

**36<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
PUBLIC DEFENDERS' OFFICE**

Financial Report

Year Ended June 30, 2024

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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Victor R. Slaven, CPA\* - retired 2020  
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Mr. Tony C. Tillman, District Public Defender of the  
36<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Public Defenders' Office  
Deridder, Louisiana

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

#### *Opinions*

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of the 36<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Public Defenders' Office (District) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and the major fund of the District as of June 30, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### *Basis for Opinions*

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the District and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

#### *Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements*

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

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

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

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

### ***Required Supplementary Information***

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the budgetary comparison information on pages 23 – 24 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

The District has omitted the management’s discussion and analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

***Supplementary Information***

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the District’s basic financial statements. The accompanying judicial system funding schedule is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from the relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the judicial system funding schedule is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

***Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated August 9, 2024, on our consideration of the District’s internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the District’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 District’s internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

***Kolder, Slaven & Company, LLC***  
Certified Public Accountants

Ville Platte, Louisiana  
August 9, 2024

## **BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**GOVERNMENT-WIDE  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (GWFS)**

36TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDERS' OFFICE  
Parish of Beauregard

Statement of Net Position  
June 30, 2024

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current assets:	
Cash and interest-bearing deposits	\$ 139,290
Due from other governments	<u>2,073</u>
Total current assets	141,363
Noncurrent assets:	
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	<u>130,745</u>
Total assets	<u>272,108</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Liabilities:	
Accounts payable	43,488
Accrued expenses	<u>19,420</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>62,908</u>
<b>NET POSITION</b>	
Net investment in capital assets	130,745
Unrestricted	<u>78,455</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ 209,200</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.



36TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDERS' OFFICE  
Parish of Beauregard

Statement of Activities  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

Activities	Expenses	Program Revenues		Governmental Activities Net (Expense) Revenue and Change in Net Position
		Charges for Services and Fines	Operating Grants and Contributions	
Governmental activities:				
General government	<u>\$ 568,751</u>	<u>\$ 77,885</u>	<u>\$ 463,085</u>	\$ (27,781)
General revenues:				
Interest and investment earnings				127
Miscellaneous				<u>810</u>
Total general revenues				<u>937</u>
Change in net position				(26,844)
Net position - beginning				<u>236,044</u>
Net position - ending				<u>\$ 209,200</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

**FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

36TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDERS' OFFICE  
Parish of Beauregard

Balance Sheet  
Governmental Fund  
June 30, 2024

	<u>General Fund</u>
ASSETS	
Cash and interest-bearing deposits	\$ 139,290
Due from other governments	<u>2,073</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 141,363</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	
Liabilities:	
Accounts payable	\$ 43,488
Accrued expenses	<u>19,420</u>
Total liabilities	62,908
Fund balance:	
Unassigned	<u>78,455</u>
Total liabilities and fund balance	<u>\$ 141,363</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

36TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDERS' OFFICE  
Parish of Beauregard

Reconciliation of the Governmental Fund Balance Sheet  
to the Statement of Net Position  
June 30, 2024

Total fund balances for governmental funds at June 30, 2024		\$ 78,455
Total net position reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position is different because:		
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds. Those assets consist of:		
Land	\$ 11,000	
Building and improvements, net of \$10,167 accumulated depreciation	111,833	
Furniture and fixtures, net of \$18,347 accumulated depreciation	<u>7,912</u>	<u>130,745</u>
Total net position at June 30, 2024		<u>\$ 209,200</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

36TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDERS' OFFICE  
Parish of Beauregard

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance-  
Governmental Fund  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

	<u>General Fund</u>
Revenues:	
Intergovernmental revenues -	
Court cost and bond forfeitures	\$ 196,434
District assistance fund - Louisiana IDAB	266,651
Charges for service -	
Partially indigent and application fees	77,885
Investment earnings	127
Other	<u>810</u>
Total revenues	<u>541,907</u>
Expenditures:	
Current -	
General government:	
Indigent defense -	
Operations	<u>563,171</u>
Net change in fund balance	(21,264)
Fund balance, beginning	<u>99,719</u>
Fund balance, ending	<u>\$ 78,455</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

36TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDERS' OFFICE  
Parish of Beauregard

Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and  
Changes in Fund Balance of the Governmental Fund  
to the Statement of Activities  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

Total net change in fund balance for the year ended June 30, 2024 per the statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balance	\$ (21,264)
The change in net position reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities is different because:	
Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense.	
Depreciation expense for the year ended June 30, 2024	<u>(5,580)</u>
Total change in net position for year ended June 30, 2024 per the statement of activities	<u><u>\$ (26,844)</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

36<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDERS' OFFICE  
Parish of Beauregard

Notes to Basic Financial Statements

INTRODUCTION

The 36<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Public Defenders' Office (District) provides criminal defense to indigent persons in Louisiana's 36<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (Beauregard Parish). The function is accomplished by maintaining an administrative staff and contracting for legal and other defense experts.

The accounting and reporting policies of the District conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as applied to governmental units. Such accounting and reporting procedures also conform to the requirements of the industry guide, *Audits of State and Local Governmental Units*.

(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Financial Reporting Entity

The District is part of the operations of the Louisiana Public Defender Board. House Bill No. 436, Act No. 307 of the 2007 regular legislative session enacted the Louisiana Public Defender Act, effective August 15, 2007, creating the Louisiana Public Defender Board with oversight responsibilities of service regions and individual district public defender offices. The Louisiana Public Defender Board, which is established as a state agency, provides for the supervision, administration, and delivery of a statewide public defender system that is independent of local politics. Service regions are created to help provide supervision over district offices. The Louisiana Public Defender Board has the power to provide for the powers and duties of district public defenders and for the filling of vacancies.

The accompanying financial statements present information only on the Offices maintained by the 36<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Public Defenders' Office.

B. Basis of Presentation

The accompanying basic financial statements of the District 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.

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements provide operational accountability information for the District as an economic unit. The government-wide financial statements report the District's ability to maintain service levels and continue to meet its obligations as they come due. The statements include all governmental activities of the District. Fiduciary funds are omitted from the government-wide financial statements. The District has no fiduciary funds.

36<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDERS' OFFICE  
Parish of Beauregard

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

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

Fund Financial Statements

The accounts of the District are organized on the basis of funds, each of which is considered to be an independent fiscal and accounting entity. The operations of each fund are accounted for within separate sets of self-balancing accounts, which comprise its assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, fund balance/net position, revenues, expenditures/expenses, and transfers. The minimum number of funds is maintained consistent with legal and managerial requirements. Fund financial statements report detailed information about the District. The various funds of the District are classified as governmental funds. The emphasis on fund financial statements is on major funds, each displayed in a separate column.

The General Fund is always a major governmental fund. Other individual governmental and enterprise major funds are determined as funds whose revenues, expenditures/expenses, assets and deferred outflows of resources or liabilities and deferred inflows of resources are at least ten percent of the corresponding totals for all funds of that category or type (total governmental or total enterprise funds) and at least five percent of the corresponding total for all governmental and enterprise funds combined for funds designated as major at the discretion of the District. Funds not classified as a major fund are aggregated and presented in a single column in the fund financial statements. The District maintains one fund, which is categorized as a governmental fund. The fund used by the District is described below.

Governmental Fund –

Governmental funds are those through which most governmental functions are financed. The acquisition, use, and balance of the District's expendable financial resources and related liabilities are accounted for through governmental funds.

General Fund

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



36<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDERS' OFFICE  
Parish of Beauregard

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

C. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting, and Financial Statement Presentation

The measurement focus determines the accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund. The governmental activities within the government-wide statement of net position and statement of activities are presented using the economic resources measurement focus. The economic resources measurement focus meets the accounting objectives of determining net income, net position, and cash flows.

The fund financial statements use either the current financial resources measurement focus or the economic resources measurement focus as appropriate. Governmental funds use the current financial resources measurement focus. This measurement focus is based upon the receipt and disbursement of current available financial resources rather than upon net income.

The accrual basis of accounting is used throughout the government-wide financial statements; conversely, the financial statements of the General Fund have been prepared in accordance with the modified accrual basis of accounting, whereby revenues are recognized when considered both measurable and available to finance expenditures of the current period. For this purpose, the District considers revenues to be available if they are collected within sixty (60) days of the end of the current fiscal period. The District accrues court costs, bond forfeitures, fees from indigents, and intergovernmental revenues based upon this concept. Interest on invested funds is recognized when earned. Intergovernmental revenues that are reimbursement for specific purposes or projects are recognized in the period in which the expenditures are recorded. All other revenue items are considered to be measurable and available only when the cash is received by the District.

Expenditures are generally recognized when the related fund liabilities are incurred and become payable in the current period. Proceeds of debt are reported as other financing sources, and principal and interest on long-term debt, as well as expenditures related to compensated absences, are recorded as expenditures when paid.

D. Assets, Deferred Outflows, Liabilities, Deferred Inflows, and Equity

Cash and interest-bearing deposits

Cash and interest-bearing deposits include amounts held in demand deposit accounts, interest-bearing demand deposits, and time deposits. They are stated at cost, which approximates market.

Receivables/Due from Other Governments

In the government-wide statements, receivables, including amounts due from other governments, consist of all revenues earned at year-end and not yet received.

36<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDERS' OFFICE  
Parish of Beauregard

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

Capital Assets

Capital assets are reported in the governmental activities column in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are capitalized at historical cost or estimated cost if historical cost is not available. Donated capital assets are recorded at acquisition value at the time of donation. The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend asset lives are not capitalized. The District maintains a threshold level of \$1,000 or more for capitalizing capital assets.

Depreciation of all exhaustible capital assets is recorded as an expense in the statement of activities, with accumulated depreciation reflected in the statement of net position. Depreciation is provided over the assets' estimated useful lives using the straight-line method of depreciation. The range of estimated useful lives by type of asset is as follows:

Building and improvements	20 - 40 years
Furniture and fixtures	5 - 10 years

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.

Compensated Absences

Employees of the District earn from 5 to 25 days of vacation leave each year, depending on their length of service. In addition, employees earn 5 to 30 days of personal leave each year depending on their length of service. Only qualified retiring employees, with a minimum of 20 years of service at any age or 10 years of service at age 65, may be paid a maximum of 25 accrued vacation days and 25 personal leave days at the employee's current rate of pay. At June 30, 2024, the District has no leave benefits required to be reported in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources

In some instances, the GASB requires a government to delay recognition of decreases in net position as expenditures until a future period. In other instances, governments are required to delay recognition of increases in net position as revenues until a future period. In these circumstances, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources result from the delayed recognition of expenditures or revenues, respectively. There are no deferred inflows or outflows of resources as of June 30, 2024.

36<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDERS' OFFICE  
Parish of Beauregard

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

Equity Classifications

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

- a. Net investment in capital assets consists of capital assets net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes, or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets.
- b. Restricted net position consists of net position with constraints placed on the use either by external groups, such as grantors, creditors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. It is the District's policy to use restricted net position prior to the use of unrestricted net position when both restricted and unrestricted net position are available for an expense which has been incurred.
- c. Unrestricted net position consists of all other assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources that do not meet the definition of "restricted" or "net investment in capital assets."

In the fund financial statements, governmental fund equity is classified as fund balance. Fund balances for governmental funds are reported in classifications that comprise a hierarchy based primarily upon the extent to which the District is bound to honor constraints on the specific purposes for which amounts in those funds can be spent. The categories and their purposes are:

- a. Nonspendable includes fund balance amounts that cannot be spent either because they are not in spendable form or because of legal or contractual constraints requiring they remain intact.
- b. Restricted includes fund balance amounts that are constrained for specific purposes which are externally imposed by providers, such as grantors, donors, creditors, or amounts constrained due to constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
- c. Committed includes fund balance amounts that are constrained for specific purposes that are internally imposed by the District through formal action and does not lapse at year end. A committed fund balance constraint can only be established, modified, or rescinded by formal decision by the District Defender
- d. Assigned includes fund balance amounts that are constrained by the District's intent to be used for specific purposes, that are neither restricted nor committed. The assignment of fund balance is authorized by a directive from the District's Defender and approved by the District Defender.

36<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDERS' OFFICE  
Parish of Beauregard

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

- e. Unassigned includes fund balance amounts which have not been classified within the above-mentioned categories.

It is the District's policy to use restricted amounts first when both restricted and unrestricted fund balance is available unless prohibited by legal or contractual provisions. Additionally, the District uses committed, assigned, and lastly unassigned amounts of fund balance in that order when expenditures are made.

E. Revenues, Expenditures/Expenses

Revenues

The District considers revenue to be susceptible to accrual in the governmental funds as it becomes measurable and available, as defined under the modified accrual basis of accounting. The District generally defines the availability period for revenue recognition as received within the reporting period or within sixty (60) days after year end. The District's major revenue sources that meet this availability criterion are court costs, bond forfeitures, intergovernmental revenues, and charges for services.

There are three classifications of programmatic revenues for the District, program specific grant and contributions revenue (operating and capital) and charges for services. Grant revenues are revenues from federal, state, and private grants. These revenues are recognized when all applicable eligibility requirements are met and are reported as intergovernmental revenues. The primary sources of charges for services are application fees and fees paid by partially indigent offenders. In the government-wide statement of activities interest income and other miscellaneous receipts are reported as general revenues because the District has discretion in the application of these funds to various programs/functions administered by the District.

Expenditures/Expenses

In the government-wide financial statements, expenses are classified by character and function. In the fund financial statements, expenditures are classified by character.

F. 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.

36<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDERS' OFFICE  
Parish of Beauregard

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

(2) Cash and Interest-Bearing Deposits

Under state law, the District may deposit funds within a fiscal agent bank organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana, the laws of any other state in the Union, or the laws of the United States. The District may invest in certificates and time deposits of state banks organized under Louisiana law and national banks having principal offices in Louisiana. At June 30, 2024, the District has interest-bearing deposits (book balances) totaling \$139,290.

Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, the District's deposits may not be recovered, or the District will not be able to recover the collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. 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 at all times equal the amount on deposit with the fiscal agent bank. These securities are held in the name of the pledging fiscal agent bank by a holding or custodial bank that is mutually acceptable to both parties.

As of June 30, 2024, the District's bank balances totaling \$174,235 were fully insured by federal deposit insurance and, therefore, not exposed to custodial credit risk. The District does not have a policy for custodial credit risk.

(3) Due From Other Governments

At June 30, 2024, the amounts due from other governmental agencies consisted of Court costs and fees totaling \$2,073.

(4) Capital Assets

Capital asset activity for the year ended June 30, 2024 was as follows:

	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deletions</u>	<u>Ending</u>
Governmental activities:				
Land	\$ 11,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,000
Building and improvements	122,000	-	-	122,000
Furniture and fixtures	<u>26,259</u>	-	-	<u>26,259</u>
Total	<u>159,259</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>159,259</u>
Less: accumulated depreciation				
Building and improvements	7,117	3,050	-	10,167
Furniture and fixtures	<u>15,817</u>	<u>2,530</u>	-	<u>18,347</u>
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>22,934</u>	<u>5,580</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>28,514</u>
Governmental activities capital assets, net	<u>\$136,325</u>	<u>\$ (5,580)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$130,745</u>

Depreciation expense in the amount of \$5,580 was charged to general government.

36<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDERS' OFFICE  
Parish of Beauregard

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

(5) Governmental Office 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 -	
Grants	\$ 266,651
Local Government -	
Statutory fines, forfeitures, fees, court costs, and other	196,434
Charges for Services	77,885
Investment earnings	127
Other	<u>810</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 541,907</u>

Expenditures:

Personnel Services and Benefits -	
Salaries	\$ 167,090
Payroll taxes	<u>14,619</u>
Total	<u>181,709</u>
Operating Costs -	
Library and research	4,715
Contract services - attorney/legal	304,013
Contract services - other	15,895
Travel - other	1,349
Insurance	25,186
Supplies	13,579
Repairs and maintenance	12,156
Utilities and telephone	4,139
Other	<u>430</u>
Total	<u>381,462</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 563,171</u>

(6) Risk Management

The District is exposed to risks of loss in the areas of general liability, malpractice, property hazards and workers' compensation. All of these risks are handled by purchasing commercial insurance coverage. There have been no significant reductions in the insurance coverage during the year, nor have settlements exceeded coverage for the past three years.

36<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDERS' OFFICE  
Parish of Beauregard

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

(7) Schedule of Compensation, Benefits and Other Payments to Agency Head

The schedule of compensation, benefits and other payments to the District Defender, for the year ended June 30, 2024 follows:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Salary	\$ 59,611
Travel	268
	<u>\$ 59,879</u>

(8) New Accounting Pronouncements

The following accounting standard adopted by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, scheduled to be implemented in the future,<sup>21</sup> may affect the District's financial statements:

GASB Statement 101, *Compensated Absences*. This standard updates the recognition and measurement guidance for compensated absences by aligning the guidance under a unified model and by amending certain disclosures. This standard is effective for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2023. The District will include the requirements of this standard, as applicable, in its June 30, 2025, financial statements. The effect of this standard or its applicability to the District are unknown at this time.

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**



36TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDERS' OFFICE  
 Parish of Beauregard  
 General Fund

Budgetary Comparison Schedule  
 For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

	2024			Variance - Positive (Negative)
	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	
Revenues:				
Intergovernmental revenues -				
Court cost and bond forfeitures	\$ 230,050	\$ 230,250	\$ 196,434	\$ (33,816)
District assistance fund - Louisiana IDAB	235,685	235,685	266,651	30,966
Charges for service -				
Partially indigent and application fees	50,000	82,000	77,885	(4,115)
Investment earnings	300	130	127	(3)
Other	-	-	810	810
Total revenues	<u>516,035</u>	<u>548,065</u>	<u>541,907</u>	<u>(6,158)</u>
Expenditures:				
Current -				
General government:				
Indigent defense -				
Operations	<u>523,290</u>	<u>576,490</u>	<u>563,171</u>	<u>13,319</u>
Net change in fund balance	(7,255)	(28,425)	(21,264)	(19,477)
Fund balance, beginning	<u>99,719</u>	<u>99,719</u>	<u>99,719</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund balance, ending	<u>\$ 92,464</u>	<u>\$ 71,294</u>	<u>\$ 78,455</u>	<u>\$ (19,477)</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

36<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDERS' OFFICE  
Parish of Beauregard

Notes to Required Supplementary Information

(1) Budget and Budgetary Accounting

The District follows these procedures in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the financial statements:

1. In accordance with the Budget Act of the State of Louisiana, the District 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. A summary of the proposed budget is published, and the public notified that the proposed budget is available for public inspection. At the same time, a public hearing is called.
3. A public hearing is held on the proposed budget at least ten days after publication of the call for the hearing.
4. After the holding of the public hearing and completion of all action necessary to finalize and implement the budget, the budget is legally adopted prior to the commencement of the fiscal year for which the budget is being adopted.
5. All budgetary appropriations lapse at the end of each fiscal year.
6. The budget is adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Budgeted amounts are as originally adopted or as finally amended by the District. Such amendments were not material in relation to the original appropriations.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

36TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDERS' OFFICE

Justice System Funding Schedule - Receiving Entity  
 As Required by Act 87 of the 2020 Regular Legislative Session  
 Cash Basis Presentation  
 For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

	First Six Month Period Ended <u>December 31, 2023</u>	Second Six Month Period Ended <u>June 30, 2024</u>
Receipts from:		
Beauregard Parish Sheriff, Bond Fees	\$ 12,063	\$ 9,817
Beauregard Parish Sheriff, Criminal Court Costs/Fees	100,481	93,064
Restitution	<u>21,244</u>	<u>45,991</u>
 Total	 <u>\$ 133,788</u>	 <u>\$ 148,872</u>
 Ending Balance of Amounts Assessed but not Received	 <u>\$ -</u>	 <u>\$ -</u>

**INTERNAL CONTROL, COMPLIANCE  
AND  
OTHER MATTERS**

# KOLDER, SLAVEN & COMPANY, LLC

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## 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*

Mr. Tony C. Tillman, District Public Defender of the  
36<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Public Defenders' Office  
Deridder, Louisiana

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of the 36<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Public Defenders' Office (District) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated August 9, 2024.

### Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

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

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We identified a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of current and prior year findings and management's corrective action plan as item 2024-001 that we consider to be a material weakness.

## **Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

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

## **The District's Response to Findings**

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

## **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the 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. Although the intended use of this report may be limited, under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the Legislative Auditor as a public document.

***Kolder, Slaven & Company, LLC***  
Certified Public Accountants

Ville Platte, Louisiana  
August 9, 2024

36<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDERS' OFFICE  
Parish of Beauregard

Schedule of Current and Prior Year Audit Findings  
and Management's Corrective Action Plan  
Year Ended June 30, 2024

Part I: Current Year Findings and Management's Corrective Action Plan

A. Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

2024-001 Inadequate Segregation of Accounting Functions

Fiscal year finding initially occurred: Unknown

CONDITION: The District did not have adequate segregation of functions within the accounting system.

CRITERIA: AU-C§315.04, *Understanding the Entity and its Environment and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement*, defines internal control as follows:

“Internal control is a process, affected by those charged with governance, management, and other personnel, designed to provide reasonable assurance about the achievement of objectives with regard to reliability of financial reporting, effectiveness and efficiency of operations, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.”

CAUSE: The cause of the condition is the fact that the District does not have a sufficient number of individuals performing administrative and financial duties so as to provide adequate segregation of accounting and financial duties.

EFFECT: Failure to adequately segregate accounting and financial functions increases the risk that errors and/or irregularities including fraud and/or defalcations may occur and not be prevented and/or detected.

RECOMMENDATION: Management should evaluate the cost vs. benefit of complete segregation and whenever possible, reassign incompatible duties among different employees to ensure that a single employee does not have a control of more than one of the following responsibilities: (1) authorization; (2) custody; (3) recording keeping; and (4) reconciliation.

MANAGEMENT'S CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN: The District has determined that it is not cost effective to achieve complete segregation of duties within the accounting department.



36<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDERS' OFFICE  
Parish of Beauregard

Schedule of Current and Prior Year Audit Findings  
and Management's Corrective Action Plan  
Year Ended June 30, 2024

B. Compliance

There were no compliance findings reported.

Part II: Prior Year Findings:

A. Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

2023-001 Inadequate Segregation of Accounting Functions

CONDITION: The District did not have adequate segregation of functions within the accounting system.

RECOMMENDATION: Management should evaluate the cost vs. benefit of complete segregation and whenever possible, reassign incompatible duties among different employees to ensure that a single employee does not have a control of more than one of the following responsibilities: (1) authorization; (2) custody; (3) recording keeping; and (4) reconciliation.

CURRENT STATUS: Unresolved. See item 2024-001.

B. Compliance

2023-002 Payroll Tax Deposits

CONDITION: The District did not make federal withholding tax deposits correctly as required by 26 U.S. Code Section 3402. During the year, the District was assessed penalties and interest totaling \$1,087 for the failure to make a proper payroll tax deposit for the quarter ending June 30, 2022.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the District remit federal withholding taxes to the Internal Revenue Service in the prescribed manner and by the prescribed due dates.

CURRENT STATUS: Resolved.

**36<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
PUBLIC DEFENDERS' OFFICE**

**Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures Report**

**Year Ended June 30, 2024**

# KOLDER, SLAVEN & COMPANY, LLC

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## INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

To the District Public Defender of the  
36th Judicial District Public Defenders' Office  
and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor:

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the control and compliance (C/C) areas identified in the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's (LLA's) Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures (SAUPs) for the fiscal period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. The 36th Judicial District Public Defenders' Office's management is responsible for those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs.

The 36th Judicial District Public Defenders' Office has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of the engagement, which is to perform specified procedures on the C/C areas identified in LLA's SAUPs for the fiscal period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Additionally, LLA has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate for its purposes. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of this report and may not meet the needs of all users of this report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

The procedures and associated findings are as follows:

### 1) Written Policies and Procedures

A. Obtain and inspect the entity's written policies and procedures and observe whether they address each of the following categories and subcategories, if applicable, to public funds and the entity's operations:

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

*Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions noted above.*

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

*Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions noted above.*

iii. **Disbursements**, including processing, reviewing, and approving.

*Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions noted above.*

- iv. **Receipts/Collections**, including receiving, recording, and preparing deposits. Also, policies and procedures should include management's actions to determine the completeness of all collections for each type of revenue or agency fund additions (e.g., periodic confirmation with outside parties, reconciliation to utility billing after cutoff procedures, reconciliation of traffic ticket number sequences, agency fund forfeiture monies confirmation).  
*Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions noted above.*
- v. **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.  
*Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions noted above.*
- vi. **Contracting**, including (1) types of services requiring written contracts, (2) standard terms and conditions, (3) legal review, (4) approval process, and (5) monitoring process.  
*Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions noted above.*
- vii. **Travel and Expense Reimbursement**, including (1) allowable expenses, (2) dollar thresholds by category of expense, (3) documentation requirements, and (4) required approvers.  
*Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions noted above.*
- viii. **Credit Cards (and debit cards, fuel cards, purchase cards, if applicable)**, including (1) how cards are to be controlled, (2) allowable business uses, (3) documentation requirements, (4) required approvers of statements, and (5) monitoring card usage (e.g., determining the reasonableness of fuel card purchases).  
*Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions noted above.*
- ix. **Ethics**, 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.  
*Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions noted above.*
- x. **Debt Service**, including (1) debt issuance approval, (2) continuing disclosure/EMMA reporting requirements, (3) debt reserve requirements, and (4) debt service requirements.  
*Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions noted above.*
- xi. **Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity**, including (1) identification of critical data and frequency of data backups, (2) storage of backups in a separate physical location isolated from the network, (3) periodic testing/verification that backups can be restored, (4) use of antivirus software on all systems, (5) timely application of all available system and software patches/updates, and (6) identification of personnel, processes, and tools needed to recover operations after a critical event.  
*Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions noted above.*
- xii. **Prevention of Sexual Harassment**, including R.S. 42:342-344 requirements for (1) agency responsibilities and prohibitions, (2) annual employee training, and (3) annual reporting.  
*Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the functions noted above.*

## **2) Board or Finance Committee**

---

- A. Obtain and inspect the board/finance committee minutes for the fiscal period, as well as the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or equivalent document in effect during the fiscal period, and:
- i. Observe that the board/finance committee met with a quorum at least monthly, or on a frequency in accordance with the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or other equivalent document.  
*N/A – This procedure is not applicable to the entity.*
  - ii. For those entities reporting on the governmental accounting model, observe whether the minutes referenced or included monthly budget-to-actual comparisons on the general fund, quarterly budget-to-actual comparisons, at a minimum, on all proprietary funds, and semi-annual budget-to-actual comparisons, at a minimum, on all special revenue funds. *Alternatively, for those entities reporting on the not-for-profit accounting model, observe that the minutes referenced or included financial activity relating to public funds if those public funds comprised more than 10% of the entity's collections during the fiscal period.*  
*N/A – This procedure is not applicable to the entity.*
  - iii. 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.  
*No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.*
  - iv. Observe whether the board/finance committee received written updates of the progress of resolving audit finding(s), according to management's corrective action plan at each meeting until the findings are considered fully resolved.  
*N/A – This procedure is not applicable to the entity.*

## **3) Bank Reconciliations**

---

- A. Obtain a listing of entity bank accounts for the fiscal period from management and management's representation that the listing is complete. Ask management to identify the entity's main operating account. Select the entity's main operating account and randomly select 4 additional accounts (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:
- Obtained a listing of entity bank accounts for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete.*
- i. 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);  
*No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.*
  - ii. Bank reconciliations include written evidence that a member of management or a board member who does not handle cash, post ledgers, or issue checks has reviewed each bank reconciliation within 1 month of the date the reconciliation was prepared (e.g., initialed and dated or electronically logged); and  
*No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.*

- iii. 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.

*Obtained and reviewed the bank reconciliation noting management did not have documentation reflecting it has researched reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than 12 months from the statement closing date.*

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

---

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

*Obtained a listing of deposit sites for the fiscal period and managements representation that the listing is complete.*

- B. For each deposit site selected, obtain a listing of collection locations and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one collection location for each deposit site (i.e., 5 collection locations for 5 deposit sites), obtain and inspect written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if no written policies or procedures, inquire of employees about their job duties) at each collection location, and observe that job duties are properly segregated at each collection location such that:

- i. Employees responsible for cash collections do not share cash drawers/registers;

*Observed that employees responsible for cash collections do not share the same cash drawers/registers.*

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

*Observed that employees responsible for collecting cash are also responsible for preparing/making bank deposits. However, another employee/official is responsible for reconciling collection documentation to the deposit.*

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

*Observed that employees responsible for collecting cash are not responsible for posting collection entries to the general ledger or subsidiary ledgers.*

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

*Observed that employees responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general ledger and/or subsidiary ledgers, by revenue source and/or custodial fund additions, are not responsible for collecting cash.*

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

*Obtained and reviewed a copy of the bond or insurance policy for theft covering all employees who have access to cash, noting no exceptions.*

- D. Randomly select two deposit dates for each of the 5 bank accounts selected for Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A (select the next deposit date chronologically if no deposits were made on the dates randomly selected and randomly select a deposit if multiple deposits are made on the same day). *Alternatively, the practitioner may use a source document other than bank statements when selecting the deposit dates for testing, such as a cash collection log, daily revenue report, receipt book, etc.* Obtain supporting documentation for each of the 10 deposits and:
- i. Observe that receipts are sequentially pre-numbered.  
*No exceptions were found as a result of the procedure.*
  - ii. Trace sequentially pre-numbered receipts, system reports, and other related collection documentation to the deposit slip.  
*No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.*
  - iii. Trace the deposit slip total to the actual deposit per the bank statement.  
*No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.*
  - iv. 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).  
*No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.*
  - v. Trace the actual deposit per the bank statement to the general ledger.  
*No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.*

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

---

- A. Obtain a listing of locations that process payments for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 locations (or all locations if less than 5).  
*Obtained a listing of locations that process payments for the fiscal period and managements representation that the listing is complete.*
- B. For each location selected under procedure #5A above, obtain a listing of those employees involved with non-payroll purchasing and payment functions. Obtain written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if the agency has no written policies and procedures, inquire of employees about their job duties), and observe that job duties are properly segregated such that:
- i. At least two employees are involved in initiating a purchase request, approving a purchase, and placing an order or making the purchase;  
*Observed that there are at least two employees involved in initiating a purchase request, approving a purchase, and placing an order/making the purchase, no exceptions noted.*
  - ii. At least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors;  
*Observed that at least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors, noting no exceptions.*

- iii. The employee responsible for processing payments is prohibited from adding/modifying vendor files, unless another employee is responsible for periodically reviewing changes to vendor files;  
*Observed that the employee responsible for processing payments is not prohibited from adding/modifying vendor files. However, a contracted accountant is responsible for periodically reviewing changes to vendor files.*
  - iv. Either the employee/official responsible for signing checks mails the payment or gives the signed checks to an employee to mail who is not responsible for processing payments; and  
*Observed that the employee responsible for processing payments is also responsible for mailing the payments.*
  - v. Only employees/officials authorized to sign checks approve the electronic disbursement (release) of funds, whether through automated clearinghouse (ACH), electronic funds transfer (EFT), wire transfer, or some other electronic means.  
*Observed that 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, noting no exceptions.*
- C. For each location selected under procedure #5A above, obtain the entity's non-payroll disbursement transaction population (excluding cards and travel reimbursements) and obtain management's representation that the population is complete. Randomly select 5 disbursements for each location, obtain supporting documentation for each transaction, and:
- i. Observe whether the disbursement, whether by paper or electronic means, matched the related original itemized invoice and supporting documentation indicates that deliverables included on the invoice were received by the entity; and  
*No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.*
  - ii. Observe whether the disbursement documentation included evidence (e.g., initial/date, electronic logging) of segregation of duties tested under procedure #5B above, as applicable.  
*No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.*
- D. Using the entity's main operating account and the month selected in Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A, randomly select 5 non-payroll-related electronic disbursements (or all electronic disbursements if less than 5) and observe that each electronic disbursement was (a) approved by only those persons authorized to disburse funds (e.g., sign checks) per the entity's policy, and (b) approved by the required number of authorized signers per the entity's policy. *Note: If no electronic payments were made from the main operating account during the month selected the practitioner should select an alternative month and/or account for testing that does include electronic disbursements.*  
*No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.*

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

- A. Obtain from management a listing of all active credit cards, bank debit cards, fuel cards, and purchase cards (cards) for the fiscal period, including the card numbers and the names of the persons who maintained possession of the cards. Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete.  
*Obtained a listing of all active credit cards, bank debit cards, fuel cards, and purchase cards for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete.*



- B. Using the listing prepared by management, randomly select 5 cards (or all cards if less than 5) that were used during the fiscal period. Randomly select one monthly statement or combined statement for each card (for a debit card, randomly select one monthly bank statement), obtain supporting documentation, and
- i. Observe 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 (those instances requiring such approval that may constrain the legal authority of certain public officials, such as the mayor of a Lawrason Act municipality, should not be reported); and  
*No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.*
  - ii. Observe that finance charges and late fees were not assessed on the selected statements.  
*No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.*
- C. Using the monthly statements or combined statements selected under procedure #7B above, excluding fuel cards, randomly select 10 transactions (or all transactions if less than 10) from each statement, and obtain supporting documentation for the transactions (e.g., each card should have 10 transactions subject to inspection). For each transaction, observe that it is supported by (1) an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased, (2) written documentation of the business/public purpose, and (3) documentation of the individuals participating in meals (for meal charges only). For missing receipts, the practitioner should describe the nature of the transaction and observe whether management had a compensating control to address missing receipts, such as a “missing receipt statement” that is subject to increased scrutiny.  
*No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.*

#### 7) Travel and Travel-Related Expense Reimbursements (excluding card transactions)

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- A. Obtain from management a listing of all travel and travel-related expense reimbursements during the fiscal period and management’s representation that the listing or general ledger is complete. Randomly select 5 reimbursements and obtain the related expense reimbursement forms/prepaid expense documentation of each selected reimbursement, as well as the supporting documentation. For each of the 5 reimbursements selected:
- i. If reimbursed using a per diem, observe that the approved reimbursement rate is no more than those rates established either by the State of Louisiana or the U.S. General Services Administration ([www.gsa.gov](http://www.gsa.gov));  
*No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.*
  - ii. If reimbursed using actual costs, observe that the reimbursement is supported by an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased;  
*N/A – There were no reimbursements using actual costs.*
  - iii. Observe that each reimbursement is supported by documentation of the business/public purpose (for meal charges, observe that the documentation includes the names of those individuals participating) and other documentation required by Written Policies and Procedures procedure #1A(vii); and  
*No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.*

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

*It was noted that 2 out of the 4 items selected for testing were reviewed and approved, in writing, by someone other than the person receiving the reimbursement.*

## **8) Contracts**

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- A. Obtain from management a listing of all agreements/contracts for professional services, materials and supplies, leases, and construction activities that were initiated or renewed during the fiscal period. *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:

*Obtained 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 and managements representation that the listing is complete.*

- i. Observe whether the contract was bid in accordance with the Louisiana Public Bid Law (e.g., solicited quotes or bids, advertised), if required by law;  
*N/A – This procedure is not applicable to the entity.*
- ii. Observe whether the contract was approved by the governing body/board, if required by policy or law (e.g., Lawrason Act, Home Rule Charter);  
*N/A – This procedure is not applicable to the entity.*
- iii. If the contract was amended (e.g., change order), observe that the original contract terms provided for such an amendment and that amendments were made in compliance with the contract terms (e.g., if approval is required for any amendment, the documented approval); and  
*N/A – This procedure is not applicable to the entity.*
- iv. Randomly select one payment from the fiscal period for each of the 5 contracts, obtain the supporting invoice, agree the invoice to the contract terms, and observe that the invoice and related payment agreed to the terms and conditions of the contract.  
*No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.*

## **9) Payroll and Personnel**

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- A. Obtain a listing of employees and officials 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.  
*Obtained a listing of employees and officials employed during the fiscal period and managements representation that the listing is complete. Obtained related paid salaries and personnel files and agreed to authorized salaries/pay rates in the personnel files, noting no exceptions.*
- B. Randomly select one pay period during the fiscal period. For the 5 employees or officials selected under procedure #9A above, obtain attendance records and leave documentation for the pay period, and

- i. Observe that all selected employees or officials documented their daily attendance and leave (e.g., vacation, sick, compensatory);  
*No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.*
  - ii. Observe whether supervisors approved the attendance and leave of the selected employees or officials;  
*No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.*
  - iii. Observe that any leave accrued or taken during the pay period is reflected in the entity's cumulative leave records; and  
*No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.*
  - iv. Observe the rate paid to the employees or officials agrees to the authorized salary/pay rate found within the personnel file.  
*No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.*
- C. Obtain a listing of those employees or officials that received termination payments during the fiscal period and management's representation that the list is complete. Randomly select two employees or officials and obtain related documentation of the hours and pay rates used in management's termination payment calculations and the entity's policy on termination payments. Agree the hours to the employee's or official's cumulative leave records, agree the pay rates to the employee's or official's authorized pay rates in the employee's or official's personnel files, and agree the termination payment to entity policy.  
*There were no termination payments made during the fiscal period.*
- D. Obtain management's representation that employer and employee portions of third-party payroll related amounts (e.g., payroll taxes, retirement contributions, health insurance premiums, garnishments, workers' compensation premiums, etc.) have been paid, and any associated forms have been filed, by required deadlines.  
*No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.*

## **10) Ethics**

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- A. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A obtain ethics documentation from management, and
- i. Observe whether the documentation demonstrates that each employee/official completed one hour of ethics training during the calendar year as required by R.S. 42:1170; and  
*It is noted that 1 out of the 5 employees selected for testing did not complete one hour of ethics training during the calendar year as required by R.S. 42:1170.*
  - ii. Observe whether the entity maintains documentation which demonstrates that each employee and official were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy during the fiscal period, as applicable.  
*No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.*
- B. Inquire and/or observe whether the agency has appointed an ethics designee as required by R.S. 42:1170.  
*No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.*

## ***11) Debt Service***

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- A. Obtain a listing of bonds/notes and other debt instruments issued during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all debt instruments on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe that State Bond Commission approval was obtained for each debt instrument issued as required by Article VII, Section 8 of the Louisiana Constitution.

*Per discussion with management, it was noted that there were no bonds/notes or other debt instruments issued during the fiscal period.*

- B. Obtain a listing of bonds/notes outstanding at the end of the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one bond/note, inspect debt covenants, obtain supporting documentation for the reserve balance and payments, and agree actual reserve balance and payments to those required by debt covenants (including contingency funds, short-lived asset funds, or other funds required by the debt covenants).

*Per discussion with management, it was noted that there were no bonds/notes or other debt instruments outstanding at the end of the fiscal period.*

## ***12) Fraud Notice***

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

*Per discussion with management, there were no misappropriations of public funds or assets during the fiscal period.*

- B. Observe the entity has posted on its premises and website, the notice required by R.S. 24:523.1 concerning the reporting of misappropriation, fraud, waste, or abuse of public funds.

*Observed the entity has posted the notice required by R.S. 24:523.1 concerning the reporting of misappropriation, fraud, waste, or abuse of public funds on their premises. Note that the entity does not maintain a website.*

## ***13) Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity***

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- A. Perform the following procedures:

- i. Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has backed up its critical data (if no written documentation, then inquire of personnel responsible for backing up critical data) and observe evidence that such backup (a) occurred within the past week (b) was not stored on the government's local server or network, and (c) was encrypted.

*We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.*

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

*We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.*

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

*We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.*

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

*There were no terminated employees during the fiscal period.*

- C. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A, obtain cybersecurity training documentation from management, and observe that the documentation demonstrates that the following employees/officials with access to the agency's information technology assets have completed cybersecurity training as required by R.S. 42:1267. The requirements are as follows:
  - Hired before June 9, 2020 – completed the training; and
  - Hired on or after June 9, 2020 – completed the training within 30 days of initial service or employment.

*No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.*

#### ***14) Prevention of Sexual Harassment***

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- A. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A, obtain sexual harassment training documentation from management, and observe that the documentation demonstrates each employee/official completed at least one hour of sexual harassment training during the calendar year as required by R.S. 42:343.

*No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.*

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

*No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.*

- C. Obtain the entity's annual sexual harassment report for the current fiscal period, observe that the report was dated on or before February 1, and observe that the report includes the applicable requirements of R.S. 42:344:
  - i. Number and percentage of public servants in the agency who have completed the training requirements;
  - ii. Number of sexual harassment complaints received by the agency;
  - iii. Number of complaints which resulted in a finding that sexual harassment occurred;

- iv. Number of complaints in which the finding of sexual harassment resulted in discipline or corrective action; and
- v. Amount of time it took to resolve each complaint.

*No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.*

### ***Management's Response***

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Management of the 36th Judicial District Public Defenders' Office concurs with the exceptions and are working to address the deficiencies identified.

We were engaged by the 36th Judicial District Public Defenders' Office to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and applicable standards of *Government Auditing Standards*. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of the 36th Judicial District Public Defenders' Office and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our agreed-upon procedures engagement.

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

***Kolder, Slaven & Company, LLC***  
Certified Public Accountants

Ville Platte, Louisiana  
August 9, 2024