

**TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
PUBLIC DEFENDER FUND**

NATCHITOCHES, LOUISIANA

**FINANCIAL REPORT
JUNE 30, 2024**

Tenth Judicial District Public Defender
Financial Report
June 30, 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Required Supplementary Information	
Management's Discussion and Analysis	1-3
Independent Auditors' Report	4-6
Basic Financial Statements	
Government-Wide Financial Statements	
Statement of Net Position	9
Statement of Activities	10
Fund Financial Statements	
Balance Sheet-Governmental Fund	12
Reconciliation of the Governmental Fund Balance Sheet to the Statement of Net Position	13
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Change in Fund Balance-Governmental Fund	14
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Change in Fund Balance of the Governmental Fund to the Statement of Activities	15
Notes to Financial Statements	17-22
Other Required Supplementary Information	
Budgetary Comparison Schedule-General Fund	24
Supplementary Information	
Schedule of Compensation, Benefits and Other Payments to Agency Head or Chief Executive Officer	26
Justice System Funding Schedule – Receiving Entity	27

Tenth Judicial District Public Defender
Financial Report
June 30, 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Other Reports/Schedules

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 <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	29-30
Schedule of Audit Results	31
Independent Accountant's Report on Applying Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures	32-40

TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER FUND

**P. O. Box 604
Natchitoches, LA 71458-0604**

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

This section of the Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund's (hereafter referred to as the Public Defender Fund) annual financial report presents an overview and analysis of the Public Defender Fund's financial activities for the year ended June 30, 2024. The intent of the MD&A is to look at the Public Defender Fund's financial performance as a whole. It should, therefore be read in conjunction with this report. Certain comparative information is presented to provide an overview of the Public Defender Fund's operations.

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 Public Defender Fund as a whole and present a longer-term view of the Public Defender Fund's finances. These statements tell how these services were financed in the short-term as well as what remains for future spending.

Government-Wide Financial Statements

- The Statement of Net Position presents all of the Public Defender Fund's assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two reported as "net position". Over time, increases or decreases in the Public Defender Fund's net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the Public Defender Fund is improving or deteriorating.
- The Statement of Activities presents information showing how the Public Defender Fund's net position changed during the current year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of the related cash flows. Therefore, some revenues and some expenses that are reported in this statement will not result in cash flows until future years.

Fund Financial Statements

The services provided by the Public Defender Fund are financed through a governmental fund. A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The Public Defender Fund uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. The Public Defender Fund conducts its day-to-day operations through a governmental fund, the General Fund. These statements provide a short-term view of the Public Defender Fund's finances and assists in determining whether there will be adequate financial resources available to meet the current needs of the Public Defender Fund.

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

Summary of the Statement of Net Position

	2024	2023
ASSETS:		
Current Assets	\$ <u>100,500</u>	\$ <u>77,082</u>
LIABILITIES:		
Payroll Liabilities	\$ <u>4,079</u>	\$ <u>3,918</u>
NET POSITION:		
Unrestricted	\$ <u><u>96,421</u></u>	\$ <u><u>73,164</u></u>

Summary of the Statement of Net Position

	2024	2023
REVENUES:		
Intergovernmental	\$ 354,548	\$ 487,432
Fees, Fines & Charges for Services	<u>240,147</u>	<u>238</u>
Total Revenues	\$ 594,695	\$ 487,670
EXPENSES:		
Current-		
Judicial	<u>571,438</u>	<u>566,155</u>
Change in Net Position	\$ <u><u>23,257</u></u>	\$ <u><u>(78,485)</u></u>

The Public Defender Fund's assets exceeded its liabilities by \$23,257 (net position) for the year.

Economic Factors and Next Year's Budget

After considering many different areas, it was decided that the budget for FY 2025 should not change significantly from FY 2024 budget.

Contacting the Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens and creditors with a general overview of the Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund's finances and to show the Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund's accountability for the money it receives. Any questions about this report or requests for additional information may be directed to the Tenth Judicial District Public Defender at P. O. Box 604, Natchitoches, LA 71458-0604.

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

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Tenth Judicial District
Public Defender
Natchitoches, LA 71458

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and major fund of the Tenth Judicial Public Defender Fund (Pubic Defender Fund) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Pubic Defender Fund's basic financial statements as listed in the Table of Contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and major fund of the Pubic Defender Fund 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 Pubic Defender Fund 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 Pubic Defender Fund'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 Pubic Defender Fund'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 Pubic Defender Fund'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 and Budgetary Comparison Schedules 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 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 Pubic Defender Fund's basic financial statements. The Schedule of Compensation, Benefits and Other Payments to Pubic Defender Fund Head or Chief Executive Officer and Justice System Funding Schedule - Receiving Entity are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the supplementary information listed above 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 16, 2024, on our consideration of the Pubic Defender Fund's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is 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 Pubic Defender Fund'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 16, 2024, on the results of our statewide agreed-upon procedures performed in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in *Government Auditing Standards*. 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 16, 2024

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

GOVERNMENT-WIDE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Tenth Judicial Public Defender Fund
Statement of Net Position
June 30, 2024

	Governmental Activities
ASSETS:	
Current Assets:	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 82,511
Revenue Receivable	<u>17,989</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>\$ 100,500</u>
LIABILITIES:	
Current Liabilities:	
Payroll Liabilities	<u>\$ 4,079</u>
NET POSITION:	
Unrestricted	<u>\$ 96,421</u>

See accompanying notes and independent auditors' report.

Tenth Judicial Public Defender Fund
Statement of Activities
June 30, 2024

Activities	Expenses	Program Revenues		Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position
		Fees, Fines & Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities
Governmental Activities:				
Judicial	\$ 571,438	\$ 240,147	\$ 354,548	\$ 23,257
	Net Position, July 1			73,164
	Net Position, June 30			\$ 96,421

See accompanying notes and independent auditors' report.

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Tenth Judicial Public Defender Fund
Balance Sheet - Governmental Fund
June 30, 2024

ASSETS:

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 82,511
Revenue Receivable	<u>17,989</u>

Total Assets	<u>\$ 100,500</u>
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LIABILITIES:

Payroll Liabilities	\$ 4,079
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FUND BALANCE:

Unassigned	<u>96,421</u>
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Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	<u>\$ 100,500</u>
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Tenth Judicial Public Defender Fund
Reconciliation of Governmental Fund
Balance Sheet to the Statement of Net Position
June 30, 2024

Total Fund Balance for the Governmental Fund at June 30, 2024	<u>\$ 96,421</u>
Total Net Position of Governmental Activities at June 30, 2024	<u><u>\$ 96,421</u></u>

See accompanying notes and independent auditors' report.

Tenth Judicial Public Defender Fund
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Change in Fund Balance-
Governmental Fund
June 30, 2024

REVENUES:

Intergovernmental-	
State of Louisiana Appropriation	\$ 354,548
Fees, Fines & Charges for Services	<u>240,147</u>
 Total Revenues	 \$ 594,695

EXPENDITURES:

Current-	
Judicial-	<u>571,438</u>
 Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	 \$ 23,257
 Fund Balance-Beginning of Year	 <u>73,164</u>
 Fund Balance-End of Year	 <u>\$ 96,421</u>

See accompanying notes and independent auditors' report.

Tenth Judicial Public Defender Fund
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures,
and Change in Fund Balance of the Governmental Fund
to the Statement of Activities
June 30, 2024

Net Change in Fund Balance at June 30, 2024, per Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Change in Fund Balance	<u>\$ 23,257</u>
Total Change in Net Position at June 30, 2024, per Statement of Activities	<u>\$ 23,257</u>

See accompanying notes and independent auditors' report.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund
Notes to Financial Statements
June 30, 2024

Introduction:

The Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund was established August 15, 2007, in compliance with Louisiana Revised Statutes 15:168 to provide and compensate counsel appointed to represent indigents in criminal and quasi-criminal cases on the Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund level. The Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund is regulated by the Louisiana Public Defender Board established by Louisiana Revised Statute 15:141-184 to provide effective legal representation to criminal defendants who are unable to afford an attorney, consistent with the right to counsel in our criminal courts, mindful of the need for law and order and an appreciation of victim's rights. The Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund is administered by the public defender who is contracted with the Louisiana Public Defender Board to provide for the delivery and management of public defender services within the judicial district. The Tenth Judicial District encompasses the Parish of Natchitoches, Louisiana.

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies:

A. Reporting Entity-

For financial reporting purposes, in conformity with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 14, the Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund is a part of the operations of the Public Defender Fund system. However, the state statutes that created the indigent defender funds also gave the funds control over its operations including the hiring and retention of employees, authority over budgeting, responsibility for deficits, and the receipt and disbursement of monies. The Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund is financially independent and operates autonomously from the State of Louisiana and independently from the Public Defender Fund system. Therefore, the Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund reports as an independent reporting entity and the financial statements include only the transactions of the Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund.

B. Basis of Presentation-

The Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund's statements are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as applicable to governmental entities. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is responsible for establishing GAAP for state and local governments through its pronouncements (Statements and Interpretations).

Government-Wide Financial Statements (GWFS)

The Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities report information about the reporting government as a whole. They include all funds of the reporting government. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other non-exchange revenues.

The Statement of Net Position presents the governmental type activities on a consolidated basis, and is reported on a full accrual, economic resource basis, which recognizes all long-term assets and receivables as well as long-term debt and obligations.

Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund
Notes to Financial Statements
June 30, 2024

The Statement of Activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each function of the Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a program or function. Program revenues include (a) fees and charges paid by the recipient for goods or services offered by the program, and (b) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Revenues that are not classified as program revenues, including all taxes, are presented as general revenues.

C. Fund Accounting-

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

The Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund maintains only one fund. It is categorized as a governmental fund. A fund is considered major if it is the primary operating fund of the entity.

The major fund of the Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund is described below:

Governmental Fund-

General Fund

The General Fund is the general operating fund of the Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

D. Measurement Focus/Basis of Accounting-

Basis of accounting refers to when revenues or expenditures/expenses are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. It relates to the timing of the measurements made regardless of the measurement focus applied.

Accrual Basis – Government-Wide Financial Statements (GWFS)

The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities display information about the Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund as a whole. Both of these statements have been prepared using the economic measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets, and liabilities resulting from exchange and exchange-like transactions are recognized when the exchange takes place.

Modified Accrual Basis – Fund Financial Statements (FFS)

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. Governmental fund types use the flow of current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recorded when susceptible to accrual; i.e., when they are both

Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund
Notes to Financial Statements
June 30, 2024

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 Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund considers all revenues “available” if collected within 60 days after year-end. Expenditures are generally recorded under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related liability is incurred. The exceptions to this general rule are that (1) unmatured principal and interest on long-term debt, if any, are recorded when due and (2) claims and judgments and compensated absences are recorded as expenditures when paid with expendable available financial resources.

E. Assets, Liabilities, and Equity-

Cash and Interest-Bearing Deposits-

For purposes of the Statement of Net Position, cash and interest-bearing deposits include all demand accounts, savings accounts, and certificates of deposit of the Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund.

Capital Assets-

Capital assets, which include property, plant, and equipment, are reported in the governmental activities column in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are capitalized at historical cost or estimated cost if historical cost is not available. Donated assets are recorded as capital assets at their estimated fair market value at the date of donation. The Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund maintains a threshold level of \$500 or more for capitalizing capital assets.

The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of that asset or materially extend the life of that asset are not capitalized.

Depreciation of all exhaustible capital assets is recorded as an expense in the Statement of Activities, with accumulated depreciation reflected in the Statement of Net Position. Depreciation is provided over the assets’ estimated useful lives using the straight-line method of depreciation. The range of useful lives by type of asset is as follows:

Furniture, computers	5 years
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Compensated Absences-

Employees of the Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund do not accrue or “carry forward” vacation or sick leave from year to year. Therefore, no entry is made to record compensated absences.

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.

Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund
Notes to Financial Statements
June 30, 2024

- 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 provision 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”.

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

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 an unassigned fund balance of \$96,421. If applicable, the Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund 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.

Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund
Notes to Financial Statements
June 30, 2024

F. Budget-

Prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, the Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund adopts a budget for the next fiscal year. The budget is open for public inspection. All budgetary appropriations lapse at the end of the fiscal year. The budget is prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting.

G. Estimates-

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

2. Cash and Cash Equivalents:

The cash and cash equivalents of the Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund 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 Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund 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 Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund 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 Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund's name.

Bank account balances at June 30, 2024, totaled \$113,861, and were fully secured by FDIC insurance.

3. Pension Plan:

All of the Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund's employees participate in the Federal Social Security program; therefore, GASB 68 is not applicable.

Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund
Notes to Financial Statements
June 30, 2024

4. Receivables:

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

<u>Class of Receivable</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Sheriff Fees (NPSO)	\$15,483
City of Natchitoches – Marshal	<u>2,506</u>
Total Receivables	<u>\$17,989</u>

Substantially, all receivables are considered to be fully collectible, and no allowance for uncollectable is used.

5. Governmental Fund Revenues and Expenditures

For the year ended June 30, 2024, the major sources of governmental fund revenues and expenditures were as follows:

REVENUES:

State Government	
Appropriations-general	\$354,548
Local Government	
Other-Fees, Fines & Charges for Services	<u>240,147</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$594,695</u>

EXPENDITURES:

Personnel Services and Benefits	
Salaries	\$154,002
Payroll Taxes	11,781
Operating Costs	
Legal & Professional	338,860
Clerical	30,800
Other	<u>35,995</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$571,438</u>

5. Subsequent Events:

Management has evaluated events through December 16, 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

Tenth Judicial Public Defender Fund
General Fund
Budgetary Comparison Schedule
June 30, 2024

	<u>Budget</u>			Variance- Favorable (Unfavorable)
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Actual</u>	
REVENUES:				
Intergovernmental-				
State of Louisiana Appropriation	\$ 269,566	\$ 354,000	\$ 354,548	\$ 548
Fees, Fines & Charges for Services	<u>211,000</u>	<u>235,214</u>	<u>240,147</u>	<u>4,933</u>
Total Revenues	\$ 480,566	\$ 589,214	\$ 594,695	\$ 5,481
EXPENDITURES:				
Current-				
Judicial	<u>\$ 544,530</u>	<u>\$ 567,575</u>	<u>\$ 571,438</u>	<u>\$ (3,863)</u>
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	\$ (63,964)	\$ 21,639	\$ 23,257	\$ 1,618
Fund Balance-Beginning of Year	<u>73,164</u>	<u>73,164</u>	<u>73,164</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund Balance-End of Year	<u>\$ 9,200</u>	<u>\$ 94,803</u>	<u>\$ 96,421</u>	<u>\$ 1,618</u>

See accompanying notes and independent auditors' report.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Tenth Judicial District Public Defender Fund
Schedule of Compensation, Benefits and Other Payments to
Agency Head or Chief Executive Officer
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

Agency Head Name: Brett Brunson, Chief Public Defender

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Salary	\$107,084
Payroll Taxes	8,192
Reimbursements	<u>2,312</u>
Total	<u>\$117,588</u>

See independent auditors' report.

Justice System Funding Schedule - Receiving Entity

As Required by Act 87 of the 2020 Regular Legislative Session

Identifying Information		
Entity Name	Tenth Judicial District Public Defender	
LLA Entity ID # (This is the ID number assigned to the entity by the Legislative Auditor for identification purposes.)	1615	
Date that reporting period ended (mm/dd/yyyy)	6/30/2024	

If legally separate court funds are required to be reported, a separate receiving schedule should be prepared for each fund. Examples include Judicial Expense Fund, Drug Court Fund, Veterans Treatment Court Fund, etc.

Cash Basis Presentation

First Six Month Period Ended 12/31/23	First Six Month Period Ended 06/30/24
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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.)

Act 942 - Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office	378	660
2% Bonds - Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office	11,536	13,985
Criminal Court Cost - Natchitoches Parish City Marshall	22,005	16,245
Court Cost and Court Fees - Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office	79,716	92,184
Subtotal Receipts	113,635	123,074
Ending Balance of Amounts Assessed but Not Received (only applies to those agencies that assess on behalf of themselves, such as courts)	-	-

OTHER REPORTS/SCHEDULES

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

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

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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*

To Brett Brunson, Chief Public Defender
The Tenth Judicial Public Defender Fund

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 and major fund as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Tenth Judicial Public Defender Fund's (Pubic Defender Fund) basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated December 16, 2024.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

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

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. *A material weakness* is a deficiency, or 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 Pubic Defender Fund's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the 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
Natchitoches, Louisiana

December 16, 2024

The Tenth Judicial Public Defender Fund
Schedule of Audit Results
Year Ended June 30, 2024

I. SUMMARY OF AUDIT RESULTS

The following summarizes the audit results:

1. An unmodified opinion was issued on the financial statements of the Tenth Judicial Public Defender Fund 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 disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

II. FINDINGS IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

None identified.

III. PRIOR YEAR FINDING

None identified.

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**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING
STATEWIDE AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES**

To the Tenth Judicial Public Defender Fund
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 Pubic Defender Fund's (Pubic Defender Fund) management is responsible for those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs.

The Pubic Defender Fund 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 reasonable 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: No exceptions were noted as a result of these procedures.

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 Pubic Defender Fund 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 Pubic Defender Fund 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 16, 2024