

Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender
Parishes of West Carroll, Richland, and Franklin, Louisiana

Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

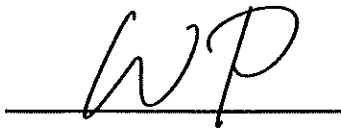
Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender
 Financial Statements
 For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

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Wade & Perry, CPAs
A Professional Accounting Corporation
Members: AICPA/ Society of LCPA's

Independent Auditor's Report

Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender
Parishes of West Carroll, Richland and Franklin, Louisiana

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of the Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender (District) as of June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements 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 major fund of the District as of June 30, 2025, 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 Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) 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 District and to meet our ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we 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 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 District's ability to continue as a going concern for 12 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 GAAS 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 GAAS 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 District'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, that raise substantial doubt about the District'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

Management has omitted the management's discussion and analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires 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.

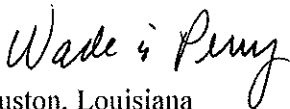
Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that budgetary comparison information on page 20 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, 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 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 District's basic financial statements. The judicial system funding schedule is presented for purposes of additional analysis 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. 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 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 a report dated November 11, 2025, on our consideration of the District'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 to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of the testing, and not to provide an opinion on 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 District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Ruston, Louisiana
November 11, 2025

Basic Financial Statements

Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender
Statement of Net Position
As of June 30, 2025

ASSETS

Cash and equivalents	\$100,589
Receivables	30,145
Right of use asset (net)	133,231
Capital assets (net)	<u>155,818</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$419,783</u>

LIABILITIES

Current liabilities:

Accounts payable	\$43,723
Accrued liabilities	16,336
Lease liability	<u>9,049</u>
Total current liabilities	69,108

Noncurrent liabilities:

Lease liability	<u>125,444</u>
Total Liabilities	194,552

NET POSITION

Net investment in capital assets	154,556
Unrestricted	<u>70,675</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$225,231</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender
Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

EXPENSES

Personal services	\$212,595
Operating expenses	50,373
Travel and training	0
Lease - interest expense	2,951
Contract services - attorney	362,713
Depreciation & amortization	<u>14,844</u>
Total Expenses	643,476

PROGRAM REVENUES

Fees, fines and charges for services	292,831
State government - grants	<u>325,805</u>
Net Program Expense	(24,840)

GENERAL REVENUES

Insurance proceeds	0
Investment earnings	<u>12</u>
Total General Revenues	<u>12</u>

EXCESS (Deficiency) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES

(24,828)

Net Position - Beginning

250,059

Net Position - Ending

\$225,231

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender
 Balance Sheet, Governmental Fund
 June 30, 2025

	ASSETS	<u>General Fund</u>
Cash and cash investments		\$100,589
Receivables		30,145
Other assets		<u>0</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>\$130,734</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
Liabilities:		
Accounts, salaries, and other payables		<u>\$60,059</u>
Total liabilities		<u>60,059</u>
Fund balance - unassigned		<u>70,675</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		<u>\$130,734</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender
 Reconciliation of The Governmental Funds Balance Sheet
 to The Government-Wide Financial Statement of Net Position
 June 30, 2025

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Net Position are different because:		
Fund balances, Total governmental funds (Statement C)		\$70,675
Right of use asset (net of amortization)		133,231
Financing lease liability		(134,493)
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds:		
Governmental capital assets	185,270	
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(29,452)</u>	<u>155,818</u>
Total Net Position of Governmental Activities (Statement A)		<u><u>\$225,231</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and
Changes in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	<u>General Fund</u>
REVENUES	
Fees, fines and charges for services	\$292,831
State government - grants	325,805
Investment earnings	<u>12</u>
Total Revenues	618,648
EXPENDITURES	
Personal services	212,595
Operating expenses	50,373
Travel and training	0
Lease financing - principal and interest	12,000
Contract services - attorney	362,713
Capital outlay	<u>14,750</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>652,431</u>
Excess (deficiency) of Revenues over Expenditures	(33,783)
Other financing sources (uses)	
Insurance proceeds	<u>0</u>
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>0</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other sources over expenditures	(33,783)
Fund Balances – beginning	104,458
Prior period adjustment	<u>0</u>
Fund Balances – ending	<u><u>\$70,675</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender
 Reconciliation of The Statement of Revenues, Expenditures,
 and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds
 to the Statement of Activities
 For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities are different because:	
Net Change in Fund Balances, Total governmental funds (Statement E)	(\$33,783)
Debt service payments for principal is an expenditure in the governmental funds, but principal payments reduce long-term liabilities in the Statement of Net Position	9,049
Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities the costs of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which capital outlay (\$14,750) exceeded depreciation (\$5,036) and amortization (\$9,808) in the current period.	<u>(94)</u>
Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities, Statement B	<u><u>(\$24,828)</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

INTRODUCTION

The Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender (District), established in compliance with Louisiana Revised Statutes 15:144-149, provides council to represent indigents (needy individuals) in criminal and quasi-criminal cases at the district level. The judicial district encompasses the parishes of West Carroll, Richland and Franklin. House Bill No. 436, adopted in the 2007 Regular Legislative Session created Louisiana Public Defender Funds within each judicial district, transferring all obligations, duties, powers, and responsibilities from the previous boards. Revenues to finance the District's operations are provided primarily from court costs on fines imposed by the various courts within the district. The District has three employees, and has contracts with its other attorneys to provide legal services to indigents.

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying basic financial statements of the Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender 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. The accompanying basic financial statements have been prepared in conformity with GASB Statement 34, *Basic Financial Statements-and Management's Discussion and Analysis-for State and Local Governments*, issued in June 1999.

B. REPORTING ENTITY

The office of public defender is part of the operations of the Louisiana Public Defender Board. The accompanying financial statements present information only on the funds maintained by the Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender.

C. FUND ACCOUNTING

The Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid management by segregating transactions relating to certain board functions or activities. A fund is defined as a separate fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts.

Governmental Funds

Governmental funds account for all or most of the District's general activities. These funds focus on the sources, uses, and balances of current financial resources. Expendable assets are assigned to the various governmental funds according to the purposes for which they may be used. Current liabilities are assigned to the fund from which they will be paid. The difference between a governmental fund's assets and liabilities is reported as fund balance. In general, fund balance represents the accumulated expendable resources which may be used to finance future period programs or operations of the District. The following are the District's governmental funds:

General fund - the primary operating fund of the District and it accounts for all financial resources, except those required to be accounted for in other funds. The General Fund is available for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred in accordance with state and federal laws and according to District policy.

Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

D. MEASUREMENT FOCUS/BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

Fund Financial Statements (FFS)

The amounts reflected in the General Fund are accounted for using a current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities are generally included on the balance sheet. The statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances report on the sources (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and uses (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) of current financial resources. This approach is then reconciled, through adjustment, to a government-wide view of District operations.

The amounts reflected in the General Fund use the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when susceptible to accrual (i.e., when they become both measurable and available). Measurable means the amount of the transaction can be determined and available means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. District considers all revenues available if they are collected within 60 days after the fiscal year end. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for interest and principal payments on general long-term debt which is recognized when due, and certain compensated absences and claims and judgments which are recognized when the obligations are expected to be liquidated with expendable available financial resources. The governmental funds use the following practices in recording revenues and expenditures:

Revenues

Court costs on fines and forfeitures are recorded in the year they are collected by the appropriate courts. Fees from indigents are recorded when received. Interest income is recorded in the year in which it is earned.

Expenditures

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

Government-Wide Financial Statements (GWFS)

The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities display information about the District as a whole. These statements include all the financial activities of the District. Information contained in these columns reflect the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets and liabilities resulting from exchange or exchange-like transactions are recognized when the exchange occurs (regardless of when cash is received or disbursed). Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets and liabilities resulting from nonexchange transactions are recognized in accordance with the requirements of GASB Statement No. 33, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Nonexchange Transactions*.

Program Revenues - Program revenues included in the Statement of Activities are derived directly from District users as a fee for services; program revenues reduce the cost of the function to be financed from the District's general revenues.

E. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash includes amounts in demand deposits, interest-bearing demand deposits, and time deposits. Cash equivalents include amounts in time deposits and those investments with original maturities of 90 days or less. Under state law, the District may deposit funds in demand deposits, interest-bearing demand deposits, or time

Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

deposits with state banks organized under Louisiana law or any other state of the United States, or under the laws of the United States.

F. INVESTMENTS

Investments are limited by Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 33:2955 and the District's investment policy. If the original maturities of investments exceed 90 days, they are classified as investments; however, if the original maturities are 90 days or less, they are classified as cash equivalents.

GASB Statement No. 31 requires the District to report investments at fair value in the balance sheet, except as follows:

1. Investments in *nonparticipating* interest-earning contracts, such as nonnegotiable certificates of deposit with redemption terms that do not consider market rates, should be reported using a cost-based measure, provided that the fair value of those contracts is not significantly affected by the impairment of the credit standing of the issuer or other factors.
2. The District may report at amortized cost money market investments and participating interest-earning investment contracts that have a remaining maturity at time of purchase of one year or less, provided that the fair value of those investments is not significantly affected by the impairment of the credit standing of the issuer or other factors. Money market investments are short-term, highly liquid debt instruments that include U.S. Treasury obligations. Interest-earning investment contracts include time deposits with financial institutions (such as certificates of deposit), repurchase agreements, and guaranteed investment contracts.

G. COMPENSATED ABSENCES

Employees of the District earn from 5 to 20 days of vacation annual leave each year, depending on their length of service. In addition, employees earn 12 days of sick leave each year. At June 30, 2025, the District had no leave benefits required to be presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

H. 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.

I. FUND EQUITY

GASB 54 establishes standards for five fund balance classifications that comprise a hierarchy based primarily on the extent to which a government is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of resources reported in the governmental funds. The nonspendable fund balance classification includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are either (a) not in spendable form - prepaid items or inventories; or (b) legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

The spendable portion of the fund balance comprises the remaining four classifications: restricted, committed, assigned and unassigned.

Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Nonspendable - amounts that are not in spendable form (such as prepaids) or are required to be maintained intact.

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 laws or regulations of other governments.

Committed - amounts constrained to specific purpose by a government itself, using its highest level of decision-making authority; to be reported as committed, amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the government takes the same highest level of action to remove or change the constraint.

Assigned - amounts the government intends to use for a specific purpose; intent can be expressed by the governing body or by an official or body to which the governing body delegates the authority.

Unassigned - all other spendable amounts.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the District's policy to use externally restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources - committed, assigned and unassigned - in order as needed.

J. CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital assets are capitalized at historical cost. Donated assets are recorded as capital assets at their estimated fair market value at the date of donation. The District maintains a threshold level of \$1,000 or more for capitalizing capital assets.

Capital assets are recorded in the Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities. Since surplus assets are sold for an immaterial amount when declared as no longer needed for public purposes, no salvage value is taken into consideration for depreciation purposes. All capital assets are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

Equipment 5-10 years
Building 40 years

K. 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.

2. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

At June 30, 2025, the District has cash and cash equivalents (book balances) totaling \$100,589 as follows:

Interest-bearing demand deposits	\$100,589
Time deposits - investments	<u>0</u>
Total	<u><u>\$100,589</u></u>

Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Custodial Credit Risk: Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that, in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, the government will not be able to recover its deposits. Under state law, the 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 market value of the pledged securities plus the federal deposit insurance must at all times equal or exceed 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. Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1229 imposes a statutory requirement on the custodial bank to advertise and sell the pledged securities within 10 days of being notified by the town that the fiscal agent bank has failed to pay deposited funds upon demand. Further, Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1224 states that securities held by a third party shall be deemed to be held in the District's name.

These deposits are secured as follows:

Bank balances	<u>\$105,389</u>
Federal deposit insurance	\$105,389
Pledged securities (uncollateralized)	<u>0</u>
Total	<u>\$105,389</u>

3. RECEIVABLES

The receivables of \$30,145 at June 30, 2025, are as follows:

<u>Class of Receivable</u>	
Court costs on fines	\$25,267
Grant	<u>4,878</u>
Total	<u>\$30,145</u>

4. ACCOUNTS, SALARIES, AND OTHER PAYABLES

The payables of \$60,059 at June 30, 2025, consisted of accounts payable of \$43,723 and payroll liabilities of \$16,336.

5. CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital assets and depreciation activity for the year ended June 30, 2025, is as follows:

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Increases</u>	<u>Decreases</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Capital assets:				
Machinery and equipment	\$12,430			\$12,430
Buildings	158,090	\$14,750		172,840
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(24,416)</u>	<u>(5,036)</u>		<u>(29,452)</u>
Total depreciable capital assets, net	<u>146,104</u>	<u>9,714</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>155,818</u>

Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balance
Intangible right-to-use assets:				
Machinery and equipment	\$0			\$0
Buildings	205,977			205,977
Accumulated amortization	<u>(62,938)</u>	<u>(9,808)</u>		<u>(72,746)</u>
Intangible right-to-use assets, net	<u>143,039</u>	<u>(9,808)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>133,231</u>
Net capital assets	<u>\$289,143</u>	<u>(\$94)</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$289,049</u>

Depreciation expense in the amount of \$5,036 was charged to the general government.

Leased assets will be amortized over the lease term. Unamortized lease assets to be amortized in future periods are as follows:

Year ending June 30,	
2026	\$9,808
2027	9,808
2028	9,808
2029	9,808
2030	9,808
2031-2035	49,040
2036-2039	<u>35,151</u>
Total	133,231

6. LEASES

During the year ended June 30, 2025, the District leased a building with various terms. At the commencement of a lease, the District initially measures the lease liability at the present value of payments expected to be made during the lease term. For purposes of discounting future payments on the lease, the District used the interest rate of 2.0%. Subsequently, the lease liability is reduced by the principal portion of these payments. The lease asset is initially measured as the initial amount of the lease liability, adjusted for lease payments made at or before the lease commencement date, plus certain initial direct costs. Subsequently, the lease asset is amortized on a straight-line basis over the shorter of its useful life or the lease term.

The District recognizes a lease liability and an intangible right-to-use asset (lease asset) in the government-wide financial statements. The following is a summary of changes in the lease liability for the year ended June 30, 2025:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance	Due Within One Year
Lease liability	<u>\$143,542</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>(\$9,049)</u>	<u>\$134,493</u>	<u>\$9,049</u>

Lease assets are reported on the statement of net position. The lease assets and accumulated amortization of the right-to-use asset is outlined in Note 5.

Minimum lease payments through the lease term are as follows:

Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

<u>Year ending June 30,</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>
2026	\$9,232	\$2,768
2027	9,418	2,582
2028	9,608	2,392
2029	9,802	2,198
2030	10,000	2,000
2031-2035	53,110	6,890
2036-2039	<u>33,323</u>	<u>1,538</u>
Total	<u>\$134,493</u>	<u>\$20,368</u>

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender may have various suits which are brought against the practicing attorneys who are retained to plead the indigent cases before the Fifth Judicial District Court. Insurance which is necessary for the protection of the individual attorneys is purchased and paid by each attorney. Whereas no district funds are being expended for professional liability coverage, the District Defender maintains at his personal expense a 1 million-dollar policy for protection of the District and Board and each contract attorney is required to by the terms of their contract to maintain professional liability coverage.

8. GOVERNMENTAL FUND REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

REVENUES

State government - grants	\$325,805
Local government - statutory fines, forfeitures, fees, and court costs	292,832
Investment earnings	<u>12</u>
Total Revenues	618,649

EXPENDITURES

Personnel services & benefits:	
Salaries	197,001
Payroll taxes	15,594
Operating costs:	
Contract services - attorney	359,563
Professional fees - expert	3,150
Insurance	7,559
Lease expenses	2,659
Dues, licenses, registrations	
Utilities	14,119
Library and research	663
Other	25,373
Debt service	12,000
Capital outlay	<u>14,750</u>
Total Expenditures	652,431

Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

9. MANAGEMENT REVIEW

Subsequent events have been evaluated through November 11, 2025. This date represents the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures,
and Changes in Fund Balances - Budget
(GAAP Basis) and Actual
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual Amounts</u> GAAP Basis	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
REVENUES				
Federal government				
Grant - indirect	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State government				
Appropriations - general	325,989	325,989	325,805	(184)
Local government				
Court fees	189,000	209,375	223,837	14,462
Bond fees and forfeitures	61,000	51,640	68,994	17,354
Investment earnings	0	15	12	(3)
Total Revenues	<u>575,989</u>	<u>587,019</u>	<u>618,648</u>	<u>31,629</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Personnel services	168,000	180,580	212,595	(32,015)
Travel & training	0	0	0	0
Operating expenses	42,000	52,168	50,373	1,795
Contract services - attorney	362,800	367,856	362,713	5,143
Debt service	0	0	12,000	(12,000)
Capital outlay	0	0	14,750	(14,750)
Total Expenditures	<u>572,800</u>	<u>600,604</u>	<u>652,431</u>	<u>(51,827)</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over (under) Expenditures	3,189	(13,585)	(33,783)	(20,198)
Other financing sources (uses)				
Insurance proceeds	0	0	0	0
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and other financing sources over (under) Expenditures	3,189	(13,585)	(33,783)	(20,198)
Fund Balance at Beginning of Year	<u>160,392</u>	<u>160,392</u>	<u>104,458</u>	<u>(55,934)</u>
Fund Balance at End of Year	<u>\$163,581</u>	<u>\$146,807</u>	<u>\$70,675</u>	<u>(\$76,132)</u>

(1) method of budgetary accounting - GAAP, modified accrual basis

(2) explanation of material variances - personnel services, debt service and capital outlay underbudgeted

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the schedule.

5th Judicial District Public Defender
Justice System Funding Schedule - Receiving Schedule

Cash Basis Presentation
 As Required by La. R.S. 24:515.2

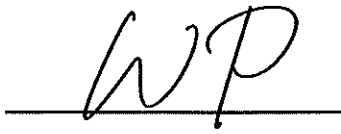
		Amount for 07/01/2024 - 12/31/2024	Amount for 01/01/2025 - 06/30/2025
1. Ending Balance of Amounts Assessed but Not Received:		-	-
2. Details of Receipts from Collecting/Disbursing Agency			
Agency Remitting Money	Remittance Type	Amount for 07/01/2024 - 12/31/2024	Amount for 01/01/2025 - 06/30/2025
Richland Parish Sheriff	f. Criminal Court Costs/Fees	106,763	106,606
Franklin Parish Sheriff	f. Criminal Court Costs/Fees	25,353	26,236
West Carroll Parish Sheriff	f. Criminal Court Costs/Fees	10,499	11,757
West Carroll Parish Sheriff	j. Probation/Parole/Supervision Fees	250	-
Winnsboro City Court	f. Criminal Court Costs/Fees	4,811	6,129
District Attorney for the 5th Judicial District	b. Bond Fees	1,338	-
Louisiana Public Defender Board	n. Other	339,912	6,837

Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender
Schedule of Compensation, Benefits and Other Payments
to Agency Head or Chief Executive Officer
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Schedule 3

Agency Head Name: John Ellis, Chief

Purpose	
Salary	\$135,000
Benefits - medicare	1,957
Benefits - social security	8,370
Reimbursements	<u>1,312</u>
Total	<u>\$146,639</u>



Wade & Perry, CPAs
A Professional Accounting Corporation
Members: AICPA/ Society of LCPA's

Report on Compliance and Other Matters and on Internal Control
over Financial Reporting Based on an Audit of Financial Statements
Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*

Independent Auditor's Report

Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender
Rayville, Louisiana

We have audited, 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, the financial statements of the governmental activities, and each major fund of Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender ("District") as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated November 11, 2025.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District'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. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Compliance and Other Matters

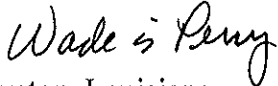
As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the District's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statements 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 instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which are described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses as items 2025-01.

District's Response to Findings

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the District's response to the findings identified in our audit and described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses. The District's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

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 result 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. Although the intended use of this report may be limited, under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the Legislative Auditor as a public document.



Ruston, Louisiana
November 11, 2025

Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender
Schedule of Findings and Responses
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

PART I. Summary of Audit Results

Financial statement audit

1. The type of audit report issued was unqualified.
2. There were no significant deficiencies required to be disclosed by Governmental Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States of America.
3. There was one instance of noncompliance considered material, as defined by the Government Auditing Standards, to the financial statement.

Audit of Federal Awards

None

PART II. Findings related to financial statements which are required to be reported in accordance with Governmental Auditing Standards generally accepted in the United States of America:

2025-01. Budget violation

Condition: For the year ended June 30, 2025, the General fund actual expenditures exceeded budgeted expenditures by more than 5% (or \$51,827).

Criteria: According to LRS 39:1310, failing to amend the budget when necessary is a violation of the local government budget act.

Cause: Management underbudgeted various expenditures.

Effect: Compliance violation of local budget law

Recommendation: Management should follow the local government budget act as it pertains to preparing, adopting, monitoring, and amending the budget.

Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender
Summary of Prior Year Findings
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

None

FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OFFICE OF PUBLIC DEFENDER
Parishes of West Carroll, Richland, and Franklin, Louisiana

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender hereby submits the following corrective action plan as referenced in the Findings and Recommendations:

2025-01. The District agrees with the recommendations and intends to implement them immediately.



Wade & Perry, CPAs

A Professional Accounting Corporation

Members: AICPA/ Society of LCPA's

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT
ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

To the Governing Board of the Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender (Entity) 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, 2024 through June 30, 2025. The Entity's management is responsible for those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs.

The Entity 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, 2024 through June 30, 2025. 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:

1) *Written Policies and Procedures*

- A. Obtain and inspect the entity's written policies and procedures and observe whether they address each of the following categories and subcategories if applicable to public funds and the entity's operations:¹
1. ***Budgeting***, including preparing, adopting, monitoring, and amending the budget.
 2. ***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.

¹ For governmental organizations, the practitioner may eliminate those categories and subcategories not applicable to the organization's operations. For quasi-public organizations, including nonprofits, the practitioner may eliminate those categories and subcategories not applicable to public funds administered by the quasi-public.

3. ***Disbursements***, including processing, reviewing, and approving.
4. ***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).
5. ***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 rates of pay or approval and maintenance of pay rate schedules.
6. ***Contracting***, including (1) types of services requiring written contracts, (2) standard terms and conditions, (3) legal review, (4) approval process, and (5) monitoring process.
7. ***Travel and Expense Reimbursement***, including (1) allowable expenses, (2) dollar thresholds by category of expense, (3) documentation requirements, and (4) required approvers.
8. ***Credit Cards (and debit cards, fuel cards, purchase 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).
9. ***Ethics***², including (1) the prohibitions as defined in Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 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.
10. ***Debt Service***, including (1) debt issuance approval, (2) continuing disclosure/EMMA reporting requirements, (3) debt reserve requirements, and (4) debt service requirements.
11. ***Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity***, including (1) identification of critical data and frequency of data backups, (2) storage of backups in a 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.

² The Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics (Ethics Code) is generally not applicable to nonprofit entities but may be applicable in certain situations, such as councils on aging. If the Ethics Code is applicable to a nonprofit, the nonprofit should have written policies and procedures relating to ethics.

12. ***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.

Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions listed above except as noted. The payroll/personnel policies and procedures obtained did not mention payroll processing. The ethics policies and procedures do not mention a system to monitor possible ethics violations. There is no written requirement for annual attestation for reading the entity's ethics policy. The information technology disaster recovery/business continuity policies and procedures do not address the frequency in which data backups are performed. Sexual harassment policy does not mention annual reporting.

2) Board or Finance Committee³

- A. 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
 1. 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.
 2. For those entities reporting on the governmental accounting model, observe whether the minutes referenced or included monthly budget-to-actual comparisons on the general fund, quarterly budget-to-actual comparisons, at a minimum, on all proprietary funds⁴, and semi-annual budget-to-actual comparisons, at a minimum, on all special revenue funds. *Alternatively, for those entities reporting on the not-for-profit accounting model, observe that the minutes referenced or included financial activity relating to public funds⁵ if those public funds comprised more than 10% of the entity's collections during the fiscal period.*
 3. For governmental entities, 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.

³ These procedures are not applicable to entities managed by a single elected official, such as a sheriff or assessor.

⁴Proprietary fund types are defined under GASB standards and include enterprise and internal service funds. The related procedure addresses these funds as a way to verify that boards are provided with financial information necessary to make informed decisions about entity operations, including proprietary operations that are not required to be budgeted under the Local Government Budget Act.

⁵ R.S. 24:513 (A)(1)(b)(iv) defines public funds.

4. 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.⁶

Not applicable. The entity is not required to have a board/finance committee.

3) Bank Reconciliations

- A. Obtain a listing of entity bank accounts for the fiscal period from management and management's representation that the listing is complete. Ask management to identify the entity's main operating account. Select the entity's main operating account and randomly select 4 additional accounts⁷ (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 each selected account, and observe that:
 1. Bank reconciliations include evidence that they were prepared within 2 months of the related statement closing date (e.g., initialed and dated or electronically logged);
 2. Bank reconciliations include written evidence that a member of management or a board member 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 or electronically logged); and
 3. Management has documentation reflecting it has researched reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than 12 months from the statement closing date, if applicable.

No exceptions

4) Collections (excluding electronic funds transfers)⁸

- A. Obtain a listing of deposit sites⁹ 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).

Management represented the list obtained was complete.

⁶ No exception is necessary if management's opinion is that the cost of taking corrective action for findings related to improper segregation of duties or inadequate design of controls over the preparation of the financial statements being audited exceeds the benefits of correcting those findings.

⁷ Accounts selected may exclude savings and investment accounts that are not part of the entity's daily business operations.

⁸ The Collections category is not required to be performed if the entity has a third-party contractor performing all collection functions (e.g., receiving collections, preparing deposits, and making deposits).

⁹ A deposit site is a physical location where a deposit is prepared and reconciled.

B. For each deposit site selected, obtain a listing of collection locations¹⁰ and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one collection location for each deposit site (e.g., 5 collection locations for 5 deposit sites), obtain and inspect written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if there are no written policies or procedures, then 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

1. Employees responsible for cash collections do not share cash drawers/registers;
2. Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not also responsible for preparing/making bank deposits, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling collection documentation (e.g., pre-numbered receipts) to the deposit;
3. Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not also 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; and
4. The employee(s) responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general ledger and/or subsidiary ledgers, by revenue source and/or custodial fund additions, is (are) not also responsible for collecting cash, unless another employee/official verifies the reconciliation.

No exceptions.

C. Obtain from management a copy of the bond or insurance policy for theft covering all employees who have access to cash. Observe that the bond or insurance policy for theft was in force during the fiscal period.

No exceptions

D. Randomly select two deposit dates for each of the 5 bank accounts selected for Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A (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). *Alternatively, 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

- 1) Observe that receipts are sequentially pre-numbered.¹¹

Sequentially pre-numbered receipts are not used.

¹⁰ A collection location is a physical location where cash is collected. An entity may have one or more collection locations whose collections are brought to a deposit site for deposit. For example, in a school district a collection location may be a classroom and a deposit site may be the school office. For school boards only, the practitioner should consider the deposit site and collection location to be the same if there is a central person (secretary or bookkeeper) through which collections are deposited.

¹¹ The practitioner is not required to test for completeness of revenues relative to classroom collections by teachers.

- 2) Trace sequentially pre-numbered receipts, system reports, and other related collection documentation to the deposit slip.
- 3) Trace the deposit slip total to the actual deposit per the bank statement.
- 4) Observe that the deposit was made within one business day of receipt¹² 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).
- 5) Trace the actual deposit per the bank statement to the general ledger.

No exceptions

5) *Non-Payroll Disbursements (excluding card purchases, travel reimbursements, and petty cash purchases)*

- A. Obtain a listing of locations that process payments for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 locations (or all locations if less than 5).

Management represented the list obtained was complete.

- B. For each location selected under procedure #5A 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, then inquire of employees about their job duties), and observe that job duties are properly segregated such that

- 1) At least two employees are involved in initiating a purchase request, approving a purchase, and placing an order or making the purchase;
- 2) At least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors;
- 3) 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;
- 4) 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; and
- 5) 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.

No exceptions

¹² As required by Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1212.

[Note: Findings related to controls that constrain the legal authority of certain public officials (e.g., mayor of a Lawrason Act municipality) should not be reported.]

- C. For each location selected under procedure #5A above, obtain the entity'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
- 1) Observe whether the disbursement, whether by paper or electronic means, matched the related original itemized invoice and supporting documentation indicates that deliverables included on the invoice were received by the entity, and
 - 2) Observe whether the disbursement documentation included evidence (e.g., initial/date, electronic logging) of segregation of duties tested under procedure #5B above, as applicable.

No exceptions

- D. Using the entity's main operating account and the month selected in Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A, 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 funds (e.g., sign checks) per the entity's policy, and (b) approved by the required number of authorized signers per the entity's policy. *Note: If no electronic payments were made from the main operating account during the month selected the practitioner should select an alternative month and/or account for testing that does include electronic disbursements.*

No exceptions

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

- A. 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 cards¹³. Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete.

Management represented the list obtained was complete.

- B. 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
- 1) Observe whether there is evidence that the monthly statement or combined statement and supporting documentation (e.g., original receipts for credit/debit card

¹³ Including cards used by school staff for either school operations or school activity fund operations.

purchases, exception reports for excessive fuel card usage) were reviewed and approved, in writing (or electronically approved) by someone other than the authorized card holder (those instances requiring such approval that may constrain the legal authority of certain public officials, such as the mayor of a Lawrason Act municipality, should not be reported); and

- 2) Observe that finance charges and late fees were not assessed on the selected statements.

No exceptions

- C. Using the monthly statements or combined statements selected under procedure #7B 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 (e.g., each card should have 10 transactions subject to inspection)¹⁴. 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, the practitioner should describe the nature of the transaction and observe whether management had a compensating control to address missing receipts, such as a “missing receipt statement” that is subject to increased scrutiny.

No exceptions.

7) Travel and Travel-Related Expense Reimbursements¹⁵ (excluding card transactions)

- A. 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 and 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

Management represented the list obtained was complete.

- 1) If reimbursed using a per diem, observe that 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);
- 2) If reimbursed using actual costs, observe that the reimbursement is supported by an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased;

¹⁴ For example, if 3 of the 5 cards selected were fuel cards, transactions would only be selected for each of the 2 credit cards. Conceivably, if all 5 cards randomly selected under procedure #7B were fuel cards, procedure #7C would not be applicable.

¹⁵ Non-travel reimbursements are not required to be inspected under this category.

- 3) 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 Policies and Procedures procedure #1A(vii); and
- 4) Observe that each reimbursement was reviewed and approved, in writing, by someone other than the person receiving reimbursement.

No exceptions.

8) *Contracts*

- A. 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. *Alternatively, 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

Management represented the list obtained was complete.

- 1) Observe whether the contract was bid in accordance with the Louisiana Public Bid Law¹⁶ (e.g., solicited quotes or bids, advertised), if required by law;
- 2) Observe whether the contract was approved by the governing body/board, if required by policy or law (e.g., Lawrason Act, Home Rule Charter);
- 3) 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, the documented approval); and
- 4) 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.

No exceptions

9) *Payroll and Personnel*

- A. Obtain a listing of employees and officials¹⁷ employed during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 employees or

¹⁶ If the entity has adopted the state Procurement Code, replace "Louisiana Public Bid Law" (R.S. 38:2211 *et seq*) with "Louisiana Procurement Code."

¹⁷ "Officials" would include those elected, as well as board members who are appointed.

officials, obtain related paid salaries and personnel files, and agree paid salaries to authorized salaries/pay rates in the personnel files.

Management represented the list obtained was complete.

- B. Randomly select one pay period during the fiscal period. For the 5 employees or officials selected under procedure #9A above, obtain attendance records and leave documentation for the pay period, and
- 1) Observe that all selected employees or officials¹⁸ documented their daily attendance and leave (e.g., vacation, sick, compensatory);
 - 2) Observe whether supervisors approved the attendance and leave of the selected employees or officials;
 - 3) Observe that any leave accrued or taken during the pay period is reflected in the entity's cumulative leave records; and
 - 4) Observe the rate paid to the employees or officials agrees to the authorized salary/pay rate found within the personnel file.

No exceptions

- C. Obtain a listing of those employees or officials that received termination payments during the fiscal period and management's representation that the list is complete. Randomly select two employees or officials and obtain related documentation of the hours and pay rates used in management's termination payment calculations and the entity's policy on termination payments. Agree the hours to the employee's or official's cumulative leave records, agree the pay rates to the employee's or official's authorized pay rates in the employee's or official's personnel files, and agree the termination payment to entity policy.

Not applicable. There were no termination payments for the year.

- D. 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.

No exceptions

¹⁸ Generally, officials are not eligible to earn leave and do not document their attendance and leave. However, if the official is earning leave according to a policy and/or contract, the official should document his/her daily attendance and leave.

10) Ethics¹⁹

- A. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A obtain ethics documentation from management, and
- 1) 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; and
 - 2) Observe whether the entity maintains documentation which demonstrates that each employee and official were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy during the fiscal period, as applicable.

No exceptions

- B. Inquire and/or observe whether the agency has appointed an ethics designee as required by R.S. 42:1170.

No exceptions

11) Debt Service²⁰

- A. 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 that State Bond Commission approval was obtained for each debt instrument issued as required by Article VII, Section 8 of the Louisiana Constitution.

Not applicable

- B. 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).

No exceptions

¹⁹ The Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics (Ethics Code) is generally not applicable to nonprofit entities but may be applicable in certain situations, such as councils on aging. If the Ethics Code is applicable to a nonprofit, the procedures should be performed.

²⁰ This AUP category is generally not applicable to nonprofit entities. However, if applicable, the procedures should be performed.

12) Fraud Notice²¹

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

Management represented the list obtained is complete.

- B. Observe that the entity 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.

No exceptions

13) Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity

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

- 1) Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has backed up its critical data (if there is no written documentation, then 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.

- 2) Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has tested/verified that its backups can be restored (if there is no written documentation, then 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.

- 3) 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.

²¹ Observation may be limited to those premises that are visited during the performance of other procedures under the AUPs. The notice is available for download at www.la.gov/hotline

- B. Randomly select 5 terminated employees (or all terminated employees if less than 5) using the list of terminated employees obtained in Payroll and Personnel procedure #9C. Observe evidence that the selected terminated employees have been removed or disabled from the network.

We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

- C. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A, obtain cybersecurity training documentation from management, and observe that the documentation demonstrates that the following employees/officials with access to the agency's information technology assets have completed cybersecurity training as required by R.S. 42:1267²². The requirements are as follows:

- Hired before June 9, 2020 - completed the training; and
- Hired on or after June 9, 2020 - completed the training within 30 days of initial service or employment.

We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

14) Prevention of Sexual Harassment²³

- A. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A, obtain sexual harassment training documentation from management, and observe that 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.

No exceptions

- B. Observe that 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).

No exceptions

²² While it appears to be a good practice for charter schools to ensure its employees are trained to keep their information technology assets safe from cyberattack, charter schools do not appear required to comply with 42:1267. An individual charter school, though, through specific provisions of its charter, may mandate that all employees/officials receive cybersecurity training.

²³ While it appears to be a good practice for charter schools to ensure it has policies and training for sexual harassment, charter schools do not appear required to comply with the Prevention of Sexual Harassment Law (R.S. 42:341 et seq). An individual charter school, through the specific provisions of its charter, may mandate sexual harassment training.

C. 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 that the report includes the applicable requirements of R.S. 42:344:

1) Number and percentage of public servants in the agency who have completed the training requirements;

3; 100%

2) Number of sexual harassment complaints received by the agency;

0

3) Number of complaints which resulted in a finding that sexual harassment occurred;

0

4) Number of complaints in which the finding of sexual harassment resulted in discipline or corrective action; and

0

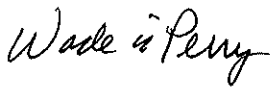
5) Amount of time it took to resolve each complaint.

0

We were engaged by the Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender 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 of the Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender 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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wade Perry".

Ruston, LA

November 11, 2025

Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender
Parishes of West Carroll, Richland, and Franklin, Louisiana

November 11, 2025

Wade & Perry, CPAs
Ruston, LA

The following is Management's Response to the 2025 AUP report submitted for Fifth Judicial District Office of Public Defender.

Written policies and procedures

Management will update the policies and procedures as noted.