

**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
PUBLIC DEFENDER FUND**  
St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana

Annual Financial Statements and  
Independent Auditor's Report

As of and for the Year Ended  
June 30, 2024

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the District Public Defender  
Fortieth Judicial District Public Defender Fund  
La Place, Louisiana

**Opinions**

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Fortieth Judicial District Public Defender Fund as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Fortieth Judicial District Public Defender Fund's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, major fund and aggregate remaining fund information of the Fortieth Judicial District Public 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 Opinion**

I conducted my 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. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of my report. I am required to be independent of the Fortieth Judicial District Public Defender Fund and to meet my other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to my audit. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

**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 Fortieth Judicial District Public Defender Fund's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

### **Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

My 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 my 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, I:

- 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 Fortieth Judicial District Public 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 my judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Fortieth Judicial District Public Defender Fund's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

I am 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 I have 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 information on pages 6 through 10 and 34 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. I 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 my inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge I obtained during my audit of the basic financial statements. I do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide me with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

### **Supplementary Information**

My audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Fortieth Judicial District Public Defender Fund's basic financial statements. The schedule of compensation, benefits and other payments to agency head or chief executive officer and the Justice System Funding Schedule for Receiving Entities, as listed in the table of contents, are presented for purpose 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 directly related to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the 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 statement themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In my opinion, the schedule of compensation, benefits and other payments to agency head or chief executive officer and Justice System Funding Schedules for Receiving Entities, 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, I have also issued a report dated October 10, 2024, on my consideration of the Fortieth Judicial District Public Defender Fund's internal control over financial reporting and on my tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of my testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fortieth Judicial District Public Defender Fund's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering the Fortieth Judicial District Public 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, I have issued a report, dated October 10, 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 statewide agreed-upon procedures, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance.



Keith M. Rivere  
Certified Public Accountant  
October 10, 2024

## **MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

## **FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER FUND**

St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana  
Management's Discussion and Analysis  
As of and for the year ended June 30, 2024

The Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) of the Fortieth Judicial District Public Defender Fund's financial performance presents a narrative overview and analysis of the Public Defender Fund's financial activities for the year ended June 30, 2024. Please read this document in conjunction with the additional information contained in the basic financial statements.

### **FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

- The Public Defender Fund's total net position increased by \$50,030 or 27 percent over the course of the year's operations.
- Revenues increased by \$228,013 or 30 percent to \$993,285 while expenses for the year increased by 16 percent or approximately \$125,410.
- The general fund reported a fund balance of \$250,147, an increase from June 30, 2023 of 38 percent.

### **OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The minimum requirements for financial reporting on the Fortieth Judicial District Public Defender Fund that was established by GASB No. 34 are divided into the following sections:

- (a) Management's Discussion and Analysis
- (b) Basic Financial Statements
- (c) Required Supplementary Information (other than MD&A)

#### **Basic Financial Statements:**

The basic financial statements present information for the district as a whole, in a format designed to make the statements easier for the reader to understand. The financial statements in this section are divided into the two following types:

- (1) **Government-Wide Financial Statements**, which include a Statement of Net Position and a Statement of Activities. These statements present financial information for all activities of the district from an economic resource measurement focus using the accrual basis of accounting and providing both short-term and long-term information about the district's overall financial status.



**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER FUND**

St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana  
Management's Discussion and Analysis  
As of and for the year ended June 30, 2024

- (2) Fund Financial Statements, which include a Balance Sheet and a Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance for the General Fund (a governmental fund). These financial statements present information on the individual fund of the district allowing for more detail. The current financial resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting used to prepare these statements are dependent on the fund type. The district's main governmental fund is the General Fund. The statements in this section represent the short-term and long-term financing of general government.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE ENTITY

Statement of Net Position  
As of June 30, 2024 and 2023

	<u>6/30/24</u>	<u>6/30/23</u>
Current and other assets	\$304,775	\$223,025
Capital assets	6,643	5,801
Lease right to use asset	<u>100,140</u>	<u>117,556</u>
Total Assets	<u>411,558</u>	<u>346,382</u>
Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>
Current liabilities	84,538	54,867
Long-term liabilities	<u>89,910</u>	<u>104,435</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>174,448</u>	<u>159,302</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>
Net Position:		
Invested in capital assets, net of debt	6,643	5,801
Unrestricted	230,467	181,279
Restricted	-0-	-0-
Total Net Position	<u>\$237,110</u>	<u>\$187,080</u>

**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER FUND**

St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana  
Management's Discussion and Analysis  
As of and for the year ended June 30, 2024

The district's net position increased by \$50,030 or 27%.

The public defender fund does not have any "restricted" net position. The district does have "unrestricted" net position, and those are net position that do not have any limitations on what these amounts may be used for.

Statement of Activities  
For the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023

	<u>6/30/24</u>	<u>6/30/23</u>
Revenues		
Statutory fines, forfeitures, and court cost	\$304,684	\$316,050
Intergovernmental	41,241	41,685
Charges for services	8,704	9,238
Interest	105	187
Miscellaneous	-0-	-0-
State Revenue	638,551	357,777
Federal Grant through State		40,335
	<u>-----</u>	<u>-----</u>
	\$993,285	\$ 765,272
	<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>
Expenditures		
Personnel	794,004	696,798
Other Operating	130,807	102,603
	<u>-----</u>	<u>-----</u>
	924,811	799,401
	<u>-----</u>	<u>-----</u>
Net Changes in Net Position	\$ 68,474	\$(34,129)
	<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>

During the fiscal year total revenues increased by \$228,013 or 30%. The total cost of all expenditures increased by \$125,410, or 16%.

**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER FUND**

St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana  
Management's Discussion and Analysis  
As of and for the year ended June 30, 2024

**CAPITAL ASSETS**

As of June 30, 2024, the Public Defender has invested \$6,643 in equipment and furniture and \$100,140 in a right to use asset.

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>	
<u>Capital Assets</u>	<u>6/30/24</u>	<u>6/30/23</u>
Equipment & Furniture	\$22,940	\$19,859
Accumulated Depreciation	(16,297)	(14,058)
Net Capital Assets	\$ 6,643	\$ 5,801
	=====	=====
Right of Use Asset	\$121,910	\$121,910
Accumulated Amortization	( 21,770)	( 4,354)
	-----	-----
Net Right of Use Asset	\$100,140	\$117,556
	=====	=====

**USING THIS ANNUAL REPORT**

This annual report consists of a report on the general financial highlighted statements (above), a general report on the entity performance as a whole, and an activities statement on contributing factors affecting the Public Defender's past and future financial conditions. Other supporting financial statements and comments are enclosed as components to the annual audit as presented by the auditing agent.

**ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEXT YEAR'S BUDGETS AND RATES**

The Public Defender is dependent on bail bond fees, forfeitures, and court cost collected in St. John the Baptist Parish for approximately 31 percent of its revenues. The principal funding source consist of payments of court cost by persons pleading guilty to misdemeanor and traffic offenses, which is an uncertain amount that fluctuates from month to month and is entirely unrelated to the District's workload or expenses. External factors such as reduction in enforcement activities, convictions, assessment of court cost, and effective collection of the amounts assessed, all controlled by others who are the Public Defenders' legal adversaries within the criminal justice system, could result in some unknown or unknowable reduction of the amount of projected revenues.

## **FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER FUND**

St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana  
Management's Discussion and Analysis  
As of and for the year ended June 30, 2024

### **ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEXT YEAR'S BUDGETS (CONTINUED)**

Two of the main reasons for the reduction in revenue is due to the Sheriff ceasing participation in the L.A.C.E. ticket writing program and the District Attorney's use of the pre-trial intervention and diversion programs. The principal funding source was curtailed by the sudden unilateral cessation by the local sheriff of his participation in the L.A.C.E. ticket-writing program, in July 2016, despite a 5-year agreement to participate. The resumption of ticket-writing occurred in fiscal year ending June 30, 2018.

However, in fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, COVID-19 and Hurricane Ida caused a reduction in traffic and ticket writing. The local District Attorney takes advantage of the authority to use the pre-trial intervention and diversion program to derive funding for that office, which reduces court costs allocated to the Indigent Defender Fund, and numerous other agencies that receive a portion of court costs collected, resulting in further unknown future revenue.

### **CONTACTING THE BOARD'S MANAGEMENT**

This financial report is designed to provide the citizens, taxpayers, customers, and creditors with a general overview of the district's finances, and to demonstrate the district's accountability for the money it receives. If you have any questions about this report or need additional financial information, please contact Ms. Fontella Baker, District Public Defender of the Fortieth Judicial District Public Defender Fund, 75 Dominican Drive, Suite 202, La Place, Louisiana, or telephone, 985-651-6677 (extension 6682).

## **BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
PUBLIC DEFENDERS OFFICE  
St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana  
Governmental Funds Balance Sheet/Statement of Net Position

June 30, 2024

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	Adjustments	Statement of Net Position
<b>ASSETS</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$139,213	\$0	\$139,213	-	\$139,213
Certificates of Deposit	120,000		120,000		120,000
Receivables	45,562	0	45,562	-	45,562
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation (Note C)		0	-	6,643	6,643
Right of use assets, net of accumulated amortization (Note C)				100,140	100,140
Total Assets	\$304,775	\$	\$304,775	106,783	\$411,558
<b>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>					
	0	0	0	0	0
<b>LIABILITIES</b>					
Liabilities:					
Cash overdraft	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Accounts payable	40,980		40,980	-	40,980
Payroll Tax Payable	7,620		7,620		7,620
Accrued Payroll	6,028		6,028		6,028
Accrued Compensated Absences			-	15,385	15,385
Long-term liabilities					-
Due within one year				14,525	14,525
Due after one year				89,910	89,910
Total Liabilities	\$54,628		\$54,628	\$119,820	\$174,448
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>					
	0	0	0	-	0
<b>FUND BALANCES/NET POSITION</b>					
Fund balances:					
Reserved for inventories					
Unassigned, reported in:					
General Fund	250,147		250,147	(250,147)	-
Other Funds					
Total Fund Balances	250,147		250,147	(250,147)	-
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$ 304,775		\$ 304,775	\$ (130,327)	\$ 174,448
<b>NET POSITION</b>					
Invested in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt				6,643	6,643
Restricted				-	-
Unrestricted				230,467	230,467
Total Net Position				\$ 237,110	\$ 237,110

\$ -

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
PUBLIC DEFENDERS OFFICE  
St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana  
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

Statement of Governmental Fund Revenues,  
Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances/  
Statement of Activities  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	Adjustments	Statement of Activities
<b>EXPENDITURES/EXPENSES</b>					
Public Defender:					
Personal Services	\$298,414		\$298,414	15,385	\$313,799
Contract Services-Attorneys	423,722		423,722		423,722
Related Benefits	71,868		71,868		71,868
Travel and professional development	5,662		5,662		5,662
Operating Services	100,464		100,464		100,464
Office Lease			-		-
Depreciation			-	2,239	2,239
Amortization			-	17,416	17,416
Capital Outlay-Equipment	3,081		3,081	(3,081)	-
Capital Outlay-Right of Use Asset			-	-	-
Debt Service-Principal	13,515		13,515	(13,515)	-
Debt Service-Interest	8,085		8,085		8,085
			-		-
			-		-
Total Expenditures/Expenses	924,811	-	924,811	18,444	943,255
<b>PROGRAM REVENUES</b>					
Charges for services	8,704		8,704		8,704
Statutory fines, forfeitures, fees and court costs	304,684		304,684		304,684
Other charges	41,241		41,241		41,241
Net Program Expense (Revenue)	570,182	-	570,182	18,444	588,626
<b>GENERAL REVENUES</b>					
State revenue	638,551		638,551		638,551
Federal Grant			-		-
Investment earnings	105		105		105
			-		-
Total General Revenues	638,656	-	638,656	-	638,656
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</b>					
Lease Financing			-	-	-
<b>EXCESS (Deficiency) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES/CHANGE IN NET POSITION</b>					
	68,474	-	68,474	(18,444)	50,030
<b>FUND BALANCE/NET POSITION:</b>					
Beginning of the Year	181,673		181,673	5,407	187,080
End of Year	\$ 250,147	\$ -	\$ 250,147	\$ (13,037)	\$ 237,110

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**



## FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER FUND

St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements

June 30, 2024

### INTRODUCTION

The Fortieth Judicial District Public Defender Fund was established in compliance with Louisiana Revised Statutes 15:141-149 and modified by Act 307 implemented August 15, 2007. The purpose of the Public Defender Fund is to provide adequate legal representation of indigent persons charged with commission of criminal offenses and abuse or neglect of children. The Public Defender Fund encompasses the parish of St. John the Baptist, which is in the State of Louisiana. The Public Defender is composed of a District Public Defender who works under the supervision of the Louisiana Public Defender Office. The Louisiana Public Defender Board governs the Louisiana Public Defender Office and the Fortieth Judicial District Public Defender Office. Revenues to finance the Public Defender's operations are provided primarily from court costs imposed by the various courts within the District and State Revenues received through distributions from the Louisiana Public Defender Office.

### NOTE A – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### 1. Basis of Presentation

The accompanying basic financial statements of the Fortieth Judicial District Public Defender Fund have been prepared in conformity with governmental accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The accompanying basic financial statements have been prepared in conformity with GASB Statement 34, *Basic Financial Statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis -- for State and Local Governments*, issued in June 1999 and GASB Statement 63, *Financial Reporting of Deferred Outflows of Resources, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Net Position*, and GASB Statement 87, *Leases*.

#### 2. Reporting Entity

For the financial reporting purposes, in conformance with GASB Codification Section 2100, the Public Defender Office is part of the district court system of the State of Louisiana. However, the state statutes that created the districts also gave each of the District Defenders control over their own operations. This includes the hiring and retention of employees, authority over budgeting, responsibility for deficits, and the receipt and disbursement of funds. The

## FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER FUND

St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements

June 30, 2024

### NOTE A--SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

#### Reporting Entity (Continued)

Louisiana Public Defender Board is financially independent and operates autonomously from the State of Louisiana and is independent from the district court system. Therefore, the Public Defender Office reports as a reporting entity, not as a component unit and the general purpose financial statements include only the transactions of the Fortieth Judicial District Public Defender Fund.

#### 3. Fund Accounting

The District Public Defender Fund 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 Public Defender functions and activities. A fund is designed as a separate fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The fund of the Public Defender is classified as governmental.

#### **Governmental Funds**

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

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

**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER FUND**

St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements

June 30, 2024

NOTE A—SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

4. Measurement Focus/Basis of Accounting  
**Fund Financial Statements (FFS)**

The amounts reflected in the General Fund and Other Funds, of Statements A and B, are accounted for using a current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities are generally included on the balance sheet. The statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances 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 is then reconciled, through adjustment, to a government-wide view of the District Public Defender Fund's operations.

The amounts reflected in the General Fund and Other Funds, of Statements A and B, 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 Public Defender Fund considers all revenues available if they are collected within 60 days after the fiscal year end. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for interest and principal payments on general long-term debt which is recognized when due, and certain compensated absences and claims and judgments which are recognized when the obligations are expected to be liquidated with expendable available financial resources. The governmental funds use the following practices in recording revenues and expenditures:

Revenues:

All governmental funds are accounted for using the modified accrual basis of accounting. Their revenues are recognized when they become measurable and available as net current assets. All major revenues (court fines) are susceptible to accrual.

Expenditures:

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

**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER FUND**

St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements

June 30, 2024

NOTE A—SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

**Government-Wide Financial Statements (GWFS)**

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

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

**Reconciliation**

The reconciliation of the items reflected in the fund column to the and Statement of Net Position (Statement A) and Statement of Activities (Statement B) are as follows:

Fund Equity, Governmental Fund	\$250,147
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds.	
Property, Plant, & Equipment	6,643
Lease Right of Use Asset	100,140
Lease Liability	(104,435)
Accrued Compensated Absences	(15,385)
	-----
Net Position of Governmental Activities	\$237,110
	=====

**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER FUND**  
 St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana  
 Notes to the Financial Statements  
 June 30, 2024

NOTE A--SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Net Change in Fund Balance-Governmental Funds	\$ 68,474
<p>Governmental funds report capital outlay as expenditures. However, in the Statement of Activities, the cost of these assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation expense. In the current year:</p>	
Expenditures for Capital assets	\$3,081
Less current depreciation expense	(2,239) 842
Amortization of lease right of use that exceeded expenditures for lease payments	(3,901)
Accrued Compensated Absences	(15,385)
Change in Net position of governmental activities	----- \$ 50,030 =====

**New Accounting Standard**

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 87, Leases, and as required the Fortieth Judicial District Public Defender Fund has adopted it in the fiscal year. This Statement outlines a single model for lease accounting based on the foundational principle that leases are financing of the right to use an underlying asset. Under this Statement, a lessee is required to recognize a lease liability and an intangible right-to-use lease asset, and a lessor is required to recognize a lease receivable and a deferred inflow of resources, thereby enhancing the relevance and consistency of information about governments' leasing activities. The Fortieth Judicial Public Defender Fund has analyzed the provisions of GASB Statement No. 87, Leases, and has concluded that there are three leasing arrangements which qualify for disclosure under the new statement with the Fortieth Judicial District Public Defender Fund being the lessee.

5. Budgets and Budgetary Accounting

The Public Defender's office follows these procedures in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the financial statements:

**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER FUND**  
 St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana  
 Notes to the Financial Statements  
 June 30, 2024

**NOTE A—SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

1. In accordance with the Budget Act of the State of Louisiana, the Public Defender prepares an operating budget for the general fund at least fifteen days prior to the commencement of the budgetary year end. The operating budgets include proposed expenditures and the means of financing them for the upcoming year.
2. The budget is made available for public inspection for a fifteen-day period prior to a public hearing held to obtain taxpayer comment.
3. The budget for the General Fund is adopted on the cash basis of accounting.
4. The budget is adopted at the public hearing and is authorized for implementation on the first day of the fiscal year.
5. All annual appropriations lapse at year-end.

The following is a reconciliation of the excess of revenues over expenditures on Schedule 1 (budget comparison) with the excess of revenues over expenditures on Statement B for the General Fund:

	<u>General Fund</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of receipts over disbursements – Schedule 1	\$ 98,386
Add:	
+ Receivables at June 30, 2024	45,562
+ Liabilities at June 30, 2023	40,061
Less:	
- Receivables at June 30, 2023	(68,528)
- Liabilities at June 30, 2024	<u>(47,007)</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of revenues over expenditures – Statement B	\$ 68,474 =====

**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER FUND**  
 St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana  
 Notes to the Financial Statements  
 June 30, 2024

NOTE A—SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

6. Encumbrances

The Public Defender does not use encumbrance accounting.

7. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash includes amounts in demand deposits and time deposits. The Public Defender considers all highly liquid investments with a maturity of 90 days or less when purchased to be cash equivalents. Under state law, the Public Defender may deposit funds in demand deposit accounts, interest bearing demand deposit accounts, money market accounts, or time deposits with state banks organized under Louisiana law or any other state of the United States, or under the laws of the United States.

8. Court Cost Receivables

Receivables include amounts which were due to be received by June 30, 2024, but were not actually received until after June 30, 2024. Collection is assured for receivables for court costs and forfeitures and bail bond fees; these fees are recognized as revenue when earned.

9. Capital Assets

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 Public Defender maintains a threshold level of \$300 or more for capitalizing capital assets.

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

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Lives</u>
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	5 years

## FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER FUND

St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements

June 30, 2024

### NOTE A--SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

#### 10. Annual and Sick Leave

Vacation (annual) leave is accumulated by employees at a variable rate, which is predetermined by the Chief Public Defender and depends on the employee's years of service. The leave is accumulated on a monthly basis and is credited at the end of each month. Vacation and personal time have no cash value, may not be carried over to the next calendar year, and may not be redeemed for cash. Leave must be taken or lost. The Chief Defender may accrue 120 hours per year for a maximum of 480 hours. A long-term liability is set up on the financial statements to account for the amount due to the employee who have accumulated annual leave as of the end of the year.

There are no paid leave provisions for contractors who are denied pay when they miss scheduled court appearances for any reason, including handling a case in their private practice, illness, or vacation.

#### 11. Long-Term Liabilities

Long-Term Liabilities include obligations of capitalized leases.

#### 12. 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.

#### 13. Equity Classifications

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

- a. Invested in capital assets, net of related debt – 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 capital assets.



**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER FUND**

St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements

June 30, 2024

NOTE A—SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

13. Equity Classifications

- b. Restricted net position – Consists of assets reduced by liabilities and deferred inflows of resources related to those assets. Constraints may be placed on the 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 assets that do not meet the definition of “restricted” or “invested in capital assets, net of related debt,” or deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the government’s policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

In the fund financial statements, governmental fund equity is classified as fund balance. The Public Defender has adopted GASB Statement 54 for the year ended June 30, 2024. As such, fund balance of the governmental fund is classified as follows:

Non-spendable- represents amounts that are not expected to be converted to cash because they are either not in spendable form or legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

Restricted- represents balances where constraints have been established by parties outside the Public Defenders office or imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Committed- represents balances that can only be used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of the Public Defender.

Assigned- represents balances that are constrained by the Public Defender's intent to be used for specific purposes but are neither restricted nor committed.

Unassigned- represents balances for which there are no constraints.

**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER FUND**

St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements

June 30, 2024

**NOTE A--SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

When expenditures are incurred for the purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted amounts are available, the Public Defender reduces restricted amounts first, followed by unrestricted amounts. When expenditures are incurred for purposes for which committed, assigned and unassigned amounts are available, the Public Defender reduces committed amounts first, followed by assigned amounts and then unassigned amounts.

**NOTE B – CASH**

On June 30, 2024, the Public Defender Fund had cash (book balances) as follows:

	Current
	Unrestricted
Demand deposit	\$139,213
Time deposits	<u>120,000</u>
Total	<u>\$259,213</u>

These deposits are stated at cost, which approximates market. 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 always equal the amount on deposit with the fiscal agent. These securities are held in the name of the pledging fiscal agent bank in a holding or custodial bank that is mutually acceptable to both parties. On June 30, 2024, the district had \$264,704 in deposits (collected bank balances). These deposits were secured from risk by \$264,704 of federal deposit insurance.

**Custodial Credit Risk-**Is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the government's deposits may not be returned to it. The government does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk. As of June 30, 2024, none of the bank balance was exposed to custodial credit risk.

**Interest Rate Risk-**The Office 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.

**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER FUND**  
 St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana  
 Notes to the Financial Statements  
 June 30, 2024

**NOTE C – CAPITAL ASSETS**

Capital assets and depreciation activity as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, is as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Retirements	Ending Balance
<hr/>				
Governmental activities:				
Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment & Computers	\$19,859	\$3,081	\$(-0-)	\$22,940
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>14,058</u>	<u>2,239</u>	<u>(-0-)</u>	<u>16,297</u>
Total	5,801	842	-0-	6,643
Right of Use Asset	121,910	-0-	-0-	121,910
Less accumulated amortization	<u>4,354</u>	<u>17,416</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>21,770</u>
Total	117,556	(17,416)	-0-	100,140
Net Capital Assets	\$123,357	\$(16,574)	\$ -0-	\$106,783
	<hr/> <hr/>			

For the year ended June 30, 2024, depreciation expense was \$2,239 and amortization expense of \$17,416.

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

<u>Year Ending June 30,</u>	
2025	\$17,416
2026	17,416
2027	17,416
2028	17,416
2029	17,416
2030	<u>13,060</u>
Total	\$100,140

**NOTE D – ACCRUED ANNUAL LEAVE**

On June 30, 2024, employees of the District Public Defender have accumulated and vested amounts of employee annual leave benefits, which are computed in accordance

**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER FUND**

St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements

June 30, 2024

with GASB Codification Section C60. The amount is recorded in the statement of net position as a long-term liability, and the calculation is based on the number of hours each employee has earned and credited to their benefit times their individual hourly rate at the end of the year.

**NOTE E – PENSION PLAN**

The Fortieth Judicial District Public Defender Fund joined the Parochial Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana effective January 1, 2024. In accordance with the standards, a Pension Asset or Liability and inflows or outflows will be recorded on the financial statement for the fiscal year end June 30, 2025. The employer contributions for the period January 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024 is \$8,350.

Plan Description:

The Parochial Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana is the administrator of a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan. The System was established and provided by R.S. 11:1901 of the Louisiana Statute (LRS).

The System provides retirement benefits to employees of taxing districts of a parish or any branch or section of a parish within the state which does not have its own retirement system, and which elects to become members of the System.

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

**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER FUND**  
St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
June 30, 2024

Eligibility Requirements:

All permanent eligible government employees who work at least 28 hours a week shall become members on the date of employment. New employees meeting the age and Social Security criteria have up to 90 days from the date of hire to elect to participate.

Retirement Benefits:

Any member of Plan B can retire providing he/she meet one of the following criteria:

For employees hired prior to January 1, 2007:

1. Age 55 with thirty (30) years of creditable service.
2. Age 60 with a minimum of ten (10) years of creditable service.
3. Age 65 with a minimum of seven (7) years of creditable service.

For employees hired after January 1, 2007:

1. Age 55 with 30 years of service.
2. Age 62 with 10 years of service.
3. Age 67 with 7 years of service.

Generally, the monthly amount of the retirement allowance for any member of Plan B shall consist of an amount equal to 2% of the member's final average compensation multiplied by his years of creditable service. However, under certain conditions, as outlined in the statutes, the benefits are limited to specified amounts.

Survivor Benefits:

Plan B members need ten (10) years of service credit to be eligible for survivor benefits. Upon the death of any member of Plan B with twenty (20) or more years of creditable service who is not eligible for normal retirement, the plan provides for an automatic Option 2 benefit for the surviving spouse when he/she reaches age 50 and until remarriage, if the remarriage occurs before age 55.

A surviving spouse who is not eligible for Social Security survivorship or retirement benefits, and married not less than twelve (12) months immediately preceding death of the member shall be paid an Option 2 benefit beginning at age 50.

**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER FUND**

St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements

June 30, 2024

**NOTE F – OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

The Fortieth Judicial District Public Defender Fund does not provide any other post-employment benefits.

**NOTE G – LEASES AND COMMITMENTS**

The Public Defender Office leases office space and equipment. The various lease commitments are as follows.

1. On April 1, 2023, the Fortieth Judicial District Public Defender Office entered into a finance lease agreement for office space for 60 months in the amount of \$1,800 per month. In the current year, \$21,600 was paid in main office lease payments. The lease agreement provides for one renewal option for a 24-month period that the Office is reasonably certain to exercise. The monthly renewal amount is \$1,980 per month, an additional 10%.
2. On August 15, 2022, the Fortieth Judicial District Public Defender Office entered into a finance lease agreement for a copier on a month-to-month basis. In the current year, \$1,181 was paid in copier lease payments.
3. On February 23, 2024, the Fortieth Judicial District Public Defender Office entered into a finance lease agreement for storage space under a one-year lease. In the current year, \$2,090 was paid for file storage space.

The District recognizes a lease liability and an intangible right to use asset (lease asset) in the government-wide financial statements.

The following is a summary of lease liability transactions of the Public Defender Office for the year ended June 30, 2024

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance
Lease Liability	\$117,951	-0-	\$13,515	\$104,435

**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER FUND**

St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements

June 30, 2024

The Public Defender Office’s principal and interest requirements to maturity (Minimum lease payments) are as follows:

Fiscal Year	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total Payments</u>
2025	14,525	7,075	21,600
2026	15,611	5,989	21,600
2027	16,778	4,822	21,600
2028	18,575	3,565	22,140
2029	21,652	2,108	23,760
2030	17,294	526	17,820
	-----	-----	-----
Total	\$104,435	\$24,085	\$128,520

**NOTE H – LITIGATION AND CLAIMS**

The Public Defender is not involved in any litigation and is not aware of any claims outstanding that require disclosure in the accompanying financial statements.

**NOTE I– CONCENTRATIONS**

A large portion of the revenue earned by the district comes from the Parish of St John the Baptist in the form of bail bond fees, forfeitures, and court cost. The principal funding source consists of court cost by persons pleading guilty to misdemeanor and traffic offenses, which is an uncertain amount that fluctuates from month to month and is entirely unrelated to the Public Defender’s workload or expenses. External factors such as reduction in enforcement activities, convictions, and assessment of court cost could result in a reduction in revenue.

**NOTE J – ECONOMIC FACTORS**

The Public Defender is dependent on bail bond fees, forfeitures, and court cost collected in St. John the Baptist Parish for approximately 31 percent of its revenues. The principal funding source consist of payments of court cost by persons pleading guilty to misdemeanor and traffic offenses, which is an uncertain amount that fluctuates from month to month and is entirely unrelated to the district’s workload or expenses. External factors such as reduction in enforcement activities, convictions, assessment of court cost, and effective collection of the amounts assessed, all controlled by others who are the Public Defenders’ legal adversaries within the criminal justice system, could result in some unknown or unknowable reduction of the amount of projected revenues.

## **FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER FUND**

St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements

June 30, 2024

Two of the main reasons for the reduction in revenue is due to the Sheriff ceasing participation in the L.A.C.E. ticket writing program and the District Attorney's use of the pre-trial intervention and diversion programs. The principal funding source was curtailed by the sudden unilateral cessation by the local sheriff of his participation in the L.A.C.E. ticket-writing program, in July 2016, despite a 5-year agreement to participate. The resumption of ticket-writing occurred in fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

However, in fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the sheriff either ceased participation in the L.A.C.E. program or reduced participation drastically. COVID-19 contributed to less traffic and less ticket writing. The local District Attorney takes advantage of the authority to use the pre-trial intervention and diversion program to derive funding for that office, which reduces court costs allocated to the Indigent Defender Fund, and numerous other agencies that receive a portion of court costs collected, resulting in further unknown future revenue.

### **NOTE K – HEALTH CARE AND LIFE INSURANCE BENEFITS**

Beginning in January 2020, all employees of the 40<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Public Defender Office working 30 hours per week, or more were offered coverage on a Group Policy of Health Insurance. The district pays for 85% of the monthly premium for each employee only. Coverage for family members is not paid for by the district. The employee pays for the other 15% through a payroll deduction. There is a 90-day waiting period after commencing employment to be eligible for this benefit.

### **NOTE L – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the district's fiscal year 2024 and may continue to affect financial performance in the future. The financial impact and duration, however, cannot be reasonably estimated at this time.

Management has evaluated subsequent events through the date the financial statements were available to be issued, October 10, 2024, and determined that there were no additional subsequent events requiring disclosure. No events occurring after this date have been evaluated for inclusion in these financial statements.



**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER FUND**

St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements

June 30, 2024

**NOTE M – RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Public Defenders Office is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; thefts of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The Public Defenders Office has purchased commercial insurance to cover or reduce the risk of loss that might arise should one of these incidents occur. There have been no significant reductions in coverage from the prior year. No settlements were made during the year that exceeded the Public Defenders Office's coverage.

The management of the Public Defender Office has not purchased commercial insurance or made provisions to cover or reduce the risk of loss, as a result of business interruption and certain acts of God, like floods or earthquakes.

**NOTE N - 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	\$638,551	
Appropriations - special		
Other		
Total	<u>                    </u>	\$638,551

**Local Government**

Appropriations - general		
Statutory fines, forfeitures, fees, court costs, and other	\$304,684	
Taxes - millages, sales, special, and other		
Condition of Probation	<u>41,241</u>	
Total		\$345,925

**Charges for Services** \$8,704

**Investment earnings** \$105

Total Revenues \$ 993,285

**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER FUND**

St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements

June 30, 2024

Expenditures:

**Personnel Services and Benefits**

Salaries	\$298,414	
On-behalf payments - salaries		
Retirement contributions	8,350	
On-behalf payments - retirement		
Insurance	41,460	
On-behalf payments - insurance		
Payroll taxes	22,058	
Other		
Total		\$370,282

**Professional Development**

Dues, licenses, and registrations	2,010	
Travel	712	
Other		
Total		2,722

**Operating Costs**

Library and research	-	
Contract services - attorney/legal	423,722	
Contract services - other	54,340	
Lease - office	-	
Lease - autos and other	3,271	
Travel - transportation	4,950	
Travel - other	-	
Insurance	12,398	
Supplies	6,710	
Repairs and maintenance	3,600	
Utilities and telephone	6,556	
Other	19,664	
Total		535,211

**Debt Service**

\$13,515

**Capital outlay**

\$3,081

Total Expenditures

\$ 924,811

## **REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
PUBLIC DEFENDERS OFFICE  
St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana  
GOVERNMENTAL FUND - GENERAL FUND**

**Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures,  
and Changes in Fund Balance - Budget  
(Cash Basis) and Actual  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024**

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual Amounts</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Actual Amount</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Cash Basis</u>	<u>Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>	<u>GAAP Basis</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>					
Charges for services	\$ 9,454	\$ 8,249	\$ 8,584	\$ 335	\$ 8,704
Statutory fines, forfeitures, fees and court costs	310,491	302,891	307,829	4,938	304,684
Other charges	41,164	41,164	40,819	(345)	41,241
State revenue	577,383	710,259	658,913	(51,346)	638,551
Federal Grant	-	-	-	-	-
Investment earnings	163	135	105	(30)	105
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>938,655</b>	<b>1,062,698</b>	<b>1,016,250</b>	<b>(46,448)</b>	<b>993,285</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>					
Personal Services	315,073	299,075	298,501	574	298,414
Contract Services-Attorneys	344,500	416,776	416,956	(180)	423,722
Related Benefits	61,423	66,783	71,868	(5,085)	71,868
Travel and professional development	3,624	5,471	5,471	-	5,662
Contract Services-Other	50,500	54,340	51,007	3,333	54,340
Office Lease	21,600	21,600	21,600	-	-
Insurance	10,728	12,514	12,398	116	12,398
Operating Services	52,850	38,371	36,982	1,389	33,726
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
Amortization	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Outlay-Equipment	-	1,680	3,081	(1,401)	3,081
Capital Outlay-Right of Use Asset	-	-	-	-	-
Debt Service-Principal	-	-	-	-	13,515
Debt Service-Interest	-	-	-	-	8,085
<b>Total Expenditures/Expenses</b>	<b>860,298</b>	<b>916,610</b>	<b>917,864</b>	<b>(1,254)</b>	<b>924,811</b>
<b>EXCESS (Deficiency) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>78,357</b>	<b>146,088</b>	<b>98,386</b>	<b>(47,702)</b>	<b>68,474</b>
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (Uses)</b>					
Lease Financing	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total other financing sources (uses)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>EXCESS (Deficiency) OF REVENUES AND OTHER SOURCES OVER EXPENDITURES AND OTHER USES</b>	<b>78,357</b>	<b>146,088</b>	<b>98,386</b>	<b>(47,702)</b>	<b>68,474</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE (Deficit) AT BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>154,407</b>	<b>154,407</b>	<b>154,407</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>181,673</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE (Deficit) AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 232,764</b>	<b>\$ 300,495</b>	<b>\$ 252,793</b>	<b>\$ (47,702)</b>	<b>\$ 250,147</b>

Schedule 2

**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
PUBLIC DEFENDERS OFFICE  
St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana  
GOVERNMENTAL FUND - GENERAL 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: Fontella F. Baker, District Public Defender

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Salary	98,692.00
Benefits - Insurance	10,033.00
Benefits - Retirement	3,462.00
Benefits - Other	
Benefits - Payroll Taxes	7,352.00
Car Allowance	
Vehicle provided by government	
Per diem	
Dues	
Travel/Auto Mileage	2,700.00
Registration fees	
Conference travel	
Continuing professional education fees	
Housing	
Unvouchered expenses	
Special meals	

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE**  
**Justice System Funding Schedule - Receiving Entity**  
**As Required by Act 87 of the 2020 Regular Legislative Session**

Schedule 3

	<b>First Six Month Period Ended 12/31/23</b>	<b>Second Six Month Period Ended 06/30/24</b>
<b>Receipts From:</b>		
<i>St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff, Criminal Court Costs/Fees</i>	118,577	134,675
<i>St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff, Criminal Fines - Other</i>	25,195	26,237
<b>Subtotal Receipts</b>	<b>143,772</b>	<b>160,912</b>
<b>Ending Balance of Amounts Assessed but Not Received</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

**OTHER REPORT REQUIRED BY  
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

**KEITH M. RIVERE, CPA**

**75 Dominican Drive  
Suite 206  
LaPlace, LA 70068  
(985) 652-6029**

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

To the District Public Defender  
Fortieth Judicial District  
Public Defender Fund  
La Place, Louisiana

I have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of the Fortieth Judicial District Public Defender Fund which comprise the statement of net position as of June 30, 2024, and the related statement of activities for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued my report thereon dated October 10, 2024.

**Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing my audit of the financial statements, I considered the Fortieth Judicial District Public Defender Fund's internal control over financial reporting to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing my opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fortieth Judicial District Public Defender Fund's internal control. Accordingly, I do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fortieth Judicial District Public 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 that is more than inconsequential 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.



My consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during my audit I did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that I consider to be material weaknesses. I did identify certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses, identified as findings 24-1(IC) and 24-2(IC), that I consider to be significant deficiencies.

### **Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Fortieth Judicial District Public Defender Fund's financial statements are free of material misstatement, I 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 my audit and, accordingly, I do not express such an opinion. The results of my tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

### **Response to Findings**

The Fortieth Judicial District Public Defender Fund's response to the findings identified in my audit is described in the accompanying schedule of current and prior year audit findings and corrective action plan. The Fortieth Judicial District Public Defender Fund's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, I express no opinion on it.

### **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of report is solely to describe the scope of my 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.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Louisiana Legislative Auditor and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor as a public document.



Keith M. Rivere  
Certified Public Accountant  
October 10, 2024

**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
PUBLIC DEFENDERS OFFICE  
St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana**

Summary Schedule of Current and Prior Year Audit Findings and Responses  
For The Year Ended June 30, 2024

Ref. No	Fiscal Year Finding Initially Occurred	Description of findings	Corrective Action Taken	Responses	Name of Contact Person	Anticipated Completion Date
<b>Current Year (6/30/24)</b>						
<b>Internal Control</b>						
24-1(IC)	Unknown	Due to the small number of employees, the Organization did not have adequate segregation of functions within the accounting system	N/A	No response is considered necessary	Fontella Baker	N/A
24-2(IC)	2007	The Organization does not have a staff person who has the qualifications and training to apply generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) in recording the entity's financial transactions or preparing its financial statements, including the related notes	No	The Organization has evaluated the cost vs benefit of establishing internal controls over the preparation of financial statements in accordance with GAAP, and determined that it is in the best interest of the Organization to outsource this task to its independent auditor, and to carefully review the draft financial statements and notes prior to approving them and accepting responsibility for their contents and presentation.	Fontella Baker	N/A
<b>Prior Year (6/30/23)</b>						
<b>Internal Control</b>						
23-1(IC)	Unknown	Due to the small number of employees, the Organization did not have adequate segregation of functions within the accounting system	N/A	No response is considered necessary	Fontella Baker	N/A
23-2(IC)	2007	The Organization does not have a staff person who has the qualifications and training to apply generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) in recording the entity's financial transactions or preparing its financial statements, including the related notes	No	The Organization has evaluated the cost vs benefit of establishing internal controls over the preparation of financial statements in accordance with GAAP, and determined that it is in the best interest of the Organization to outsource this task to its independent auditor, and to carefully review the draft financial statements and notes prior to approving them and accepting responsibility for their contents and presentation.	Fontella Baker	N/A

## **AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES**

**KEITH M. RIVIERE, CPA**

**75 Dominican Drive  
Suite 206  
LaPlace, LA 70068  
(985) 652-6029**

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT  
ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

To the District Public Defender  
Fortieth Judicial District Public Defenders Office  
La Place, Louisiana 70068

I have performed the procedures described in Schedule 2, which were agreed to by the Fortieth Judicial District Public Defender and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor (LLA) on the control and compliance (C/C) areas identified in the LLA's Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures (SAUPs) for the fiscal period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. The Fortieth Judicial District Public Defender's management is responsible for those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs.

The District Public Defender 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 procedure performed are appropriate for its purposes. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of this report and may not meet the needs of all users of this report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

The procedures and associated findings are described in Schedule 2.

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

I am required to be independent of the District Public Defender and to meet my 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 results 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.



Keith M. Rivere  
Certified Public Accountant  
October 10, 2024

**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE**  
**Schedule of Procedures and Associated Findings of the**  
**Statewide Agreed-upon Procedures**  
**For the year ended June 30, 2024**

***Written Policies and Procedures***

---

1. Obtain and inspect the entity's written policies and procedures and observe whether they address each of the following categories and subcategories if applicable to public funds and the entity's operations:<sup>1</sup>

a) ***Budgeting***, including preparing, adopting, monitoring, and amending the budget.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

b) ***Purchasing***, including (1) how purchases are initiated; (2) how vendors are added to the vendor list; (3) the preparation and approval process of purchase requisitions and purchase orders; (4) controls to ensure compliance with the Public Bid Law; and (5) documentation required to be maintained for all bids and price quotes.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

c) ***Disbursements***, including processing, reviewing, and approving.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

d) ***Receipts/Collections***, including receiving, recording, and preparing deposits. Also, policies and procedures should include management's actions to determine the completeness of all collections for each type of revenue or agency fund additions (e.g., periodic confirmation with outside parties, reconciliation to utility billing after cutoff procedures, reconciliation of traffic ticket number sequences, agency fund forfeiture monies confirmation).

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE**  
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- e) *Payroll/Personnel*, including (1) payroll processing, (2) reviewing and approving time and attendance records, including leave and overtime worked, and (3) approval process for employee(s) rate of pay or approval and maintenance of pay rate schedules.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

- f) *Contracting*, including (1) types of services requiring written contracts, (2) standard terms and conditions, (3) legal review, (4) approval process, and (5) monitoring process.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

- g) *Credit Cards (and debit cards, fuel cards, P-Cards, if applicable)*, including (1) how cards are to be controlled, (2) allowable business uses, (3) documentation requirements, (4) required approvers of statements, and (5) monitoring card usage (e.g., determining the reasonableness of fuel card purchases).

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

- h) *Travel and Expense Reimbursement*, including (1) allowable expenses, (2) dollar thresholds by category of expense, (3) documentation requirements, and (4) required approvers.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

- i) *Ethics*<sup>2</sup>, including (1) the prohibitions as defined in Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 42:1111-1121, (2) actions to be taken if an ethics violation takes place, (3) system to monitor possible ethics violations, and (4) a requirement that documentation is maintained to demonstrate that all employees and officials were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE**  
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- j) *Debt Service*, including (1) debt issuance approval, (2) continuing disclosure/EMMA reporting requirements, (3) debt reserve requirements, and (4) debt service requirements.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

- k) *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.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

- l) *Sexual Harassment*, including R.S. 42:342-344 requirements for (1) agency responsibilities and prohibitions, (2) annual employee training, and (3) annual reporting.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

***Board or Finance Committee***

---

2. Obtain and inspect the board/finance committee minutes for the fiscal period, as well as the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or equivalent document in effect during the fiscal period, and:
- a) Observe that the board/finance committee met with a quorum at least monthly, or on a frequency in accordance with the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or other equivalent document.
  - b) For those entities reporting on the governmental accounting model, observe whether the minutes referenced or included monthly budget-to-actual comparisons on the general fund, quarterly budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on proprietary funds<sup>3</sup>, and semi-annual budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on all special revenue funds<sup>7</sup>.



**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE**  
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- c) For governmental entities, obtain the prior year audit report and observe the unassigned fund balance in the general fund. If the general fund had a negative ending unassigned fund balance in the prior year audit report, observe that the minutes for at least one meeting during the fiscal period referenced or included a formal plan to eliminate the negative unassigned fund balance in the general fund.
- d) Observe whether the board/finance committee received written updates of the progress of resolving audit findings, according to management's corrective action plan at each meeting until the findings are considered fully resolved.

**Results: Not applicable. As of August 2007, all public defender offices in Louisiana are offered oversight by a centralized Board located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; therefore, there are no minutes to review.**

***Bank Reconciliations***

---

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

- a) Bank reconciliations include evidence that they were prepared within 2 months of the related statement closing date (e.g., initialed and dated or electronically logged);

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

- b) 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

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

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- c) Management has documentation reflecting it has researched reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than 12 months from the statement closing date, if applicable.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

***Collections (excluding electronic funds transfers)***

---

4. Obtain a listing of deposit sites<sup>5</sup> for the fiscal period where deposits for cash/checks/money orders (cash) are prepared and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 deposit sites (or all deposit sites if less than

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

5. For each deposit site selected, obtain a listing of collection locations<sup>6</sup> 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:

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

- a) Employees responsible for cash collections do not share cash drawers/registers.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

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- b) Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not responsible for preparing/making bank deposits, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling collection documentation (e.g., pre-numbered receipts) to the deposit.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

- c) Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not responsible for posting collection entries to the general ledger or subsidiary ledgers, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling ledger postings to each other and to the deposit.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

- d) The employee(s) responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general ledger and/or subsidiary ledgers, by revenue source and/or agency fund additions, are not responsible for collecting cash, unless another employee/official verifies the reconciliation.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

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

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

7. Randomly select two deposit dates for each of the 5 bank accounts selected for procedure #3 under "Bank Reconciliations" above (select the next deposit date chronologically if no deposits were made on the dates randomly selected and randomly select a deposit if multiple deposits are made on the same day). *Alternately, the practitioner may use a source document other than bank statements when selecting the deposit dates for testing, such as a cash collection log, daily revenue report, receipt book, etc.* Obtain supporting documentation for each of the 10 deposits and: Chose a sample size of 10 since only one bank account. Obtain supporting documentation for each of the 10 deposits and:

**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE**

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- a) Observe that receipts are sequentially pre-numbered.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

- b) Trace sequentially pre-numbered receipts, system reports, and other related collection documentation to the deposit slip.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

- c) Trace the deposit slip total to the actual deposit per the bank statement.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

- d) Observe 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).

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

- e) Trace the actual deposit per the bank statement to the general ledger.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE**

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

---

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

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

9. For each location selected under #8 above, obtain a listing of those employees involved with non-payroll purchasing and payment functions. Obtain written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if the agency has no written policies and procedures, inquire of employees about their job duties), and observe that job duties are properly segregated such that:

- a) At least two employees are involved in initiating a purchase request, approving a purchase, and placing an order/making the purchase.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

- b) At least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

- c) The employee responsible for processing payments is prohibited from adding/modifying vendor files unless another employee is responsible for periodically reviewing changes to vendor files.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE**

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- d) Either the employee/official responsible for signing checks mails the payment or gives the signed checks to an employee to mail who is not responsible for processing payments.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

- e) Only employees/officials authorized to sign checks approve the electronic disbursement (release) of funds, whether through automated clearinghouse (ACH), electronic funds transfer (EFT), wire transfer, or some other electronic means.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

10. For each location selected under #8 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:

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

- a) Observe whether the disbursement matched the related original itemized invoice and supporting documentation indicates deliverables included on the invoice were received by the entity.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

- b) Observe whether the disbursement documentation included evidence (e.g., initial/date, electronic logging) of segregation of duties tested under #9, as applicable.

**Results: Exception noted. Due to the small number of employees, the district does not have adequate segregation of functions within the accounting system.**

**Management's Response: It is not cost effective to have adequate segregation of duties. In addition, the District Public Defender approves all disbursements.**

**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE**

**Schedule of Procedures and Associated Findings of the**

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**For the year ended June 30, 2024**

***Credit Cards/Debit Cards/Fuel Cards/P-Cards***

---

11. Obtain from management a listing of all active credit cards, bank debit cards, fuel cards, and P-cards (cards) for the fiscal period, including the card numbers and the names of the persons who maintained possession of the cards<sup>7</sup>. Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

12. Using the listing prepared by management, randomly select 5 cards (or all cards if less than 5) that were used during the fiscal period. Randomly select one monthly statement or combined statement for each card (for a debit card, randomly select one monthly bank statement). obtain supporting documentation, and:

- a) Observe whether 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) were reviewed and approved, in writing (or electronically approved), by someone other than the authorized card holder. [Note: Requiring such approval may constrain the legal authority of certain public officials (e.g., mayor of a Lawrason Act municipality); these instances should not be reported.]

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

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

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE**

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**For the year ended June 30, 2024**

13. Using the monthly statements or combined statements selected under #12 above, excluding fuel cards, randomly select 10 transactions (or all transactions if less than 10) from each statement, and obtain supporting documentation for the transactions (i.e., each card should have 10 transactions subject to testing)<sup>8</sup>. For each transaction, observe 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 note whether management had a compensating control to address missing receipts, such as a “missing receipt statement” that is subject to increased scrutiny.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

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

---

14. 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:

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

- a) If reimbursed using a per diem, observe the approved reimbursement rate is no more than those rates established either by the State of Louisiana or the U.S. General Services Administration ([www.gsa.gov](http://www.gsa.gov)).

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

- b) If reimbursed using actual costs, observe the reimbursement is supported by an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**



**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE**

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- c) Observe 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.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

- d) Observe each reimbursement was reviewed and approved, in writing, by someone other than the person receiving reimbursement.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

***Contracts***

---

15. Obtain from management a listing of all agreements/contracts for professional services, materials and supplies, leases, and construction activities that were initiated or renewed during the fiscal period. *Alternately, the practitioner may use an equivalent selection source, such as an active vendor list.* Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 contracts (or all contracts if less than 5) from the listing, excluding the practitioner's contract, and:

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

- a) Observe whether the contract was bid in accordance with the Louisiana Public Bid Law<sup>9</sup> (e.g., solicited quotes or bids, advertised), if required by law.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

- b) Observe whether the contract was approved by the governing body/board, if required by policy or law (e.g., Lawrason Act, Home Rule Charter).

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE**

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- c) If the contract was amended (e.g., change order), observe the original contract terms provided for such an amendment and that amendments were made in compliance with the contract terms (e.g., if approval is required for any amendment, was approval documented).

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

- d) Randomly select one payment from the fiscal period for each of the 5 contracts, obtain the supporting invoice, agree the invoice to the contract terms, and observe the invoice and related payment agreed to the terms and conditions of the contract.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

***Payroll and Personnel***

---

16. Obtain a listing of employees and officials<sup>10</sup> employed during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 employees or officials, obtain related paid salaries and personnel files, and agree paid salaries to authorized salaries/pay rates in the personnel files.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

17. Randomly select one pay period during the fiscal period. For the 5 employees or officials selected under #16 above, obtain attendance records and leave documentation for the pay period, and:

**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE**

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- a) Observe all selected employees or officials<sup>11</sup> documented their daily attendance and leave (e.g., vacation, sick, compensatory). (Note: Generally, officials are not eligible to earn leave and do not document their attendance and leave. However, if the official is earning leave according to a policy and/or contract, the official should document his/her daily attendance and leave.)

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

- b) Observe whether supervisors approved the attendance and leave of the selected employees or officials.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

- c) Observe any leave accrued or taken during the pay period is reflected in the entity's cumulative leave records.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

- d) Observe the rate paid to the employees or officials agree to the authorized salary/pay rate found within the personnel file.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE**

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18. Obtain a listing of those employees or officials that received termination payments during the fiscal period and management's representation that the list is complete. Randomly select two employees or officials, 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 or officials' cumulative leave records, agree the pay rates to the employee or officials' authorized pay rates in the employee or officials' personnel files, and agree the termination payment to entity policy.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

19. Obtain management's representation that employer and employee portions of third-party payroll related amounts (e.g., payroll taxes, retirement contributions, health insurance premiums, garnishments, workers' compensation premiums, etc.) have been paid, and any associated forms have been filed, by required deadlines.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

***Ethics***

---

20. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from procedure #16 under "Payroll and Personnel" above, obtain ethics documentation from management, and:
- a. Observe whether the documentation demonstrates each employee/official completed one hour of ethics training during the fiscal period.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

- b. Observe whether the entity maintains documentation which demonstrates each employee and official were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy during the fiscal period, as applicable.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

**FORTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE**

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

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

***Debt Service***

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22. Obtain a listing of bonds/notes and other debt instruments issued during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all debt instruments on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe State Bond Commission approval was obtained for each debt instrument issued.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

23. 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).

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

***Fraud Notice***

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24. 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.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

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25. Observe the entity has posted, on its premises<sup>12</sup> and website, the notice required by R.S. 24:523.1 concerning the reporting of misappropriation, fraud, waste, or abuse of public funds.<sup>13</sup>

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

***Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity***

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26. Perform the following procedures, **verbally discuss the results with management, and report “We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.”**

- a) Obtain and inspect the entity’s most recent documentation that it has backed up its critical data (if no written documentation, inquire of personnel responsible for backing up critical data) and observe that such backup occurred within the past week. If backups are stored on a physical medium (e.g., tapes, CDs), observe evidence that backups are encrypted before being transported.

**Result: I performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.**

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

**Results: I performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.**

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

**Results: I performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.**

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- d) Observe evidence that the agency's backup of critical data was not stored on the local server or network.

**Results: I performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.**

- e) Randomly select 5 terminated employees (or all terminated employees if less than 5) using the list of terminated employees obtained in procedure 18. Observe evidence that the selected terminated employees have been removed or disabled from the network.

**Results: I performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.**

- f) Observe evidence that employees with access to the agency's information technology assets have received cybersecurity training as required by R.S. 42:1267.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

***Sexual Harassment***

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27. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from procedure #16 under "Payroll and Personnel" above, obtain sexual harassment training documentation from management, and observe the documentation demonstrates each employee/official completed at least one hour of sexual harassment training during the calendar year.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

28. Observe the entity has posted its sexual harassment policy and complaint procedure on its website (or in a conspicuous location on the entity's premises if the entity does not have a website).

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

29. Obtain the entity's annual sexual harassment report for the current fiscal period, observe that the report was dated on or before February 1, and observe it includes the applicable requirements of R.S. 42:344:

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

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

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

2. Number of sexual harassment complaints received by the agency.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

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

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

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

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**

5. The amount of time it took to resolve each complaint.

**Results: No exceptions were found as a result of applying the above procedure.**