowed as security for deposits. Obligations furnished as security must be held by the political subdivision or with an unaffiliated bank or with a trust company for the account of the political subdivision.

Note 2 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (Continued)

The bank balances as of June 30, 2025 are as follows:

	<u>Bank Balances</u>	<u>Reported Amount</u>
Cash	<u>\$ 162,136</u>	<u>\$ 155,916</u>

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the Office's deposits may not be returned to it. The Office has a written policy for custodial credit risk. As of June 30, 2025, the Office's bank balances of \$162,136 were fully insured by federal deposit insurance.

Note 3 - DUE FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL UNITS

Amounts due from other governmental units as of June 30, 2025, consisted of the following:

St. Bernard Parish Sheriff	\$ 10,381
Louisiana Public Defenders Board	<u>2,646</u>
Total	<u>\$ 13,027</u>

The amount due from the St. Bernard Parish Sheriff is for fines and fees collected.

Note 4 - CHANGES IN CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the year ended June 30, 2025 was as follows:

	<u>Balance July 1, 2024</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Disposals</u>	<u>Balance June 30, 2025</u>
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Office furniture, fixtures, and equipment	\$ 18,104	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,104
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Office furniture, fixtures, and equipment	<u>(18,104)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(18,104)</u>
Total capital assets, net	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

Note 5 - ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED EXPENDITURES

Accounts payable and accrued expenditures as of June 30, 2025, consisted of the following:

Expenses, salaries and benefits	<u>\$ 8,875</u>
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Note 6 - GOVERNMENTAL FUND REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

For the year ended June 30, 2025, the major sources of governmental fund revenues and expenditures were as follows:

Revenues:

State government:	
Grants	\$ 458,963
Local government:	
Statutory fines, fees, court costs, and other	117,263
Interest income	8,165
Other income	<u>11,905</u>
Total revenues	<u>\$ 596,296</u>

Expenditures:

Operating costs:	
Supplies	\$ 6,092
Salaries	135,000
Payroll taxes	10,328
Insurance	367
Retirement contributions	9,788
Contract services - attorney/legal	466,873
Contract services - other	18,000
Office	1,902
Miscellaneous	<u>5,537</u>
Total expenditures	<u>\$ 653,887</u>

Note 7 - PENSION PLAN

Plan Description. The Office contributes to Plan B of the System, a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan established by Act 205 of the 1952 regular session of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana to provide retirement benefits to all employees of any parish in the State of Louisiana or any governing body or a parish which employs persons serving the parish. Act 765 of the year 1979, established by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, revised the System to create Plan A and Plan B to replace the “regular plan” and the “supplemental plan”. Plan A was designated for employers out of Social Security. Plan B was designated for those employers that remained in Social Security on the revision date. The System is governed by Louisiana Revised Statutes, Title 11, Section 1901 through 2025, specifically and other general laws of the State of Louisiana.

Benefits Provided. The System provides retirement, deferred retirement, disability, and death benefits. Retirement benefits are generally equal to 2.0% of the member’s final average compensation multiplied by the years of creditable service. For members hired prior to January 1, 2007 they may retire with full benefits at age 55 upon completing 30 years of credible service, retire at age 60 after completing ten years of credible service or retire at age 65 after completing seven years of credible service. For members hired after January 1, 2007 they may retire with full benefits at age 55 after completing 30 years of service, retire at age 62 after completing ten years of service or retire at age 67 after completing seven years of service. Act 338 of 1990 established the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) for the System. When a member enters DROP their status changes from active to retired even though they continue to work and draw their salary for up to three years. During the three year period, employer contributions continue but employee contributions cease. The election to participate in DROP is irrevocable once participation begins. The monthly retirement benefits are paid into the DROP Fund. Upon termination of employment a participant in DROP may receive a lump sum equal to payments into the participant’s account, an annuity, or a roll over to an Individual Retirement Account. Members hired before January 1, 2007 with five or more years of credible service who becomes disabled may receive disability benefits determined in the same manner as retirement benefits. Members hired after January 1, 2007 with seven or more years of credible service who become disabled may receive disability benefits determined in the same manner as retirement benefits. Death benefits are payable to eligible surviving dependents based on the deceased member’s years of creditable service and compensation and the dependent’s relationship to the deceased member. The System provides permanent benefit increases, cost of living adjustments (COLA) as approved by the Louisiana State Legislature.

Contributions. According to state statute, contributions for all employers are actuarially determined each year. For the plan year ending December 31, 2024, the actuarial employer contribution rate was 5.35% of member’s compensation. However, the actual rate for the plan year ending December 31, 2024 was 7.50%.

Note 7 - PENSION PLAN (Continued)

According to state statute, the System also receives ¼ of 1% of ad valorem taxes collected within the respective parishes, except for Orleans and East Baton Rouge parishes. The System also receives revenue sharing funds each year as appropriated by the Legislature. Tax monies and revenue sharing monies are apportioned between Plan A and Plan B in proportion to the member's compensation. These additional sources of income are used as additional employer contributions and are considered support from non-employer contributing entities.

Contributions to the System from the Office were \$9,788 for the year ended June 30, 2025.

Pension Asset. As of June 30, 2025, the Office reported an asset of \$18,152 for its proportionate share of the total net pension asset. The net pension asset was measured as of December 31, 2024 and the total pension asset used to calculate the net pension asset was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The Office's proportion of the net pension asset was based on a projection of the Office's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating employers, actuarially determined. As of December 31, 2024, the Office's proportion was 0.10598%, which was an increase of 0.01823% from its proportion measured as of December 31, 2023.

Pension Expense. For the year ended June 30, 2025, the Office recognized pension expense of \$8,487.

Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions. As of June 30, 2025, the Office reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>	<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>
Difference between expected and actual experience	\$ 5,754	\$ (290)
Change in assumptions	1,238	-
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	-	(7,811)
Changes in proportionate share	996	(2,142)
Contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>4,894</u>	<u>-</u>
Totals	<u>\$ 12,882</u>	<u>\$ (10,243)</u>

Note 7 - PENSION PLAN (Continued)

The Office reported \$4,894 as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from Office contributions subsequent to the measurement date and will be recognized as a reduction of the Net Pension Liability in the year ending June 30, 2025. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

<u>Year Ending July 30,</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2025	\$ 5,072
2026	8,504
2027	(10,738)
2028	<u>(5,093)</u>
Total	<u>\$ (2,255)</u>

Actuarial Assumptions. A summary of the actuarial methods and assumptions used in determining the total pension liability as of December 31, 2024 are as follows:

Valuation Date	December 31, 2024
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Method
Actuarial Assumptions:	
Expected Remaining Service Lives	4 years
Investment Rate of Return	6.40%, net of investment expense, including inflation
Projected Salary Increases	4.25%
Mortality Rates	Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Table for Health Retirees multiplied by 130% for males and 125% for females using MP2021 scale for annuitant and beneficiary mortality. For employees, the Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Table for General Employees multiplied by 130% for males and 125% for females using MP2021 scale. Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Table for General Disabled Retirees multiplied by 130% for males and 125% for females using MP2021 scale for disabled annuitants.

Note 7 - PENSION PLAN (Continued)

Cost of Living Adjustments The present value of future retirement benefits is based on benefits currently being paid by the System and includes previously granted cost of living increases. The present values do not include provisions for potential future increase not yet authorized by the Board of Trustees.

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a triangulation method which integrated the CAPM pricing method (top-down), a treasury yield curve approach (bottom-up) and an equity building-block model (bottom-up). Risk return and correlations are projected on a forward looking basis in equilibrium, in which best-estimates of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These rates are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation of 2.30% and an adjustment for the effect of rebalancing/diversification. The resulting expected long-term rate of return is 7.13% for the year ended December 31, 2024.

Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in the System's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2024 are as follows:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Fixed income	37.00%	1.08%
Equity	47.00%	2.82%
Alternatives	15.00%	0.76%
Real assets	<u>1.00%</u>	<u>0.07%</u>
Totals	<u>100.00%</u>	4.73%
Inflation		<u>2.40%</u>
Expected arithmetic nominal rate		<u>7.13%</u>

Note 7 - PENSION PLAN (Continued)

Discount Rate. The discount rate used to measure the collective pension asset was 6.40%. 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 and non-employer contributing entities will be made at the actuarially determined contribution rates, which are in accordance with relevant statutes and approved by the Board of Trustees and the Public Retirement System's Actuarial Committee. Based on those assumptions, the System'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 of the Office's Proportionate Share of the Collective Net Pension (Asset) Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate. The following presents the Office's proportionate share of the collective net pension (asset) liability using the discount rate of 6.40%, as well as what the Office's proportionate share of the net pension (asset) liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1% point lower (5.40%) or 1% point higher (7.40%) than the current rate:

	1.0% Decrease (5.40%)	Current Discount Rate (6.40%)	1.0% Increase (7.40%)
District's proportionate share of the net pension (asset) liability	<u>\$ 45,090</u>	<u>\$ (18,152)</u>	<u>\$ (70,994)</u>

Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position. The Parochial Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana issued a stand-alone audit report on their financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2024. Access to the audit report can be found on the System's website, www.persla.org or on the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's website, www.la.gov.

Note 8 - RISK MANAGEMENT

The Office is exposed to various risks to loss related to torts, theft or, damage to and destruction of assets, errors and omissions, and natural disasters, for which the Office carries commercial insurance through an intergovernmental Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the St. Bernard Parish Government and the Office. Liabilities are reported when it is probable that a loss has occurred, and the amount of loss can be reasonably estimated.

Note 9 - CONTRACTUAL SERVICES

For the year ended June 30, 2025, the District Public Defender was the only employee. As a result, all defense attorneys were contracted for their services.

Note 10 - EXPENDITURES NOT INCLUDED IN ACCOMPANYING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The accompanying financial statements do not include certain expenditures of the Office which are paid out of the funds of the St. Bernard Parish Government and other governmental entities. These expenditures include salaries, insurance, telephone, utilities, and other operating expenditures of the Office.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

SCHEDULE OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDERS' PROPORTIONATE
SHARE OF THE NET PENSION (ASSET) LIABILITY

Thirty-Fourth Judicial District
Office of the Public Defenders
Chalmette, Louisiana

For the year ended June 30, 2025

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Office's proportion of the net pension liability	<u>0.1060%</u>	<u>0.0878%</u>	<u>0.0862%</u>	<u>0.1099%</u>	<u>0.0632%</u>	<u>0.0846%</u>	<u>0.0899%</u>	<u>0.0927%</u>	<u>0.0944%</u>	<u>0.9440%</u>
Office's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset)	<u>(\$18,152)</u>	<u>\$878</u>	<u>\$20,517</u>	<u>(\$61,392)</u>	<u>(\$16,220)</u>	<u>(\$6,122)</u>	<u>\$27,254</u>	<u>(\$8,684)</u>	<u>\$12,254</u>	<u>\$12,254</u>
Office's covered-employee payroll	<u>\$135,000</u>	<u>\$120,373</u>	<u>\$100,380</u>	<u>\$100,380</u>	<u>\$100,380</u>	<u>\$94,266</u>	<u>\$94,000</u>	<u>\$94,000</u>	<u>\$94,000</u>	<u>\$94,000</u>
Office's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	<u>-13.4460%</u>	<u>0.7300%</u>	<u>20.4400%</u>	<u>-61.1600%</u>	<u>-16.1600%</u>	<u>-6.5000%</u>	<u>29.0000%</u>	<u>-9.2380%</u>	<u>13.0362%</u>	<u>13.0360%</u>
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	<u>103.6300%</u>	<u>99.7700%</u>	<u>94.2600%</u>	<u>110.4600%</u>	<u>104.0000%</u>	<u>102.0500%</u>	<u>91.9300%</u>	<u>104.0200%</u>	<u>94.1500%</u>	<u>94.1500%</u>

The schedule is provided beginning with the Office's fiscal year ended June 30, 2016 and is intended to show a ten year trend.

**SCHEDULE OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDERS' CONTRIBUTIONS**

**Thirty-Fourth Judicial District
Office of the Public Defenders
Chalmette, Louisiana**

For the year ended June 30, 2025

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Contractually required contributions	\$ 9,788	\$ 9,476	\$ 7,529	\$ 7,529	\$ 7,529	\$ 7,070	\$ 7,050	\$ 7,285	\$ 7,520	\$ 7,990
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	<u>(9,788)</u>	<u>(9,476)</u>	<u>(7,529)</u>	<u>(7,529)</u>	<u>(7,529)</u>	<u>(7,070)</u>	<u>(7,050)</u>	<u>(7,285)</u>	<u>(7,520)</u>	<u>(7,990)</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Office's covered-employee payroll	<u>\$135,000</u>	<u>\$126,372</u>	<u>\$100,380</u>	<u>\$100,380</u>	<u>\$100,380</u>	<u>\$94,266</u>	<u>\$94,000</u>	<u>\$94,000</u>	<u>\$94,000</u>	<u>\$94,000</u>
Contributions as a percentage of covered - employee payroll	<u>7.50%</u>	<u>7.50%</u>	<u>7.50%</u>	<u>7.50%</u>	<u>7.50%</u>	<u>7.50%</u>	<u>7.50%</u>	<u>7.75%</u>	<u>8.00%</u>	<u>8.50%</u>

The schedule is provided beginning with the Office's fiscal year ended June 30, 2016 and is intended to show a ten year trend. Additional years will be reported as they become available.

NOTES TO REQUIRED PENSION
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Office of the Public Defenders
Chalmette, Louisiana

For the year ended June 30, 2025

- Note 1 -** The amounts presented on the Schedule of the Public Defender's Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability and Schedule of Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Office of the Public Defenders' Contributions have a measurement date of the previous fiscal year end.
- Note 2 -** GASB 68 requires the Schedule of the Public Defender's Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability to show information for ten years. The Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Office of the Public Defenders implemented GASB 68 in its 2015 fiscal year therefore; additional years will be displayed as they become available in the future.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SECTION

**SCHEDULE OF COMPENSATION, BENEFITS, AND OTHER
PAYMENTS TO AGENCY HEAD OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**Thirty-Fourth Judicial District
Office of the Public Defenders
Chalmette, Louisiana**

For the year ended June 30, 2025

Agency Head Name: Thomas H. Gernhauser, District Public Defender

Purpose	
Salary	\$ 135,000
Benefits - insurance	367
Benefits - retirement	9,788
Benefits - other (malpractice insurance)	2,113
Car allowance	0
Per diem	0
Reimbursements	0
Travel	3,041
Registration fees	0
Conference travel	0
Continuing professional education fees	0
Special meals	0
	\$ 150,309

JUSTICE SYSTEM FUNDING SCHEDULE -
RECEIVING ENTITY AS REQUIRED BY ACT 87
OF THE 2020 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Office of the Public Defenders
Belle Chasse, Louisiana

June 30, 2025

	<u>First Six Month Period Ended December 31, 2024</u>	<u>Second Six Month Period Ended June 30, 2025</u>
Receipts from:		
St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office, Bond Fees	\$ 27,985	\$21,230
St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office, Criminal Court Costs/Fees	25,699	35,311
Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Attorney, Bond Fees	<u>1,200</u>	<u>-</u>
Total receipts	<u><u>\$ 54,884</u></u>	<u><u>\$56,541</u></u>

SPECIAL REPORTS OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

**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***

To the Board of Commissioners,
Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Office of the Public Defenders,
Chalmette, Louisiana.

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities and the General Fund of Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Office of the Public Defenders (the “Office”) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Office’s financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated December 15, 2026.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Office’s internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for determining the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Office’s internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Office’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 Office’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 over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be a material weakness. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

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

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Office'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 Office's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bourgeois Bennett, L.L.C." in a cursive script.

Certified Public Accountants.

New Orleans, Louisiana,
December 15, 2026.

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Office of the Public Defenders Chalmette, Louisiana

For the year ended June 30, 2025

Section I - Summary of Auditor's Review Report

Type of auditor's report issued: unmodified

Internal control over financial reporting:

a) Financial Statements

- Material weakness(es) identified? ☐ Yes ☒ No
- Significant deficiency(ies) identified that are not considered to be a material weakness? ☐ Yes ☒ None reported

Noncompliance material to financial statements noted? ☐ Yes ☒ No

b) Federal Awards

The Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Office of the Public Defenders did not expend more than \$750,000 in Federal awards during the year ended June 30, 2025.

Section II - Internal Control Over Basic Financial Reporting and Compliance and Other Matters Material to the Basis Financial Statements

Internal Control Over Basic Financial Reporting

No findings were reported during the audit of the basic financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2025.

Compliance and Other Matters

No findings were reported during the audit of the basic financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2025.

Section III - Federal Award Findings and Questioned Cost

The Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Office of the Public Defenders did not expend more than \$750,000 in Federal awards during the year ended June 30, 2025.

REPORTS BY MANAGEMENT

SCHEDULE OF PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Office of the Public Defenders Chalmette, Louisiana

For the year ended June 30, 2025

Section I - Internal Control Over Basic Financial Reporting and Compliance and Other Matters Material to the Basis Financial Statements

Internal Control Over Basic Financial Reporting

No findings were reported during the audit of the basic financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2024.

Compliance and Other Matters

No findings were reported during the audit of the basic financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2024.

Section II - Federal Award Findings and Questioned Cost

The Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Office of the Public Defenders did not expend more than \$750,000 in Federal awards during the year ended June 30, 2024.

Section III - Management Letter

A management letter was not issued in connection with the audit of the financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2024.

MANAGEMENT'S CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN
ON CURRENT YEAR FINDINGS

Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Office of the Public Defenders
Chalmette, Louisiana

For the year ended June 30, 2025

**Section I - Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and Compliance and Other Matters
Material to the Basis Financial Statements**

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

No findings were reported during the audit of the basic financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2025.

Compliance and Other Matters

No findings were reported during the audit of the basic financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2025.

Section II - Federal Award Findings and Questioned Cost

The Thirty-Fourth Judicial District Office of the Public Defenders did not expend more than \$750,000 in Federal awards during the year ended June 30, 2025.

Section III - Management Letter

A management letter was not issued in connection with the audit of the basis financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2025.