

**NATCHITOCHES PARISH CLERK OF COURT
NATCHITOCHES, LOUISIANA**

**ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
JUNE 30, 2024**

Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court
Natchitoches, Louisiana

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Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court
Natchitoches, Louisiana

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Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court

P. O. Box 476
Natchitoches, LA 71458-0476

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS for the Year Ended June 30, 2024

The Management's Discussion and Analysis of the Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court's financial performance presents a narrative overview and analysis of the Clerk of Court's financial activities for the year ended June 30, 2024. This document focuses on the current year's activities, resulting changes, and currently known facts. Please read this document in conjunction with the additional information contained in the Clerk of Court's financial statements, which begin on page 10.

Financial Highlights

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements. The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities provide information about the activities of the Clerk as a whole and present a longer-term view of the Clerk of Court's finances. These statements tell how these services were financed in the short-term as well as what remains for future spending.

- 1) The Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court had cash and investments of \$2,877,009 at June 30, 2024, which represents an increase of \$101,393 from the prior year.
- 2) The Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court had accounts receivable of \$227,128 at June 30, 2024, which represents an increase of \$21,881 from the prior year.
- 3) The Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court had accounts payable and accruals of \$88,914 at June 30, 2024, which represents an increase of \$5,928 from the prior year.
- 4) The Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court had total revenues of \$2,070,569 for the year ended June 30, 2024, which represents an increase of \$91,146 from the prior year.
- 5) The Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court had personnel services expense of \$1,258,130 for the year ended June 30, 2024, which represents an increase of \$29,270 from the prior year.
- 6) The Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court had operating services expense of \$453,011 for the year ended June 30, 2024, which represents a decrease of \$26,259 from the prior year.
- 7) The Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court had supplies expense of \$85,729 for the year ended June 30, 2024, which represents a decrease of \$4,276 from the prior year.

Overview of the Financial Statements

The following illustrates the minimum requirements for the Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court as established by Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement 34, *Basic Financial Statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis for State and Local Governments*.

Management's Discussion and Analysis Basic Financial Statements Required Supplementary Information (Other than MD&A)

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

Basic Financial Statements

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements. The Statement of Net Position (on page 10) and the Statement of Activities (on page 11) provide information about the activities of the Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court as a whole and present a longer-term view of the Clerk of Court's finances. These statements include all assets and liabilities using the accrual basis of accounting, which is similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are taken into account regardless of when cash is received or paid. The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities report the Clerk of Court's net position and changes in it.

Fund financial statements start on page 13. All of the Clerk of Court's basic services are reported in governmental funds, which focus on how money flows into and out of funds and the balances left at year end that are available for spending. These funds are reported using an accounting method called modified accrual accounting, which measures cash and all other financial assets that can readily be converted into cash. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed short term view of the Clerk of Court's general government operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the Clerk of Court's activities as well as what remains for future spending.

A summary of the basic government-wide financial statements is as follows:

Summary of the Statement of Net Position

	2024	2023
ASSETS:		
Current and Other Assets,		
Net of Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	\$ 3,112,666	\$ 2,987,185
Noncurrent Assets	1,039	112,286
Total Assets	<u>\$ 3,113,705</u>	<u>\$ 3,099,471</u>
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES	<u>\$ 688,344</u>	<u>\$ 972,936</u>
LIABILITIES:		
Accounts Payables & Accruals	\$ 88,914	\$ 82,986
Long Term Portion of Capital Leases	25,143	22,336
Compensated Absences	11,870	14,653
Other Post-Employment Benefits	905,632	917,949
Net Pension Liability	1,323,681	1,504,677
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 2,355,240</u>	<u>\$ 2,542,601</u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	<u>\$ 709,188</u>	<u>\$ 806,731</u>
NET POSITION:		
Net Investment in Capital Assets	\$ 76,294	\$ 81,369
Unrestricted	761,725	641,706
Total Net Position	<u><u>\$ 838,019</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 723,075</u></u>

Net position of the Clerk of Court increased by \$114,944 or 15.9% from the previous fiscal year.

Summary of the Statement of Activities

	2024	2023
REVENUES:		
Charges for Services	\$ 1,902,788	\$ 1,835,067
Operating Grants & Contributions	26,950	52,400
General Revenues	<u>140,831</u>	<u>91,956</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 2,070,569</u>	<u>\$ 1,979,423</u>
EXPENSES:		
Expenses	<u>1,955,625</u>	<u>1,998,635</u>
Change in Net Position	<u><u>\$ 114,944</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (19,212)</u></u>

The Clerk of Court's total revenues increased by \$91,146 or 4.61% from the previous fiscal year.
The total cost of all programs and services decreased by \$43,010 or 2.16%.

Capital Assets and Debt Administration

Capital Assets

At June 30, 2024, the Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court had \$101,437, net of depreciation/amortization, invested in a broad range of capital assets (see table below). This amount represents a net decrease (including additions and deductions) of \$10,849 or 9.67% from the previous year.

Capital Assets at Year End (Net of Depreciation/Amortization)

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Capital Assets	\$ 77,386	\$ 82,838
Right-of-Use Assets	23,012	29,448
	<u>1,039</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Capital Assets	<u>\$101,437</u>	<u>\$112,286</u>

This year there were \$16,231 in capital asset additions.

Debt

The Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court had \$25,143 in capital leases, \$11,870 in compensated absences, \$905,632 in other post-employment benefits and \$1,323,681 in net pension liability outstanding at year end. This represents differences of \$5,774, \$2,783, \$12,317 and \$180,996, respectively, as compared to the previous year.

Variations between Final Budgets and Actual Amounts

Actual revenues were 35,262 less than budgeted amounts and actual expenditures were \$11,065 less than budgeted amounts.

Economic Factors and Next Year's Budget

The Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court's elected official considered the following factors and indicators when setting next year's budget, rates and fees. These factors and indicators include:

1. Fees
2. Interest income
3. Miscellaneous revenues
4. Personnel costs
5. Other costs

The Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court does not expect any significant changes in next year's results as compared to the current year.

Contacting the Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens and creditors with a general overview of the Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court's finances and to show the Clerk of Court's accountability for the money it receives. Any questions about this report or requests for additional information may be directed to the Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court at P. O. Box 476, Natchitoches, LA 71458-0476.

T | C | B | T
THOMAS, CUNNINGHAM, BROADWAY & TODTENBIER
Certified Public Accountants

Eddie G. Johnson, CPA - A Professional Corporation (1927-1996)

Mark D. Thomas, CPA - A Professional Corporation
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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Honorable David Stamey
Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court
P. O. Box 476
Natchitoches, Louisiana 71458-0476

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, major funds and the fiduciary fund of the Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court (Clerk), a component unit of the Natchitoches Parish Government, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Clerk'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, major funds and the fiduciary fund of the Clerk as of June 30, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*. 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 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 opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

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

Auditors' 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 Clerk'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 Clerk'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 1 through 4 and Budgetary Comparison Schedules, Schedule of Employer's Share of Net Pension Liability, Schedule of Employer's Contributions, and Schedule of Changes in Net OPEB Liability and Related Ratios on pages 39 through 43 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Clerk's basic financial statements. The Schedule of Compensation, Benefits and Other Payments to Agency Head or Chief Executive Officer and the Justice System Funding Schedules are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such supplementary information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the Schedule of Compensation, Benefits and Other Payments to Agency Head or Chief Executive Officer and the Justice System Funding Schedules are 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 9, 2024, on our consideration of the Clerk'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 that 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 Clerk's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In accordance with the requirements of the Louisiana Legislative Auditor, we have issued a report, dated December 9, 2024, on the results of our state wide agreed-upon procedures performed in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of testing performed on those control and compliance areas identified in the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's state wide agreed-upon procedures, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance.

Thomas, Cunningham, Broadway & Todtenbier, CPA's

Thomas, Cunningham, Broadway & Todtenbier, CPA's
Natchitoches, Louisiana

December 9, 2024

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

GOVERNMENT-WIDE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court
Statement of Net Position
June 30, 2024

	Governmental Activities
ASSETS:	
Current Assets:	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 2,345,705
Investments	531,304
Revenue Receivable, Net of Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	227,128
Prepaid Expense	8,529
Total Current Assets	<u>\$ 3,112,666</u>
Noncurrent Assets:	
Capital Assets (net)	\$ 77,386
Right-of Use Assets (net)	23,012
Subscription-Based Assets (net)	1,039
Total Noncurrent Assets	<u>\$ 101,437</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 3,214,103</u>
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Pension	\$ 388,892
OPEB	299,452
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>\$ 688,344</u>
LIABILITIES:	
Current Liabilities-	
Accounts Payable	\$ 88,914
Current Portion of Capital Leases	8,734
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$ 97,648</u>
Noncurrent Liabilities	
Long-term Portion of Capital Leases	\$ 16,409
Compensated Absences	11,870
Other Post-Employment Benefits	905,632
Net Pension Liability	1,323,681
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	<u>\$ 2,257,592</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 2,355,240</u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Pension	\$ 21,401
OPEB	687,787
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>\$ 709,188</u>
NET POSITION:	
Net Investment in Capital Assets	\$ 76,294
Unrestricted	761,725
Total Net Position	<u><u>\$ 838,019</u></u>

See independent auditors' report and notes to the financial statements.

Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court
Statement of Activities
June 30, 2024

Activities	Expenses	Charges for Services	Program Revenues		Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position Governmental Activities
			Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	
Governmental Activities:					
Judicial	\$ 1,955,625	\$ 1,902,788	\$ 26,950	\$ -	\$ (25,887)
General Revenues:					
Interest					\$ 52,903
Miscellaneous					10,059
Non-Employer Pension Revenue					<u>77,869</u>
Total General Revenues					<u>\$ 140,831</u>
Change in Net Position					\$ 114,944
Net Position June 30, 2023					<u>723,075</u>
Net Position June 30, 2024					<u>\$ 838,019</u>

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court
Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds
June 30, 2024

	Major Funds		
	General Fund	Advance Deposit Fund	Total
ASSETS:			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,421,385	\$ 924,320	\$ 2,345,705
Investments	531,304	-	531,304
Revenue Receivables, Net of Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	53,656	173,472	227,128
Prepaid Expense	8,529	-	8,529
Dur From Other Funds	99,566	-	99,566
 Total Assets	 <u>\$ 2,114,440</u>	 <u>\$ 1,097,792</u>	 <u>\$ 3,212,232</u>
LIABILITIES:			
Accounts Payable	\$ 13,592	\$ 75,322	\$ 88,914
Due to Other Funds	-	99,566	99,566
 Total Liabilities	 <u>\$ 13,592</u>	 <u>\$ 174,888</u>	 <u>\$ 188,480</u>
FUND BALANCE:			
Nonspendable			
Prepaid Expense	\$ 8,529	\$ -	\$ 8,529
Restricted:			
Special Purposes	-	922,904	922,904
Unassigned	2,092,319	-	2,092,319
 Total Fund Balance	 <u>\$ 2,100,848</u>	 <u>\$ 922,904</u>	 <u>\$ 3,023,752</u>
 Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	 <u>\$ 2,114,440</u>	 <u>\$ 1,097,792</u>	 <u>\$ 3,212,232</u>

See independent auditors' report and notes to the financial statements.

Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court
Reconciliation of Governmental Funds
Balance Sheet to the Statement of Net Position
June 30, 2024

Total Fund Balance for the Governmental Fund at June 30, 2024	\$	3,023,752
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Total Net Position reported for Governmental Activities in the
Statement of Net Position is different because:

The following used in Governmental Activities are not financial
resources. Therefore, they are not reported in the fund:

Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment		860,873
Less, Accumulated Depreciation		(783,487)
Right of Use Assets		40,504
Subscription-Based Assets		1,133
Less, Accumulated Amortization		(17,586)
Deferred Outflows of Resources		688,344

The following are not due and payable in the current period.
Therefore, they are not reported in the Governmental Fund
Balance Sheet:

Lease Liabilities		(25,143)
Compensated Absences		(11,870)
Other Post-Employment Benefits		(905,632)
Net Pension Liabilities		(1,323,681)
Deferred Inflows of Resources		<u>(709,188)</u>

Total Net Postion of Governmental Activities at June 30, 2024	\$	<u><u>838,019</u></u>
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Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances-
Governmental Funds
June 30, 2024

	Major Funds		
	General Fund	Advance Deposit Fund	Total
REVENUES:			
Licenses & Permits	\$ 4,593	\$ -	\$ 4,593
Charges for Services	965,273	932,922	1,898,195
Intergovernmental-			
Supplemental Compensation Fund	26,950	-	26,950
Miscellaneous			
Interest	38,162	14,741	52,903
Miscellaneous	10,059	-	10,059
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 1,045,037</u>	<u>\$ 947,663</u>	<u>\$ 1,992,700</u>
EXPENDITURES:			
Current-			
Judicial-			
Personnel Services	\$ 1,258,130	\$ -	\$ 1,258,130
Travel	26,708	-	26,708
Operating Services	106,066	346,945	453,011
Operating Supplies	85,729	-	85,729
Professional Services	34,663	-	34,663
Capital Expenditures	16,231	-	16,231
Debt Service	10,396	-	10,396
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 1,537,923</u>	<u>\$ 346,945</u>	<u>\$ 1,884,868</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenditures	\$ (492,886)	\$ 600,718	\$ 107,832
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)			
Proceeds of Debt	\$ 3,140	\$ -	\$ 3,140
Operating Transfers In	478,561	-	478,561
Operating Transfers Out	-	(478,561)	(478,561)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>\$ 481,701</u>	<u>\$ (478,561)</u>	<u>\$ 3,140</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and Other Sources over Expenditures and Other Uses	\$ (11,185)	\$ 122,157	\$ 110,972
Fund Balance-Beginning of Year	<u>2,112,033</u>	<u>800,747</u>	<u>2,912,780</u>
Fund Balance-End of Year	<u>\$ 2,100,848</u>	<u>\$ 922,904</u>	<u>\$ 3,023,752</u>

See independent auditors' report and notes to the financial statements.

Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures,
and Changes in Fund Balances of the Governmental Funds
to the Statement of Activities
June 30, 2024

Net Change in Fund Balances-Total Governmental Funds	\$	110,972
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Amounts reported for Governmental Activities in the Statement of Activities are different because Governmental Funds report Capital Outlays as expenditures. However, in the Statement of Activities, the costs of these assets are allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation expense. The current year amounts for these items were:

Cost of Capital Assets		16,231
Depreciation Expense		(18,543)
Amortization Expense		(8,536)

Some revenues reported in the Statement of Activities do not provide current financial resources and these are not reported in governmental funds. Some expenses reported in the Statement of Activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore are not reported as expenditures in the governmental funds. These timing differences are summarized below:

Non-Employer Pension Revenue		77,869
Proceeds from Capital Leases		(3,140)
Capital Lease Payments		8,914
Compensated Absences		2,783
Other Post-Employment Benefits		57,622
Pension Expense		<u>(129,228)</u>

Change in Net Position at June 30, 2024, per Statement of Activities	\$	<u>114,944</u>
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Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position
June 30, 2024

Registry of
Court Fund

ASSETS

Cash

\$ 402,602

LIABILITIES

Due to Others

\$ 402,602

Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court
Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position
June 30, 2024

	<u>Registry of</u> <u>Court Fund</u>
ADDITIONS:	
Suits and Successions	\$ 66,417
Interest Income	<u>756</u>
Total Additions	<u>\$ 67,173</u>
DEDUCTIONS:	
Settlements to Litigants	<u>\$ 331,059</u>
Changes in Liabilities	(263,886)
Liabilities - Beginning	<u>666,488</u>
Liabilities - Ending	<u><u>\$ 402,602</u></u>

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court
Notes to the Financial Statements
June 30, 2024

Introduction:

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

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies:

A. BASIS OF PRESENTATION-

The accompanying financial statements of the Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court have been prepared in conformity with governmental accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The accompanying basic financial statements have been prepared in conformity with GASB Statement No. 34, Basic Financial Statements - and Management's Discussion and Analysis - for State and Local Governments, issued in June 1999.

B. REPORTING ENTITY-

As the governing authority of the parish, for reporting purposes, the Natchitoches Parish Government is the financial reporting entity for Natchitoches Parish. The financial reporting entity consists of (a) the primary government (Government), (b) other organizations for which the primary government is financially accountable, and (c) other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the primary government are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 14 established criteria for determining which component units should be considered part of the Natchitoches Parish Government for financial reporting purposes. The basic criterion for including a potential component unit within the reporting entity is financial accountability. The GASB has set forth criteria to be considered in determining financial accountability. This criteria includes:

1. Appointing a voting majority of an organization's governing body, and
 - a. The ability of the Government to impose its will on that organization and/or
 - b. The potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to or impose specific financial burdens on the Government.
2. Organizations for which the Natchitoches Parish Government does not appoint a voting majority but are fiscally dependent on the Natchitoches Parish Government.
3. Organizations for which the reporting entity financial statements would be misleading if data of the organization is not included because of the nature or significance of the relationship.

Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court
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Because the Natchitoches Parish Government provides office facilities for the Clerk, the Clerk was determined to be fiscally dependent on the Government and accordingly is considered to be a component unit of the Natchitoches Parish Government, the financial reporting entity. The accompanying basic financial statements present information only on the funds maintained by the Clerk and do not present information on the Natchitoches Parish Government, the general government services provided by that governmental unit or the other governmental units that comprise the financial reporting entity.

C. FUND ACCOUNTING-

The Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court 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 related to certain Clerk of Court functions and activities. A fund is defined as a separate fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Funds of the Clerk are classified into two categories as follows:

Governmental Funds

Governmental funds account for the Clerk of Court's general activities, including the collection and disbursement of specific or legally restricted monies, and the acquisition of general fixed assets. Governmental funds of the Clerk of Court include:

General Fund

The General Fund (Salary Fund), as provided by Louisiana Revised Statute 13:781, is the principal fund of the Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court and accounts for the operations of the Clerk of Court's office. The various fees and charges due to the Clerk of Court's office are accounted for in this fund.

Special Revenue Fund - Advance Deposit

The Advance Deposit Fund, as provided by Louisiana Revised Statute 13:842, is used to account for the proceeds of advanced costs received by plaintiffs in ordinary suits. The advanced costs shall be disbursed to the clerk's salary fund and to others as their fees accrue.

Fiduciary Fund

The custodial fund, Registry of Court Fund, accounts for assets held by the clerk as an agent for litigants held pending court action. These funds are custodial in nature (assets equal liabilities) and do not involve measurement of results of operations. Consequently, the custodial fund has no measurement focus, but uses the accrual basis of accounting.

D. MEASUREMENT FOCUS/BASIS OF ACCOUNTING-

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities display information about the reporting government as a whole. These statements include all the financial activities of the Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court, except for the fiduciary funds which are reported separately.

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The government-wide financial statements were prepared using 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.

Fund Financial Statements

Governmental funds 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 Balance reports 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 differs from the manner in which the governmental activities of the government-wide financial statements are prepared. Governmental fund financial statements therefore include a reconciliation with brief explanations to better identify the relationship between the government-wide statements and the statements for governmental funds.

The governmental funds 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. The Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court considers all revenues available if collected within 60 days after the fiscal year end. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for 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-

Fees for certified copies, recording legal documents, marriage licenses, and commissions for services are recorded in the year they are earned. Interest income on time deposits is recorded when the time deposits have matured and the income is available. All other revenues are recorded when received.

Expenditures-

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

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E. BUDGETARY ACCOUNTING-

Formal budgetary accounting is employed as a management control. The Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court prepares and adopts a budget each year for its governmental funds in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statutes. The operating budgets are prepared based on prior year's revenues and expenditures and the estimated increase therein for the current year, using the modified accrual basis of accounting. The Clerk amends its budgets when projected revenues are expected to be less than budgeted revenues by five percent or more and/or projected expenditures are expected to be more than budgeted amounts by five percent or more. All budget appropriations lapse at year end.

F. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS-

Cash - includes not only currency on hand but also demand deposits with banks or other financial institutions and other kinds of accounts that have the general characteristics of demand deposits in that the customer may deposit additional funds at any time and also effectively may withdraw funds at any time without prior notice or penalty.

Cash equivalents - includes all short term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and are so near their maturity that they present insignificant risk of changes in value because of interest rates. Generally, only investments which, at the day of purchase, have a maturity date no longer than three months qualify under this definition.

G. INVESTMENTS-

Investments are limited by R. S. 33:2955 and the Vernon Parish Clerk of Court'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.

H. RECEIVABLES-

All receivables are reported at their gross value and, where applicable, are reduced by the estimated portion that is expected to be uncollectible.

I. BAD DEBTS-

Uncollectible revenue receivables are recognized as bad debts through the establishment of an allowance account at the time information becomes available which would indicate the uncollectibility of the particular receivable. At June 30, 2024, \$1,000 was considered uncollectible.

J. CAPITAL ASSETS-

Capital assets are carried at historical costs. Depreciation of all exhaustible capital assets used by the Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court is charged as an expense against operations in the Statement of Activities. Capital assets net of accumulated depreciation are reported on the Statement of Net Position. Depreciation is computed using the straight line method over the estimated useful life of the assets, generally 10 to 40 years for building improvements and 5 to 10 years for moveable property. Expenditures for maintenance, repairs and minor renewals are charged to expenditures as incurred. Major expenditures for renewals and betterments are capitalized.

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K. COMPENSATED ABSENCES-

Full-time employees of the Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court earn ten days sick leave annually. Vacation is earned as follows: 1st year - no vacation, 2nd year - 1 week, 3rd year - 2 weeks, 15 years - 3 weeks. Unused vacation and sick leave expires at December 31, however, at June 30, 2024, a total of \$11,870 in accrued leave remained unpaid.

L. PENSIONS-

For purposes of measuring the Net Pension Liability, Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Louisiana Clerks' of Court Retirement and Relief Fund (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.

M. DEFERRED OUTFLOWS/INFLOWS OF RESOURCES-

The Statement of Net Position reports a separate section for deferred outflows and (or) deferred inflows of financial resources. Deferred outflows of resources represent a consumption of net position that applies to future periods and will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until the applicable period. Deferred inflows of resources represent an acquisition of net position that applies to future periods and will not be recognized as an inflow of resources until that time.

N. 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 disclosures 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.

O. EQUITY CLASSIFICATIONS-

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

- a. Net investment in capital assets - Consists of 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.
- b. Restricted net position - Consists of net resources with constraints placed on their use either by (1) external groups such as creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or (2) law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
- c. Unrestricted net position - All other net resources that do not meet the definition of "restricted" or "net investment in capital assets."

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When an expense is incurred for the purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available, the Clerk applies unrestricted resources first, unless a determination is made to use restricted net resources. The policy concerning which to apply first varies with the intended use and legal requirements. This decision is typically made by the Clerk at the incurrence of the expense.

In the fund statements, governmental fund equity is classified as fund balance and displayed in five components. The following classifications describe the relative strength of the spending constraints placed on the purposes for which resources can be used:

- a. Nonspendable fund balance - amounts that are not in a spendable form (such as prepaid expenses) or are required to be maintained intact;
- b. Restricted fund balance - amounts constrained to specific purposes by their providers (such as grantors, bondholders, and higher levels of government), through constitutional provisions, or by enabling legislation;
- c. Committed fund balance - amounts constrained to specific purposes 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 action to remove or change the constraint;
- d. Assigned fund balance - amounts a 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;
- e. Unassigned fund balance - amounts that are available for any purpose; positive amounts are reported only in the general fund.

The General Fund has a nonspendable fund balance of \$8,529 which represents prepaid expense. The remaining fund balance of \$2,092,319 is classified as unassigned. If applicable, the Clerk would typically use restricted fund balances first, followed by committed resources and assigned resources as appropriate opportunities arise, but reserves the right to selectively spend unassigned resources first and to defer the use of these other classified funds.

2. Cash, Cash Equivalents, Investments and Credit Risk:

The cash and cash equivalents of the Clerk of Court are subject to the following risk:

Custodial Credit Risk: Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that, in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, the Clerk of Court will not be able to recover its deposits. Under state law, these deposits (or the resulting bank balances) must be secured by federal deposit insurance or the pledge of securities owned by the fiscal agent bank. The 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 Clerk of Court 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 Clerk of Court's name.

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For reporting purposes, deposits with financial institutions include savings, demand deposits, time deposits, and certificates of deposit. The Clerk may invest in time certificates of deposit of state banks organized under the laws of Louisiana, national banks having their principal office in the state of Louisiana, in savings accounts or shares of savings and loan associations and savings banks and in share accounts and share certificate accounts of federally or state chartered credit unions.

At June 30, 2024, the Clerk had cash, cash equivalents (book balances), and investments totaling \$2,748,307 as follows:

Interest-bearing Demand	\$ 954,034
Time Deposits	1,791,723
Petty Cash	<u>2,550</u>
Total	<u>\$2,748,307</u>

At June 30, 2024, the Clerk has \$2,875,931 in deposits (collected bank balances). These deposits are secured from risk by \$500,000 of federal deposit insurance and \$2,375,931 of pledged securities held by the custodial bank in the name of the fiscal agent bank leaving \$0 unsecured and uncollateralized.

3. Investments:

Interest Rate Risk. This is the risk that changes in market interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. Generally, the longer the maturity of an investment, the greater the sensitivity is its fair value to changes in market interest rates. The Clerk of Court does not have a formal investment policy that limits investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates. However, as a means of offsetting exposure to interest rate risk, the Clerk of Court diversifies its investments by security type and institution.

Investments held at June 30, 2024 include \$531,304 in the Louisiana Asset Management Pool (LAMP), a local government investment pool. In accordance with GASB Codification Section I50.126, the investment in LAMP at June 30, 2024, is not categorized in the three risk categories provided by GASB Codification Section I50.125 because the investment is in the pool of funds and therefore not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book entry form.

LAMP is administered by LAMP, Inc., a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana. Only local government entities having contracted to participate in LAMP have an investment interest in its pool of assets. The primary objective of LAMP is to provide a safe environment for the placement of public funds in short-term, high quality investments. The LAMP portfolio includes only securities and other obligations in which local governments in Louisiana are authorized to invest in accordance with LSA - R.S. 33:2955. Accordingly, LAMP investments are restricted to securities issued, guaranteed, or backed by the U.S. Treasury, the U.S. Government, or one of its agencies, enterprises, or instrumentalities, as well as repurchase agreements collateralized by those securities.

Effective August 1, 2001, LAMP's investment guidelines were amended to permit the investment in government-only money market funds. In its 2001 Regular Session, the Louisiana Legislature (Senate Bill No. 512, Act 701, enacted LSA-R.S. 33:2955 (A) (1) (h) which allows all municipalities, parishes, school boards, and any other political subdivisions of the State to invest in "Investment grade (A-1/P-1) commercial paper of domestic United States corporations." Effective October 1, 2001, LAMP's Investment Guidelines were amended to allow the limited investment in A-1 or A-1+ commercial paper.

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The dollar weighted average portfolio maturity of LAMP assets is restricted to not more than 90 days, and consists of no securities with a maturity in excess of 397 days. LAMP is designed to be highly liquid to give its participants immediate access to their account balances. The investments in LAMP are stated at fair value based on quoted market rates. The fair value is determined on a weekly basis by LAMP and the value of the position in the external investment pool is the same as the value of pool shares.

LAMP, Inc. is subject to the regulatory oversight of the state treasurer and the board of directors. LAMP is not registered with the SEC as an investment company.

4. Revenue Receivable:

The following is a summary of receivables at June 30, 2024:

<u>Class of Receivable</u>	<u>Total</u>
Charges for services	\$228,128
Less, allowance for doubtful accounts	<u>(1,000)</u>
Net Receivables	<u>\$227,128</u>

5. Interfund Transactions:

Legally authorized transfers are treated as interfund transfers and are included in the results of operations of the governmental funds.

The following is a summary of transfers at June 30, 2024:

	<u>Operating Transfer In</u>	<u>Operating Transfer Out</u>
General Fund	\$478,561	\$ 0
Special Revenues Fund-Advance Deposit	<u>0</u>	<u>478,561</u>
Total	<u>\$478,561</u>	<u>\$478,561</u>

6. Accounts Payable and Accruals:

The following is a summary of accounts payable at June 30, 2024:

<u>Class of Payable</u>	<u>Total</u>
Vendor	<u>\$88,914</u>

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7. Leases:

In March 2024, the Clerk of Court entered into two lease agreements, one for a postage machine, and one a subscription-based information technology arrangement for the postage machine. Both leases have a sixty-three month lease term. In March 2023, the Clerk entered into a lease agreement for copy machines, with a five year lease term.

The total of the Clerk's lease assets are recorded at a cost of \$41,637, less accumulated amortization of \$17,586.

The future lease payments under the lease agreement is as follows:

<u>Year Ending December 31</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2025	\$ 8,734	\$1,181	\$ 9,915
2026	9,234	623	9,857
2027	<u>7,175</u>	<u>165</u>	<u>7,340</u>
Total	<u>\$25,143</u>	<u>\$1,969</u>	<u>\$27,112</u>

8. Capital Assets:

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

<u>Governmental Activities</u>	<u>Balance 07-01-23</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deletions</u>	<u>Balance 06-30-24</u>
Capital Assets				
Furniture fixtures, and equipment	\$ 847,782	\$ 13,091	\$ 0	\$ 860,873
Less, accumulated depreciation	<u>(764,944)</u>	<u>(18,543)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(783,487)</u>
Total Capital Assets, Net	<u>\$ 82,838</u>	<u>\$ (5,452)</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 77,386</u>
Right-of-Use Assets				
Equipment	\$ 49,978	\$ 2,006	\$ 11,480	\$ 40,504
Less, accumulated amortization	<u>(20,530)</u>	<u>(8,442)</u>	<u>(11,480)</u>	<u>(17,492)</u>
Total Right-of Use Assets, Net	<u>\$ 29,448</u>	<u>\$ (6,436)</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 23,012</u>
Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangement Assets				
Equipment	\$ 0	\$ 1,133	\$ 0	\$ 1,133
Less, accumulated amortization	<u>0</u>	<u>(94)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(94)</u>
Total Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangement Assets, Net	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 1,039</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 1,039</u>
Net Governmental Activities Capital Assets	<u>\$ 112,286</u>	<u>\$ (10,849)</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 101,437</u>

Depreciation expense of \$18,543 and Amortization expense of \$8,536 was charged to the judicial function.

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9. Long-Term Debt:

The following is a summary of changes in long-term debt for the year ended June 30, 2024:

	Balance <u>06-30-23</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deletions</u>	Balance <u>06-30-24</u>
Compensated Absences	\$ 14,653	\$ 0	\$ 2,783	\$ 11,870
Capital Leases	22,336	2,807	0	25,143
Net Pension Liability	917,949	0	12,317	905,632
Other Post-Employment Benefits	<u>1,504,677</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>180,996</u>	<u>1,323,681</u>
Total	<u>\$2,459,615</u>	<u>\$2,807</u>	<u>\$196,096</u>	<u>\$2,266,326</u>

10. Pension Plan:

Plan Description

The Clerk contributes to The Louisiana Clerks' of Court Retirement and Relief Fund (Fund) is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan established in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute 11:1501 to provide regular, disability, and survivor benefits for clerks of court, their deputies and other employees, and the beneficiaries of such clerks of court, their deputies, and other employees. Substantially all employees of the Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court are members of the Fund. The Fund issues an annual publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for the Fund, which can be obtained at www.la.la.org.

The following is a description of the plan and its benefits and is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to the appropriate statutes for more complete information.

Retirement Benefits

A member or former member shall be eligible for regular retirement benefits upon attaining twelve or more years of credited service, attaining the age of fifty-five years, or age sixty if hired on or after January 1, 2011, and terminating employment. Regular retirement benefits, payable monthly for life, is equal to 3% of the member's monthly average final compensation multiplied by the number of years of credited service, not to exceed one hundred percent of the monthly average final compensation. The retirement benefit accrual rate is increased to 3 1/3% for all service credit accrued after June 30, 1999, for members hired prior to January 1, 2011. For those members hired before July 1, 2006 and who retire prior to January 1, 2011, monthly average final compensation is based on the highest compensated thirty-six consecutive months, with a limit increase of 10% in each of the last three years of measurement. For those members hired on or after July 1, 2006, monthly average final compensation is based on the highest compensated sixty consecutive months with a limit increase of 10% increase in each of the last five years of measurement. For those members who were employed prior to July 1, 2006 and who retire after December 31, 2010, the period of final average compensation is thirty-six months plus the number of whole months elapsed since January 1, 2011, not to exceed sixty months.

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Disability Benefits

Disability benefits are awarded to active members who are totally and permanently disabled as a result of injuries sustained in the line of duty or to active members with 10 or more years of creditable service who are totally disabled due to any cause. A member who is officially certified as totally or permanently disabled by the State Medical Disability Board will be paid monthly disability retirement benefits equal to the greater of forty percent of their monthly average final compensation or 75% of their monthly regular retirement benefit computed as per R.S. 11:1521C.

Survivor Benefits

If a member who has less than five years of credited service dies, his accumulated contributions are paid to his designated beneficiary. If the member has five or more years of credited service, automatic Option 2 benefits are payable to the surviving spouse. These benefits are based on the retirement benefits accrued at the member's date of death with option factors used as if the member had continued in service to earliest normal retirement age. Benefit payments are to commence on the date a member would have first become eligible for normal retirement assuming continued service until that time. In lieu of a deferred survivor benefit, the surviving spouse may elect benefits payable immediately with benefits reduced 1/4 of 1% for each month by which payments commence in advance of member's earliest normal retirement age. If a member has no surviving spouse, the surviving minor children under 18 or disabled children shall be paid 1/2 of the member's accrued retirement benefit in equal shares. Upon the death of any former member with less than 12 years of service, the designated beneficiary may receive his accumulated contributions. Upon the death of any former member with 12 or more years of service, automatic Option 2 benefits are payable to the surviving spouse with payments to commence on the member's retirement eligibility date. In lieu of periodic payments, the surviving spouse or children may receive a refund of the member's accumulated contributions.

Deferred Retirement Option Plan

In lieu of terminating employment and accepting a service retirement allowance, any member of the Fund who is eligible for a service retirement allowance may elect to participate in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) for up to thirty-six months and defer the receipt of benefits. Upon commencement of participation in the plan, active membership in the Fund terminates and the participant's contributions ceases; however, employer contributions continue. Compensation and creditable service remain as they existed on the effective date of commencement of participation in the plan. The monthly retirement benefits that would have been payable, had the member elected to cease employment and receive a service retirement allowance, are paid into the Deferred Retirement Option Plan account. Upon termination of employment at the end of the specified period of participation, a participant in the program may receive, at his option, a lump sum payment from the DROP account equal to the payments to the account or a true annuity bases upon his account (subject to approval by the Board of Trustees). In addition, the member receives the monthly benefits that were paid into the DROP fund during his period of participation.

If employment is not terminated at the end of the participation period, payments into the account cease and the member resumes active contributing membership in the Fund. Interest is paid on DROP account balances for members who complete their DROP participation but do not terminate employment. The interest earning are based on the actual rate of return on funds in such account. Interest accruals cease upon termination of employment.

Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court
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Upon termination, the member receives a lump sum payment from the DROP fund equal to the payments made to that fund on his behalf or a true annuity based on his account (subject to approval by the Board of Trustees). The monthly benefit payments that were being paid into the DROP fund are paid to the retiree and an additional benefit based on his additional service rendered since termination of DROP participation is calculated using the normal method of benefit computation. Prior to January 1, 2011, the average compensation used to calculate the additional benefit is that used to calculate the original benefit unless his period of additional service is at least thirty-six months. Effective January 1, 2011, the average compensation for members whose additional service is less than thirty-six months is equal to the lesser amount used to calculate his original benefit or the compensation earned in the period of additional service divided by the number of months of additional service. For former DROP participants who retire after December 30, 2010, the period used to determine final average compensation for post-DROP service is thirty-six months plus the number of whole months elapsed from January 1, 2011 to the date of DROP entry. In no event can the entire monthly benefit amount paid to the retiree exceed 100% of the average compensation used to compute the additional benefit. If a participant dies during the period of participation in the program, a lump sum payment equal to his account balance is paid to his named beneficiary or, if none, to his estate.

Cost-of-Living Adjustments

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

In order to grant any cost-of-living increase, the Fund must meet criteria as detailed in the Louisiana statutes related to funding status. In lieu of granting a cost-of-living increase as described above, Louisiana statutes allow the board to grant a cost-of-living increase where the benefits shall be calculated using the number of years of service at retirement or at death plus the number of years since retirement or death multiplied by the cost-of-living amount which cannot exceed \$1.

Contributions

According to state statute, contribution requirements for all employers are actuarially determined each year. For the year ending June 30, 2023, the actual employer contribution rate was 22.25%.

In accordance with state statute, the Fund also receives ad valorem taxes and state revenue sharing funds. These additional sources of income are used as employer contributions and are considered support from non-employer contributing entities. Non-employer contributions are recognized as revenue during the year and excluded from pension expense. Non-employer contribution revenue for the year ended June 30, 2024 was \$77,869.

The Clerk of Court's contractually required composite contribution rate for the year ended June 30, 2024 was 23% of annual payroll, actuarially determined as an amount that, when combined with employee contributions, is expected to finance the costs of benefits earned by employees during the year, with an additional amount to finance any Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability. Contributions to the pension plan from the Clerk of Court were \$159,436 for the year ended June 30, 2024. The Clerk of Court has elected under state statute to pay both the employer and the employee contributions to the retirement system. Due to this election, the Clerk of Court contributed an additional \$55,014 on behalf of the employees for the year.

Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court
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Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions

For the years ending June 30, 2024 and 2023, the Clerk reported a liability of \$1,323,681 and \$1,504,677, respectively, for its proportionate share of the Net Pension Liability. The Net Pension Liability was measured as of June 30, 2023 and the total pension liability used to calculate the Net Pension Liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The Clerk of Court's proportion of the Net Pension Liability was based on a projection of the Clerk of Court's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating employers, actuarially determined. For the years ending June 30, 2024 and 2023, the Clerk of Court's proportion was .61531% and .62080%, which was a decrease of .00549% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2023.

For the years ending June 30, 2024 and 2023, the Clerk recognized pension expense including employer's amortization of change in proportionate share and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions of \$129,227 and \$157,419, respectively.

At June 30, 2024, the Clerk reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 7,148	\$13,473
Changes in assumption	65,988	0
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	147,641	0
Changes in employer's proportion of beginning net pension liability	8,593	7,811
Differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of employer contributions	86	117
Subsequent Measurement Contributions	159,436	0
Total	\$388,892	\$21,401

The deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court contributions subsequent to the measurement date in the amount of \$159,436, will be recognized as a reduction of the Net Pension Liabilities in the year of June 30, 2024. Amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year ended June 30:	
2025	\$ 94,003
2026	4,387
2027	131,933
2028	(22,268)
Total	\$208,055

Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court
Notes to the Financial Statements
June 30, 2024

Actuarial Assumptions

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

A summary of the actuarial methods and assumptions used in determining the total pension liability as of June 30, 2023, are as follows:

Valuation Date	June 30, 2023
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal
Actuarial Assumptions:	
Investment Rate of Return	6.55%, net of investment expense
Projected Salary Increases	1-5 years of service - 6.20% 5 years or more - 5.00%
Inflation Rate	2.40%
Mortality Rates	Pub- 2010 Public Retirement Plans multiplies by 120% Mortality Table with full generational projection using the Appropriate MP-2019 improvement scale
Expected Remaining Service Lives	2018-2023 - 5 years
Cost-of-Living Adjustments	The present value of future retirement benefits is based on benefits currently being paid by the Fund and includes previously granted cost-of-living increases. The present values do not include provisions for potential future increases not yet authorized by the Board of Trustees as they were deemed not to be substantively automatic.

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

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

Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court
Notes to the Financial Statements
June 30, 2024

The long-term expected real rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimates ranges 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 ranges were 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. The long term expected rate of return was 5.81%, for the year ended June 30, 2023.

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

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Asset Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Portfolio Real Rate of Return</u>
Fixed Income:		
Domestic Bonds	30.00%	2.50%
International Bonds		3.50%
Domestic Equity	35.00%	7.50%
International Equity	20.00%	8.50%
Real Estate	15.00%	4.50%
	<u>100.00%</u>	

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

Sensitivity of the Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

The following presents the Clerk of Court's proportionate share of the Net Pension Liability using the discount rate of 6.55%, as well as what the Clerk of Court's proportionate share of the Net Pension Liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage-point lower (5.55%) or one percentage-point higher (7.55%) than the current rate:

	1.0% Decrease (5.55%)	Current Discount Rate (6.55%)	1.0% Increase (7.55%)
Employer's proportionate share of net pension liability	1,975,812	\$1,323,681	\$773,984

Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position

Detailed information about the pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued Louisiana Clerks' of Courts Retirement and Relief Fund Annual Financial Report at www.la.la.gov.

Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court
Notes to the Financial Statements
June 30, 2024

11. Other Post-Employment Benefits:

Plan description - The Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court (the Clerk) provides certain continuing health care and life insurance benefits for its retired employees. The Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court's OPEB Plan (the OPEB Plan) is a single-employer defined benefit OPEB plan administered by the Clerk. The authority to establish and/or amend the obligation of the employer, employees and retirees rests with the Clerk. No assets are accumulated in a trust that meets the criteria in Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Codification Section P52 *Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions—Reporting For Benefits Not Provided Through Trusts That Meet Specified Criteria—Defined Benefit*.

Benefits Provided - Medical, dental, vision and life benefits are provided through a comprehensive medical plan and are made available to employees upon actual retirement. Employees are covered by the Louisiana Clerks' of Court Retirement and Relief Fund, whose retirement eligibility (D.R.O.P. entry) provisions are as follows: If a member is hired on or before December 31, 2010 then the member is eligible to receive regular retirement benefits once he or she has attained age 55 and completed 12 years of service. If a member is hired on or after January 1, 2011, then the member will be eligible to receive regular retirement benefits once he or she has attained age 60 and has at least 12 years of service.

Life insurance coverage is provided to retirees and 100% of the blended rate (active and retired) is paid by the employer. The amount of insurance coverage while active is continued after retirement, but insurance coverage amounts are reduced to 50% of the original amount at age 70.

Employees covered by benefit terms - At June 30, 2024, the following employees were covered by the benefit terms:

Inactive employees or beneficiaries currently receiving benefit payments	9
Inactive employees entitled to but not yet receiving benefit payments	-
Active employees	15
	<hr/>
	24
	<hr/>

Total OPEB Liability

The Clerk's total OPEB liability of \$905,632 was measured as of June 30, 2024 and was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date.

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

Inflation	3.0%
Salary increases	3.0%, including inflation
Prior discount rate	3.65%
Discount rate	3.93% annually
Healthcare cost trend rates	Getzen model, initial trend of 5.5%
Mortality	Pub-2010/2021

Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court
Notes to the Financial Statements
June 30, 2024

The discount rate was based on the average of the Bond Buyers' 20 Year General Obligation municipal bond index as of June 30, 2024, the end of the applicable measurement period.

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2024 valuation were based on the results of ongoing evaluations of the assumptions from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2024.

Changes in the Total OPEB Liability

Balance at June 30, 2023	\$917,949
Changes for the year:	
Service cost	26,296
Interest	33,985
Differences between expected and actual experience	(3,161)
Changes in assumptions	(45,116)
Benefit payments and net transfers	(24,321)
Net changes	(12,317)
Balance at June 30, 2024	\$905,632

Sensitivity of the total OPEB liability to changes in the discount rate - The following presents the total OPEB liability of the Clerk, as well as what the Clerk's total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (2.93%) or 1-percentage-point higher (4.93%) than the current discount rate:

	1.0% Decrease (2.93%)	Current Discount Rate (3.93%)	1.0% Increase (4.93%)
Total OPEB liability	\$1,042,598	\$905,632	\$794,257

Sensitivity of the total OPEB liability to changes in the healthcare cost trend rates - The following presents the total OPEB liability of the Clerk, as well as what the Clerk's total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using healthcare cost trend rates that are 1-percentage-point lower (4.5%) or 1-percentage-point higher (6.5%) than the current healthcare trend rates:

	1.0% Decrease (4.5%)	Current Trend (5.5%)	1.0% Increase (6.5%)
Total OPEB liability	\$856,461	\$905,632	\$966,212

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

For the year ended June 30, 2024, the Clerk recognized OPEB expense of \$(33,300). At June 30, 2024, the Clerk reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 56,857	\$(501,482)
Changes in assumptions	242,595	(186,305)
Total	\$299,452	\$(687,787)

Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court
Notes to the Financial Statements
June 30, 2024

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

<u>Years ending June 30:</u>	
2025	\$ (93,582)
2026	(93,582)
2027	(93,582)
2028	(93,582)
2029	(25,278)
Thereafter	<u>11,271</u>
Total	<u><u>\$ (388,335)</u></u>

12. Risk Management:

The Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The Clerk of Court maintains commercial insurance coverage covering each of those risks of loss. Management believes such coverage is sufficient to preclude any significant uninsured losses to the Clerk of Court.

13. Deferred Compensation:

All of the employees of the Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court are eligible to participate in the State of Louisiana deferred compensation plan. Employees may contribute up to 100% of their salary (not to exceed \$23,000 a year) to the plan on a pre-tax basis. The contributions are withheld from the employees' paycheck and the Clerk matches 100% of the employee contribution up to 5% of the employee's annual salary. The contributions are fully vested immediately and are remitted to a third-party administrator each pay period, where they are deposited to an account in the employee's name. The Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court does not assume any liability for the funds and does not have any control over the funds once they are remitted to the third-party administrator. During the year ended June 30, 2024, the Clerk's matching funds totaled \$32,475.

14. Expenditures of the Clerk of Court Paid by the Natchitoches Parish Government:

Certain expenses of the Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court's office are paid by the Natchitoches Parish Government. The Government furnishes the building where the Clerk of Court's office is located and pays all utility bills.

15. Subsequent Events:

Management has evaluated events through December 9, 2024, the date which the financial statements were available for issue. There were no items to be reported as subsequent events.

OTHER REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court
General Fund
Budgetary Comparison Schedule
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

	<u>Budget</u>			Variance- Favorable (Unfavorable)
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Actual</u>	
REVENUES:				
Licenses & Permits	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,700	\$ 4,593	\$ (107)
Charges for Services	1,070,000	962,850	965,273	2,423
Intergovernmental- Supplemental Compensation Funds	28,800	29,950	26,950	(3,000)
Miscellaneous- Interest	10,000	46,000	38,162	(7,838)
Miscellaneous	<u>6,500</u>	<u>6,500</u>	<u>10,059</u>	<u>3,559</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 1,120,300</u>	<u>\$ 1,050,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,045,037</u>	<u>\$ (4,963)</u>
EXPENDITURES:				
Current- Judicial-				
Personnel Services	\$ 1,252,000	\$ 1,257,000	\$ 1,258,130	\$ (1,130)
Travel	26,000	26,600	26,708	(108)
Operating Services	129,940	138,322	106,066	32,256
Operating Supplies	89,500	80,365	85,729	(5,364)
Professional Services	36,500	35,000	34,663	337
Capital Expenditures	-	11,701	16,231	(4,530)
Debt Service	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,396</u>	<u>(10,396)</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 1,533,940</u>	<u>\$ 1,548,988</u>	<u>\$ 1,537,923</u>	<u>\$ 11,065</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenditures	\$ (413,640)	\$ (498,988)	\$ (492,886)	\$ 6,102
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Proceeds of Debt	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,140	\$ 3,140
Operating Transfers In	<u>425,000</u>	<u>512,000</u>	<u>478,561</u>	<u>(33,439)</u>
Total Other Financing Sources	<u>\$ 425,000</u>	<u>\$ 512,000</u>	<u>\$ 481,701</u>	<u>\$ (30,299)</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and Other Sources over Expenditures and Other Uses	\$ 11,360	\$ 13,012	\$ (11,185)	\$ (24,197)
Fund Balance-Beginning of Year	<u>2,112,033</u>	<u>2,112,033</u>	<u>2,112,033</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund Balance-End of Year	<u>\$ 2,123,393</u>	<u>\$ 2,125,045</u>	<u>\$ 2,100,848</u>	<u>\$ (24,197)</u>

See independent auditors' report and notes to the financial statements.

Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court
Advance Deposit Fund
Budgetary Comparison Schedule
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

	<u>Budget</u>		Variance- Favorable <u>(Unfavorable)</u>
	<u>Original/Final</u>	<u>Actual</u>	
REVENUES:			
Charges for Services	\$ 850,000	\$ 932,922	\$ 82,922
Miscellaneous			-
Interest	5,000	14,741	9,741
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 855,000</u>	<u>\$ 947,663</u>	<u>\$ 92,663</u>
EXPENDITURES:			
Current-			
Operating Services	<u>\$ 430,000</u>	<u>\$ 346,945</u>	<u>\$ 83,055</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenditures	\$ 425,000	\$ 600,718	\$ 175,718
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)			
Operating Transfers Out	<u>(425,000)</u>	<u>(478,561)</u>	<u>(53,561)</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and Other Sources over Expenditures and Other Uses	\$ -	\$ 122,157	\$ 122,157
Fund Balance-Beginning of Year	<u>800,747</u>	<u>800,747</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund Balance-End of Year	<u>\$ 800,747</u>	<u>\$ 922,904</u>	<u>\$ 122,157</u>

See independent auditors' report and notes to the financial statements.

Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court
Schedule of Employer's Share of Net Pension Liability
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

Year	Employer's proportion of the net pension liability (asset)	Employer's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset)	Employer's covered payroll	Employer's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered payroll	Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability
2015	0.57809%	\$ 779,767	\$ 408,298	191%	79.4%
2016	0.56668%	\$ 850,044	\$ 565,328	150%	78.1%
2017	0.59850%	\$ 1,107,202	\$ 503,416	220%	74.2%
2018	0.55803%	\$ 844,257	\$ 534,955	158%	79.7%
2019	0.57616%	\$ 958,334	\$ 582,260	165%	79.1%
2020	0.59882%	\$ 1,087,461	\$ 603,703	180%	77.9%
2021	0.61591%	\$ 1,481,794	\$ 626,822	236%	72.1%
2022	0.62103%	\$ 826,123	\$ 635,558	130%	85.4%
2023	0.62080%	\$ 1,504,677	\$ 653,909	230%	74.1%
2024	0.61531%	\$ 1,323,681	\$ 689,183	192%	77.6%

See independent auditors' report and notes to the financial statements.

Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court
Schedule of Employer's Contributions
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

<u>Year</u>	<u>Statutorily Required Contribution</u>	<u>Contributions in relation to the statutorily required contribution</u>	<u>Contribution Deficiency/ (Excess)</u>	<u>Employer's covered payroll</u>	<u>Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll</u>
2015	\$ 97,409	\$ 97,409	\$ -	\$ 408,298	23.9%
2016	\$ 103,792	\$ 103,792	\$ -	\$ 565,328	18.4%
2017	\$ 95,649	\$ 95,649	\$ -	\$ 503,416	19.0%
2018	\$ 101,642	\$ 101,642	\$ -	\$ 534,955	19.0%
2019	\$ 109,261	\$ 109,261	\$ -	\$ 582,260	18.8%
2020	\$ 110,629	\$ 110,629	\$ -	\$ 603,703	18.3%
2021	\$ 131,633	\$ 131,633	\$ -	\$ 626,822	21.0%
2022	\$ 141,412	\$ 141,412	\$ -	\$ 635,558	22.3%
2023	\$ 145,495	\$ 145,495	\$ -	\$ 653,909	22.3%
2024	\$ 159,436	\$ 159,436	\$ -	\$ 689,183	23.1%

Changes of Assumptions:

There were no changes of benefit assumptions for the year ended June 30, 2024.

Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court
Schedule of Changes in Net OPEB Liability and Related Ratios
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

Year	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Service Cost	\$ 26,296	\$ 26,912	\$ 34,841	\$ 33,853	\$ 35,210	\$ 20,596	\$ 19,996
Interest	33,985	32,367	25,050	24,165	57,957	57,098	56,053
Changes of Benefits Terms	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Differences Between Expected and Actual Experiences	(3,161)	2,347	(66,839)	41,278	(1,022,210)	49,838	168
Changes in Assumptions/ Inputs	(45,116)	(14,444)	(205,976)	8,943	407,477	87,357	-
Benefit Payments	(24,321)	(30,100)	(28,531)	(42,432)	(40,220)	(41,691)	(39,518)
Net Change In Total OPEB Liability	(12,317)	17,082	(241,455)	65,807	(561,786)	173,198	36,699
Beginning OPEB Liability	917,949	900,867	1,142,322	1,076,515	1,638,301	1,465,103	1,428,404
Ending OPEB Liability	<u>\$ 905,632</u>	<u>\$ 917,949</u>	<u>\$ 900,867</u>	<u>\$ 1,142,322</u>	<u>\$ 1,076,515</u>	<u>\$ 1,638,301</u>	<u>\$ 1,465,103</u>
Covered-Employee Payroll	\$ 608,426	\$ 600,031	\$ 582,554	\$ 516,807	\$ 501,754	\$ 555,932	\$ 539,740
Net OPEB Liability as a Percentage of Covered-Employee Payroll	148.8%	153.0%	154.6%	221.0%	214.6%	294.7%	271.4%
Notes to Schedule:							
<i>Benefit Changes</i>	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
<i>Changes in Assumptions:</i>							
Discount Rate	3.93%	3.65%	3.54%	2.16%	2.21%	3.50%	3.50%
Mortality	Pub- 2010/2021 Getzen	RP-2014	RP-2014	RP-2014	RP-2014	RP-2000	RP-2000
Trend	Model	4.50 to 5.5%	4.50 to 5.5%	4.50 to 5.5%	4.50 to 5.5%	5.50%	5.50%

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court
Schedule of Compensation, Benefits and Other Payments to
Agency Head or Chief Executive Officer
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

Agency Head Name: David Stamey, Clerk of Court

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Salary	\$156,149
Benefits-Insurance	16,558
Benefits-Retirement	48,140
Deferred Compensation	8,400
Benefits-Other	2,570
Auto Allowance	22,710
Conferences & Seminars	498
Reimbursements	16

See independent auditors' report.

Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court
Justice System Funding Schedule - Collecting/Disbursing Entity
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

	First Six Month Period Ended 12/31/2023	Second Six Month Period Ended 6/30/2024
Cash Basis Presentation		
Beginning Balance of Amounts Collected (i.e. cash on hand)	801,843	860,590
Add: Collections		
Civil Fees (including refundable amounts such as garnishments or advance deposits)	428,725	504,198
Interest Earnings on Collected Balances	7,710	7,031
Subtotal Collections	436,435	511,229
Less: Disbursements To Governments & Nonprofits: (Must include one agency name and one collection type on each line and may require multiple lines for the same agency if more than one collection type is applicable. Additional rows may be added as necessary.)		
10th Judicial District Court (Expense Fund)-Civil	6,293	7,095
LA State Treasurer (Judges Supplemental Fund)-Civil	12,098	13,711
LA Dept. of Public Safety-Civil	56	-
LA Secretary of State Fees-Civil	3,300	2,900
3rd Circuit Court of Appeals-Civil	1,696	1,020
Natchitoches Parish Sheriff-Civil	18,057	23,643
Acadia Parish Sheriff-Civil	129	68
Allen Parish Sheriff-Civil	23	-
Ascension Parish Sheriff-Civil	106	53
Assumption Parish Sheriff-Civil	72	
Avoyelles Parish Sheriff-Civil	359	261
Bienville Parish Sheriff-Civil	30	112
Bossier Parish Sheriff-Civil	194	180
Caddo Parish Sheriff-Civil	2,133	2,081
Calcasieu Parish Sheriff-Civil	304	127
Concordia Parish Sheriff-Civil	11	18
DeSoto Parish Sheriff-Civil	30	199
East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff-Civil	5,170	4,459
Evangeline Parish Sheriff-Civil	64	3
Grant Parish Sheriff-Civil	180	169
Iberia Parish Sheriff-Civil	-	105
Iberville Parish Sheriff-Civil	35	-
Jackson Parish Sheriff-Civil	227	-
Jefferson Parish Sheriff-Civil	210	30
Lafayette Parish Sheriff-Civil	369	298
LaSalle Parish Sheriff-Civil	-	31
Lincoln Parish Sheriff-Civil	31	-
Orleans Parish Sheriff-Civil	390	210
Ouachita Parish Sheriff-Civil	236	205
Rapides Parish Sheriff-Civil	1,160	1,165
Red River Parish Sheriff-Civil	169	326
Sabine Parish Sheriff-Civil	792	961
St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff-Civil	35	5
St. Landry Parish Sheriff-Civil	128	139
St. Mary Parish Sheriff-Civil	-	31
St. Tammany Parish Sheriff-Civil	239	160
Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff-Civil	54	-
Vernon Parish Sheriff-Civil	240	288
Washington Parish Sheriff-Civil	50	-
Webster Parish Sheriff-Civil	255	100
West Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff-Civil	38	-
West Carroll Parish Sheriff-Civil	30	-
Winn Parish Sheriff-Civil	228	195
Less: Amounts Retained by Collecting Agency		
Collection Fee for Collecting/Disbursing to Others Based on Fixed Amount	209,862	268,699
Less: Disbursements to Individuals/3rd Party Collection or Processing Agencies		
Civil Fee Refunds	87,346	96,122
Curator Fees	21,918	20,553
Other Disbursements to Individuals (additional detail is not required)	3,341	1,777
Subtotal Disbursements/Retainage	377,688	447,499
Total: Ending Balance of Amounts Collected but not Disbursed/Retained (i.e. cash on hand)	860,590	924,320

Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court
Justice System Funding Schedule - Receiving Entity
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

Cash Basis Presentation

First Six Month Period Ended 12/31/2023	Second Six Month Period Ended 6/30/2024
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Receipts From: *(Must include one agency name and one collection type - see below - on each line and may require multiple lines for the same agency. Additional rows may be added as necessary.)*

Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Department - Criminal Court Costs/Fees

22,896

36,613

Subtotal Receipts

22,896

36,613

Ending Balance of Amounts Assessed but Not Received *(only applies to those agencies that assess on behalf of themselves, such as courts)*

-

-

Collection Types to be used in the "Receipts From:" section above

Civil Fees

Bond Fees

Asset Forfeiture/Sale

Pre-Trial Diversion Program Fees

Criminal Court Costs/Fees

Criminal Fines - Contempt

Criminal Fines - Other

Restitution

Probation/Parole/Supervision Fees

Service/Collection Fees (e.g. credit card fees, report fees, 3rd party service fees)

Interest Earnings on Collected Balances

Other *(do not include collections that fit into more specific categories above)*

OTHER REPORTS/SCHEDULES

T | C | B | T
THOMAS, CUNNINGHAM, BROADWAY & TODTENBIER
Certified Public Accountants

Eddie G. Johnson, CPA - A Professional Corporation (1927-1996)

Mark D. Thomas, CPA - A Professional Corporation
Roger M. Cunningham, CPA - LLC
Jessica H. Broadway, CPA - A Professional Corporation
Ryan E. Todtenbier, CPA - A Professional Corporation

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

Honorable David Stamey
Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court
P. O. Box 476
Natchitoches, Louisiana 71458-0476

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 and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*, the financial statements of the governmental activities, major funds and the fiduciary fund as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court's (Clerk) basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated December 9, 2024.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Clerk'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 Clerk's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Clerk'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.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

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

Purpose of this Report

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

Thomas, Cunningham, Broadway & Todtenbier, CPA's

Thomas, Cunningham, Broadway & Todtenbier, CPA's
Natchitoches, Louisiana
December 9, 2024

Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court
Schedule of Audit Results
Year Ended June 30, 2024

I. SUMMARY OF AUDIT RESULTS

The following summarize the audit results:

1. An unmodified opinion was issued on the financial statements of the Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024.
2. The audit did not disclose any material weaknesses in internal control.
3. The audit did not disclose any instances of noncompliance that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

II. FINDING IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

None noted.

III. PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS

None noted.

T | C | B | T
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**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING
STATEWIDE AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES**

To the Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court
and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor:

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

The Clerk has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of the engagement, which is to perform specified procedures on the C/C areas identified in LLA's SAUPs for the fiscal period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Additionally, LLA has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate for its purposes. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user for 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 that they address each of the following categories and subcategories (if applicable to public funds and the entity's operations).
- i. **Budgeting**, including preparing, adopting, monitoring, and amending the budget.
 - ii. **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.
 - iii. **Disbursements**, including processing, reviewing, and approving.
 - iv. **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)

- v. ***Payroll/Personnel***, including (1) payroll processing, and (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.
- vi. ***Contracting***, including (1) types of services requiring written contracts, (2) standard terms and conditions, (3) legal review, (4) approval process, and (5) monitoring process.
- vii. ***Travel and expense reimbursement***, including (1) allowable expenses, (2) dollar thresholds by category of expense, (3) documentation requirements, and (4) required approvers.
- viii. ***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).
- ix. ***Ethics***, including (1) the prohibitions as defined in Louisiana Revised Statute 42:1111-1121, (2) actions to be taken if an ethics violation takes place, (3) system to monitor possible ethics violations, and (4) requirement that all employees, including elected officials, annually attest through signature verification that they have read the entity's ethics policy.
- x. ***Debt Service***, including (1) debt issuance approval, (2) continuing disclosure/EMMA reporting requirements, (3) debt reserve requirements, and (4) debt service requirements.
- xi. ***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.
- xii. ***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.

Procedure Results: No exceptions were noted as a result of these procedures.

2) Board or Finance Committee

- 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 documents in effect during the fiscal period, and:
 - i. 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.
 - ii. For those entities reporting on the governmental accounting model, observe that the minutes referenced or included monthly budget-to-actual comparison on the general fund and major special revenue funds, as well as monthly financial statements (or budget-to-actual comparisons, if budgeted) for major proprietary funds. *Alternately, for those entities reporting on the non-profit accounting model, observe that the minutes referenced or included financial activity relating to public funds if those public funds comprised more than 10% of the entity's collections during the fiscal period.*
 - iii. For governmental entities, obtain the prior year audit report and observe the unrestricted fund balance in the general fund. If the general fund had a negative ending unrestricted 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 unrestricted fund balance in the general fund.

- iv. 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.

Procedure Results: No exceptions were noted as a result of these procedures.

3) Bank Reconciliations

- A. Obtain a listing of client 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 accounts (or all if less than 5). Randomly select one month from the fiscal period, obtain and inspect the corresponding bank statement and reconciliation for selected each account, and observe that:
 - i. Bank reconciliations include evidence that they were prepared within 2 months of the related statement closing date (e.g., initialed and dated, electronically logged);
 - ii. Bank reconciliations include evidence that a member of management/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, electronically logged); and
 - iii. Management has documentation reflecting that it has researched reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than 12 months from the statement closing date, if applicable.

Procedure Results: We noted three exceptions. (1) Some bank reconciliations do not provide evidence they were prepared within two months. (2) Bank reconciliations do not include evidence that a member of management has reviewed each bank reconciliation. (3) Reconciling items outstanding for more than 12 months have not been researched.

4) Collections (excluding EFTs)

- A. Obtain a listing of deposit sites for the fiscal period where deposits for cash/check/money order (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).
- B. For each deposit site selected, obtain a listing of collection locations and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one collection location for each deposit site (i.e. 5 collection locations for 5 deposit sites), obtain and inspect written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if no written policies or procedures, inquire of employees about their job duties) at each collection location, and observe that job duties are properly segregated at each collection location such that:
 - i. Employees responsible for cash collections do not share cash drawers/registers.
 - ii. Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not responsible for preparing/making bank deposits, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling collection documentation (e.g. pre-numbered receipts) to the deposit.
 - iii. Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not responsible for posting collection entries to the general ledger or subsidiary ledgers, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling ledger postings to each other and to the deposit.
 - iv. The employee(s) responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general ledger and/or subsidiary ledgers, by revenue source and/or agency fund additions are not responsible for collecting cash, unless another employee verifies the reconciliation.
- C. Inquire of management that all employees who have access to cash are covered by a bond or insurance policy for theft.

- D. Randomly select two deposit dates for each of the 5 bank accounts selected for procedure #3 under “Bank Reconciliations” above (select the next deposit date chronologically if no deposits were made on the dates randomly selected and randomly select a deposit if multiple deposits are made on the same day). *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:
- i. Observe that receipts are sequentially pre-numbered.
 - ii. Trace sequentially pre-numbered receipts, system reports, and other related collection documentation to the deposit slip.
 - iii. Trace the deposit slip total to the actual deposit per the bank statement.
 - iv. Observe that the deposit was made within one business day of receipt at the collection location (within one week if the depository is more than 10 miles from the collection location or the deposit is less than \$100 and the cash is stored securely in a locked safe or drawer).
 - v. Trace the actual deposit per the bank statement to the general ledger.

Procedure Results: No exceptions were noted as a result of these procedures.

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).
- B. For each location selected under #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, inquire of employees about their job duties), and observe that job duties are properly segregated such that:
 - i. At least two employees are involved in initiating a purchase request, approving a purchase, and placing an order/making the purchase.
 - ii. At least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors.
 - iii. 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.
 - iv. 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.
 - v. 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.
- C. For each location selected under #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:
 - i. Observe that 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

- ii. Observe that the disbursement documentation included evidence (e.g., initial/date, electronic logging) of segregation of duties tested under #5B, as applicable.
- 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 (1) 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.

Procedure Results: No exceptions were noted as a result of these procedures.

6) Credit Cards/Debit Cards/Fuel Cards/Purchase 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 cards. Obtain management's representation that the listing is 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:
 - i. Observe that there is evidence that the monthly statement or combined statement and supporting documentation (e.g., original receipts for credit/debit card purchases, exception reports for excessive fuel card usage) was reviewed and approved, in writing (or electronically approved), by someone other than the authorized card holder; and
 - ii. Observe that finance charges and late fees were not assessed on the selected statements.
- C. Using the monthly statements or combined statements selected under #6B above, excluding fuel cards, randomly select 10 transactions (or all transactions if less than 10) from each statement, and obtain supporting documentation for the transactions (i.e. each card should have 10 transactions subject to inspection). 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.

Procedure Results: No exceptions were noted as a result of these procedures.

7) Travel and Travel-Related Expense Reimbursements (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, 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:
 - i. If reimbursed using a per diem, agree the reimbursement rate to those rates established either by the State of Louisiana or the U.S. General Services Administration (www.gsa.gov).
 - ii. If reimbursed using actual costs, observe that the reimbursement is supported by an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased.

- iii. Observe that each reimbursement is supported by documentation of the business/public purpose (for meal charges, observe that the documentation includes the names of those individuals participating) and other documentation required by written policy (procedure #1h).
- iv. Observe that each reimbursement was reviewed and approved, in writing, by someone other than the person receiving reimbursement.

Procedure Results: No exceptions were noted as a result of these procedures.

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. 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:
 - i. Observe that the contract was bid in accordance with the Louisiana Public Bid Law (e.g., solicited quotes or bids, advertised), if required by law.
 - ii. Observe that the contract was approved by the governing body/board, if required by policy or law (e.g. Lawrason Act, Home Rule Charter).
 - iii. 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
 - iv. 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.

Procedure Results: No exceptions were noted as a result of these procedures.

9) Payroll and Personnel

- A. Obtain a listing of employees/elected officials employed during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 employees/officials, obtain related paid salaries and personnel files, and agree paid salaries to authorized salaries/pay rates in the personnel files.
- B. Randomly select one pay period during the fiscal period. For the 5 employees/officials selected under #9A above, obtain attendance records and leave documentation for the pay period, and:
 - i. Observe that all selected employees/officials documented their daily attendance and leave (e.g., vacation, sick, compensatory);
 - ii. Observe that supervisors approved the attendance and leave of the selected employees/officials;
 - iii. Observe that any leave accrued or taken during the pay period is reflected in the entity's cumulative leave records; and
 - iv. Observe the rate paid to the employees or officials agrees to the authorized salary/pay rate found within the personnel file.
- C. Obtain a listing of those employees/officials that received termination payments during the fiscal period and management's representation that the list is complete. Randomly select two employees 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 authorized pay rates in the employee's or official's personnel files, and agree the termination payment to entity policy.

- D. Obtain management's representation that employer and employee portions of payroll taxes, retirement contributions, health insurance premiums, and workers' compensation premiums have been paid, and associated forms have been filed, by required deadlines.

Procedure Results: No exceptions were noted as a result of these procedures.

10) Ethics

- A. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A, obtain ethics compliance documentation from management, and:
- i. 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
 - ii. Observe whether the entity maintains documentation which demonstrates each employee and official were notified of any changes to the entity's policy during the fiscal period, as applicable.
- B. Inquire and/or observe whether the agency has appointed an ethics designee as required by R.S. 42:1170.

Procedure Results: No exceptions were noted as a result of these procedures.

11) Debt Service (excluding nonprofits)

- 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.
- 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).

Procedure Results: No exceptions were noted as a result of these procedures.

12) Fraud Notice

- 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.
- 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.

Procedure Results: No exceptions were noted as a result of these procedures.

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."**
- i. Observe 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.

- ii. 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 in the past 3 months.
 - iii. 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.
- B. Randomly select 5 terminated employees (or all terminated employees if less than 5) using the list of terminated employees obtained in procedure #9C. Observe evidence that the selected terminated employees have been removed or disabled from the network.
- 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. 42:1267. 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.

Procedure Results: We performed these procedures and discussed the results with management.

14) Prevention of Sexual Harassment

- 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.
- 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).
- 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:
- i. Number and percentage of public servants in the agency who have completed the training requirements;
 - ii. Number of sexual harassment complaints received by the agency;
 - iii. Number of complaints which resulted in a finding that sexual harassment occurred;
 - iv. Number of complaints in which the finding of sexual harassment resulted in discipline or corrective action; and
 - v. Amount of time it took to resolve each complaint.

Procedure Results: No exceptions were noted as a result of these procedures.

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

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

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

Thomas, Cunningham, Broadway & Todtenbier, CPA's

Thomas, Cunningham, Broadway & Todtenbier, CPA's
Natchitoches, Louisiana

December 9, 2024

Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court
Management's Response to Exceptions to
Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSE TO EXCEPTIONS:

Item 3: Exception - Some bank reconciliations do not provide evidence they were prepared within two months of the related statement closing date. Bank reconciliations do not include evidence that a member of management has reviewed each bank reconciliation. Reconciling items outstanding for more than 12 months have not been researched.

. Response - We will include written evidence that bank reconciliations were prepared within two months of the related statement closing date and that a member of management has reviewed each bank reconciliation. Also we will review the outstanding items more than 12 months.