

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR
Arcadia, Louisiana

Annual Financial Statements
With Independent Auditor's Report
As of and for the Year Ended
December 31, 2023

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR
Arcadia, Louisiana

Annual Financial Statements
With Independent Auditor's Report
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023
With Supplemental Information Schedules

C O N T E N T S

		<u>Page No.</u>
Independent Auditor's Report		3
Required Supplemental Information (Part I)		
Management's Discussion and Analysis		8
Basic Financial Statements		
	<u>Statement</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Government-Wide Financial Statements:		
Statement of Net Position	A	13
Statement of Activities	B	14
Fund Financial Statements:		
Governmental Fund:		
Balance Sheet	C	15
Reconciliation of the Governmental Fund Balance Sheet to The Financial Statement of Net Position		16
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance	D	17
Reconciliation of the Governmental Fund Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, And Changes in Fund Balance to the Statement of Activities		18
Notes to the Financial Statements		19

C O N T E N T S (CONTD.)

	<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Required Supplemental Information (Part II):		
Budgetary Comparison Schedule - General Fund	1	39
Notes to Budgetary Comparison Schedule		40
Schedule of Changes in Net OPEB Liability and Related Ratios	2	41
Schedule of Employer's Share of Net Pension Liability	3	42
Schedule of Employer Contributions	4	43
Other Supplemental Schedules (Part III):		
Schedule of Compensation, Benefits and Other Payments to Agency Head	5	45
Reports Required by Government Auditing Standards (Part III)		
Independent Auditor's Report Required by Government Auditing Standards (Part III):		
Report on Compliance and Internal Control over Financial Reporting		48
Schedule of Audit Results	6	50
Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings	7	51
Statewide Agreed Upon Procedures		52
Agency Response to Statewide Agreed Upon Procedures		66

Member:
American Institute of
Certified Public Accountants
Society of Louisiana Certified
Public Accountants

MARY JO FINLEY, CPA, INC.
A PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING CORPORATION
116 Professional Drive - West Monroe, LA 71291
Phone (318) 329-8880 - Fax (318) 239-8883

Practice Limited to
Governmental Accounting,
Auditing and
Financial Reporting

Independent Auditor's Report

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR
Arcadia, Louisiana

Opinions

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of the Bienville Parish Assessor, a component unit of the Bienville Parish Police Jury, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Bienville Parish Assessor'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 and the major fund information of the Bienville Parish Assessor as of December 31, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in conformity 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 Bienville Parish Assessor, 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 unmodified audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR

Arcadia, Louisiana
Independent Auditor's Report,
December 31, 2023

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 Bienville Parish Assessor'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

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 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, 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 Bienville Parish Assessor'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 financials statements.

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR

Arcadia, Louisiana

Independent Auditor's Report,

December 31, 2023

- Conclude whether, in my judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Bienville Parish Assessor'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 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, the Budgetary Comparison Schedule and notes to required supplementary information, the Schedule of Changes in Net OPEB Liability and Related Ratios, the Schedules of Employer's share of the Net Pension Liability, and the Schedules of Employer Contributions, as listed in the table of contents, 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 managements'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 Bienville Parish Assessor's basic financial statements. The accompanying schedule of compensation, benefits and other payments to agency head is presented for purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financials statements 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,

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR
Arcadia, Louisiana
Independent Auditor's Report,
December 31, 2023

benefits and other payments to agency head 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*, I have also issued a report dated June 10, 2024, on my consideration of the Bienville Parish Assessor'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 Bienville Parish Assessor'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 Bienville Parish Assessor'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 June 10, 2024, on the results of my state wide agreed-upon procedures performed in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in *Government Auditing Standards*. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of testing performed on those control and compliance areas identified in the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's state side agreed-upon procedures, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance.



West Monroe, Louisiana
June 10, 2024

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
PART I**

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR
Arcadia, Louisiana

Management's Discussion and Analysis
December 31, 2023

As management of the Bienville Parish Assessor, I offer readers of the Bienville Parish Assessor's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the Bienville Parish Assessor for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023. Please read it in conjunction with the basic financial statements and the accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Overview of the Financial Statements

This Management Discussion and Analysis document introduces the Assessor's basic financial statements. The annual report consists of a series of financial statements. The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities (Government-wide Financial Statements) provide information about the financial activities as a whole and illustrate a longer-term view of the Assessor's finances. The Balance Sheet and Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance - Governmental Fund (Fund Financial Statements) tell how these services were financed in the short term as well as what remains for future spending. Fund Financial Statements also report the operations in more detail than the Government-Wide Financial Statements by providing information about the most significant funds. This report also contains other supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements themselves.

Government-wide financial statements. The *government-wide financial statements* are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the Bienville Parish Assessor's finances, in a manner similar to a private-sector business.

The *statement of net position* presents information on all of the Bienville Parish Assessor's assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two reported as *net position*. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the Bienville Parish Assessor is improving or deteriorating.

The *statement of activities* presents information showing how the government's net position changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of timing of related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods (for example, earned, but unused, sick leave).

Fund financial statements. A *fund* is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The Bienville Parish Assessor, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. All of the funds of the Bienville Parish Assessor are governmental funds.

Governmental funds. Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-

wide financial statements, governmental fund financial statements focus on near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources, as well as on balances of spendable resources available at the end of the fiscal year. Such information may be useful in evaluating a government's near-term financing requirements.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for governmental funds with similar information presented for governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the government's near-term financing decisions. Both the governmental fund balance sheet and governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between governmental funds and governmental activities.

The Bienville Parish Assessor adopts an annual appropriated budget for the general fund. A budgetary comparison statement is provided for the major fund to demonstrate compliance with this budget.

Notes to the financial statements. The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements.

Other Information. In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents certain *required supplementary information* concerning the Bienville Parish Assessor's performance.

Government-wide Financial Analysis

As noted earlier, net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. At the close of the most recent fiscal year, assets of the Bienville Parish Assessor exceeded liabilities by \$1,455,414. Approximately 3% of the Bienville Parish Assessor's net position reflects its investment in capital assets (e.g., equipment), less any related debt used to acquire those assets that is still outstanding. These assets are not available for future spending.

The balance in unrestricted net position is affected by two factors: 1) resources expended, over time, by the Bienville Parish Assessor to acquire capital assets from sources other than internally generated funds (i.e., debt), and 2) required depreciation on assets.

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$913,230	\$914,037
Investment	1,019,885	969,785
Receivables	855,361	698,804
Capital assets (net of accumulated depreciation)	<u>30,920</u>	<u>59,027</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>2,819,396</u>	<u>2,641,653</u>
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES		
Pension and OPEB related	<u>918,702</u>	<u>1,124,515</u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	1,257	1,514

Withholdings payable		\$3,545
Net pension liability	\$381,268	506,847
Net OPEB obligation	<u>1,421,752</u>	<u>1,224,933</u>
Total Liabilities	1,804,277	1,736,839
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES		
Pension and OPEB related	478,407	543,523
NET POSITION		
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	30,920	59,027
Unrestricted	<u>1,424,494</u>	<u>1,426,779</u>
TOTAL NET POSITION	<u>\$1,455,414</u>	<u>\$1,485,806</u>

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Taxation:		
Personal services	\$833,969	\$811,692
Operating services	104,539	80,561
Materials and supplies	6,402	12,066
Travel	21,046	27,868
Depreciation expense	<u>28,107</u>	<u>30,880</u>
Total Program Expenses	994,063	963,067
Program revenues - Charges for services		
Fees, charges, and commissions for services	<u>5,241</u>	<u>2,400</u>
Net Program Expenses	(988,822)	(960,667)
General revenues:		
Taxes - ad valorem	890,557	713,878
Intergovernmental - state funds - state revenue sharing	10,818	11,044
Interest earned	56,662	16,807
Other revenue	<u>394</u>	<u>114,801</u>
Total General Revenues	958,431	856,530
Change in Net Position	(30,391)	(104,137)
Net Position - Beginning of year	<u>1,485,805</u>	<u>1,589,943</u>
Net Position - End of year	<u>\$1,455,414</u>	<u>\$1,485,806</u>

Financial Analysis of the Government's Funds

As noted earlier, the Bienville Parish Assessor uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. The focus of the governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of expendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the financing requirements. In particular, unreserved fund balance may serve as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year.

As of December 31, 2023, the general fund's governmental fund balances of \$2,787,219 showed an increase of \$209,652 over December 31, 2022.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

There was no budget amendment for the current audit period.

Capital Asset and Debt Administration

Capital assets. The Bienville Parish Assessor's investment in capital assets for its governmental activities as of December 31, 2023, amounts to \$30,920 (net of accumulated depreciation). This investment includes equipment. There were no increases or decreases in capital assets for the year.

Long-term debt. The Bienville Parish Assessor contributes to a single-employer defined benefit healthcare plan ("the Retiree Health Plan"). The plan provides lifetime healthcare insurance for eligible retirees and their spouses through the assessor's group health insurance plan. Net OPEB obligation associated with the Retiree Health Plan at December 31, 2023 is \$1,421,752. Net pension liability is \$381,268 at December 31, 2023.

Requests for Information

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Bienville Parish Assessor's finances for all those with an interest in the government's finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to the Bienville Parish Assessor, 100 Courthouse Drive, Suite 1200, Arcadia, LA 71001.

June 10, 2024

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR
Arcadia, Louisiana

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
December 31, 2023

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$913,230
Investments	1,019,885
Receivables	855,361
Capital assets (net of accumulated depreciation)	<u>30,920</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>2,819,396</u>

DEFERRED OUTFLOW OF RESOURCES

Pension and OPEB related	<u>918,702</u>
--------------------------	----------------

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable	1,257
Net Pension liability	381,268
Net OPEB obligation	<u>1,421,752</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>1,804,277</u>

DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES

Pension and OPEB related	478,407
--------------------------	---------

NET POSITION

Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	30,920
Unrestricted	<u>1,424,494</u>
TOTAL NET POSITION	<u><u>\$1,455,414</u></u>

See independent auditor's report and the related notes to the financial statements.

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR
Arcadia, Louisiana

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
December 31, 2023

Taxation:	
Personal services	\$833,969
Operating services	104,539
Materials and supplies	6,402
Travel	21,046
Depreciation expense	28,107
Total Program Expenses	<u>994,063</u>
Program revenues - Charges for services	
Fees, charges, and commissions for services	<u>5,241</u>
Net Program Expenses	<u>(988,822)</u>
General revenues:	
Taxes - ad valorem	890,557
Intergovernmental - state funds - state revenue sharing	10,818
Interest earned	56,662
Other revenues	394
Total General Revenues	<u>958,431</u>
Change in Net Position	(30,391)
Net Position - Beginning of year	<u>1,485,805</u>
Net Position - End of year	<u>\$1,455,414</u>

See independent auditor's report and the related notes to the financial statements.

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR
Arcadia, Louisiana
GOVERNMENTAL FUND

Balance Sheet, December 31, 2023

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$913,230
Investments	1,019,885
Receivables	<u>855,361</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$2,788,476</u>

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

Liabilities	
Accounts payable	<u>\$1,257</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>1,257</u>
Fund balance - unassigned	<u>2,787,219</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	<u>\$2,788,476</u>

See independent auditor's report and the related notes to the financial statements.

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR
Arcadia, Louisiana

Reconciliation of Governmental Fund
Balance Sheet to the Statement of Net Position

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Total Fund Balance at December 31, 2023 - Governmental Fund (Statement C)		\$2,787,219
Deferred outflows of resources		918,702
Cost of capital assets at December 31, 2023	\$312,437	
Less: Accumulated depreciation as of December 31, 2023	<u>(281,517)</u>	30,920
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds.		
Net Pension liability		(381,268)
Net OPEB obligation		(1,421,752)
Deferred inflows of resources		<u>(478,407)</u>
Net Position at December 31, 2023 (Statement A)		<u>\$1,455,414</u>

See independent auditor's report and the related notes to the financial statements.

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR
Arcadia, Louisiana
GOVERNMENTAL FUND

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures,
and Changes in Fund Balance

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

REVENUES

Taxes - ad valorem	\$890,557
Intergovernmental revenues - state grants - state revenue sharing	10,818
Fees, charges, and commissions for services	5,241
Use of money and property - interest earnings	56,662
Other revenue	394
Total revenues	963,672

EXPENDITURES

Current:

General government - taxation	
Personal services	622,033
Operating services	104,539
Materials and supplies	6,402
Travel and other charges	21,046
Total expenditures	754,020

EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	209,652
FUND BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	2,577,567
FUND BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	\$2,787,219

See independent auditor's report and the related notes to the financial statements.

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR
Arcadia, Louisiana

Reconciliation of Governmental Fund
Statement of Revenue, Expenditures, and Changes
in Fund Balance to the Statement of Activities

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Total net change in fund balance - governmental fund (Statement D)	\$209,652
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities are different because:	
Capital outlays are reported in governmental fund as expenditures. However, in the statement of Activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which capital outlays exceed depreciation for the period.	(28,107)
Payments of long-term debt, including contributions to OPEB obligation, are reported as expenditures in governmental funds. However, those amounts are a reduction of long-term liabilities in the Statement of Net Position and are not reflected in the Statement of Activities.	(100,353)
Non-employer contributions to cost-sharing pension plan	(236,874)
Pension expense	<u>125,291</u>
Change in net position of governmental activities (Statement B)	<u><u>(\$30,391)</u></u>

See independent auditor's report and the related notes to the financial statements.

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR
Arcadia, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements
As of and For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

As provided by Article VII, Section 24 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, the assessor is elected by the voters of the parish and serves a term of four years, beginning January 1 following the year in which elected. The assessor assesses all real and movable property in the parish, subject to ad valorem taxation, prepares tax rolls, and submits the rolls to the Louisiana Tax Commission and other governmental bodies as prescribed by law. The assessor is authorized to appoint as many deputies as necessary for the efficient operation of his office and to provide assistance to the taxpayers of the parish. The deputies are authorized to perform all functions of the office, but the assessor is officially and pecuniarily responsible for the actions of the deputies.

The accompanying financial statements of the Bienville Parish Assessor have been prepared in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. 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.

A. REPORTING ENTITY

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

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

1. Appointing a voting majority of an organization's governing body, and:
 - a. The ability of the police jury to impose its will on that organization and/or
 - b. The potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to or impose specific financial burdens on the police jury.

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR

Arcadia, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

2. Organizations for which the police jury does not appoint a voting majority but are fiscally dependent on the police jury.
3. Organizations for which the reporting entity financial statements would be misleading if data of the organization is not included because of the nature or significance of the relationship.

Because the police jury maintains and operates the building in which the assessor's office is located and provides partial funding for equipment, furniture and supplies of the assessor's office, the assessor was determined to be a component unit of the Bienville Parish Police Jury, the financial reporting entity. The accompanying financial statements present information only on the funds maintained by the assessor and do not present information on the police jury, the general government services provided by that governmental unit, or the other governmental units that comprise the Bienville Parish financial reporting entity.

B. BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENTS

The assessor's basic financial statements include both government-wide (reporting the assessor as a whole) and fund financial statements (reporting the assessor's major fund). Both government-wide and fund financial statements categorize primary activities as either governmental or business type. All activities of the assessor are classified as governmental.

The Statement of Net Position (Statement A) and the Statement of Activities (Statement B) display information about the reporting government as a whole. These statements include all the financial activities of the assessor.

In the Statement of Net Position, governmental activities are presented on a consolidated basis and are presented on a full accrual, economic resource basis, which recognizes all long-term assets and receivables as well as long-term obligations. Net position are reported in three parts; invested in capital assets, net of any related debt; restricted net position; and unrestricted net position. The assessor first uses restricted resources to finance qualifying activities.

The government-wide financial statements are prepared using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets and liabilities resulting from exchange or exchange-like transactions are recognized when the exchange occurs (regardless of when cash is received or disbursed). Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets and liabilities resulting from nonexchange transactions are recognized in accordance with the requirements of GASB Statement No. 33, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Nonexchange Transactions*.

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR

Arcadia, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

Program Revenues - Program revenues included in the Statement of Activities (Statement B) are derived directly from parties outside the assessor's taxpayers or citizenry. Program revenues reduce the cost of the function to be financed from the assessor's general revenues.

Allocation of Indirect Expenses - The assessor reports all direct expenses by function in the Statement of Activities (Statement B). Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a function. Indirect expenses of other functions are not allocated to those functions but are reported separately in the Statement of Activities. Depreciation expense, which can be specifically identified by function, is included in the direct expenses of each function.

C. BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial transactions of the assessor are reported in individual funds in the fund financial statements. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

Fund financial statements report detailed information about the assessor. The focus of governmental fund financial statements is on major funds rather than reporting funds by type. Each major fund is presented in a separate column.

A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues, and expenditures. Funds are classified into three categories; governmental, proprietary, and fiduciary. Each category, in turn, is divided into separate "fund types". Governmental funds are used to account for a government's general activities, where the focus of attention is on the providing of services to the public as opposed to proprietary funds where the focus of attention is on recovering the cost of providing services to the public or other agencies through service charges or user fees. The assessor's current operations require the use of only governmental funds. The governmental fund type used by the assessor is described as follows:

Governmental Fund Type

General Fund - The General Fund, as provided by Louisiana Revised Statute 13:781, is the principal fund of the assessor and is used to account for the operations of the assessor's office. The various fees and charges due to the assessor's office are accounted for in this fund. General operating expenditures are paid from this fund.

D. BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

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

1. Accrual:

The governmental type activities in the government-wide financial statements are presented on the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when incurred.

2. Modified Accrual:

The governmental fund financial statements are presented on the modified accrual basis of accounting. 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 differs from the manner in which the governmental activities of the government-wide financial statements are prepared. Governmental fund financial statements therefore include a reconciliation with brief explanations to better identify the relationship between the government-wide statements and the statements for governmental funds.

Governmental funds use the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when susceptible to accrual (i.e., when they become both measurable and available). Measurable means the amount of the transaction can be determined and available means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. The assessor 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:

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR
Arcadia, Louisiana
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

Revenues

Ad valorem taxes are recorded in the year the taxes are assessed. Ad valorem taxes are assessed on a calendar year basis, become due when the tax roll is filed with the recorder of mortgages and become delinquent on December 31. Ad valorem taxes are generally collected in November and December of the current year and January and February of the ensuing year.

Compensation from taxing bodies is recorded in the year the ad valorem taxes are assessed. Ad valorem taxes are assessed on a calendar year basis, become due on November 15 of each year, and become delinquent on December 31. The compensation is generally collected in December of the current year and January of the ensuing year.

Fees for preparing tax rolls are recorded in the year prepared.

Interest income on demand deposits is recorded monthly when the interest is earned and credited to the account.

Based on the above criteria, ad valorem taxes, compensation from taxing bodies, and fees for preparing tax rolls have been treated as susceptible to accrual.

Expenditures

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

E. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Under state law, the assessor may deposit funds in demand deposits, interest bearing demand deposits, money market accounts, or time deposits with state banks organized under Louisiana law and national banks having principal offices in Louisiana. At December 31, 2023, the assessor has cash and cash equivalents (book balances) totaling \$913,230.

Demand deposits	\$472,830
Time deposits	440,000
Petty cash	400
Total	<u>\$913,230</u>

Custodial Credit Risk: Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that, in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, the government will not be able to recover its

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR
 Arcadia, Louisiana
 Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

deposits. Under state law, the deposits (or the resulting bank balances) must be secured by federal deposit insurance or the pledge of securities owned by the fiscal agent bank. The market value of the pledged securities plus the federal deposit insurance must at all times equal or exceed the amount on deposit with the fiscal agent. These securities are held in the name of the pledging fiscal agent bank in a holding or custodial bank that is mutually acceptable to both parties. Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1229 imposes a statutory requirement on the custodial bank to advertise and sell the pledged securities within 10 days of being notified by the Assessor that the fiscal agent bank has failed to pay deposited funds upon demand. Further, Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1224 states that securities held by a third party shall be deemed to be held in the Assessor's name. The Assessor does not have a policy concerning custodial risk.

Cash and cash equivalents (bank balances) at December 31, 2023, are secured as follows:

Bank Balances	<u>\$937,997</u>
Federal deposit insurance	\$500,000
Pledged securities (uncollateralized)	<u>656,190</u>
Total	<u>\$1,156,190</u>

F. 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 assessor maintains a threshold level of \$500 or more for capitalizing capital assets.

Capital assets are reported in the government-wide financial statements but not in the fund financial statements. Since surplus assets are sold for an immaterial amount when declared as no longer needed for public purposes by the assessor, 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 useful lives:

	<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Lives</u>
Furniture and fixtures		5 - 10 years
Vehicles		5 - 15 years
Equipment		5 - 20 years

G. INVESTMENTS

Investments held at December 31, 2023 consist of \$1,019,885 in the Louisiana Asset Management Pool (LAMP), a local government investment pool. In accordance with GASB Codification Section 150.126, the investment in LAMP at December 31, 2023 is not categorized in the three risk categories provided by GASB Codification Section 150.125 because the investment is in the pool of funds and therefore not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book entry form.

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

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

Interest Rate Risk: LAMP is designed to be highly liquid to give its participants immediate access to their account balances. LAMP prepares its own interest notes risk disclosure using the weighted average maturity (WAM) method. The WAM of LAMP assets is restricted to not more than 60 days, and consists of no securities with a maturity in excess of 397 days.

Credit Risk: LAMP is rated AAAM by Standards and Poor's.

Custodial Credit Risk-Investments: LAMP participants' investments in the pool are evidenced by shares of the pool. Investments in pools should be disclosed, but not categorized because they are not evidenced by securities, that exist in physical or book-entry form. The public entity's investment is with the pool, not the securities that make up the pool; therefore, no disclosure is required.

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

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR
Arcadia, Louisiana
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

H. ANNUAL AND SICK LEAVE

Employees of the assessor's office receive from 10 to 15 days of noncumulative vacation leave each year, depending on length of service. Sick leave is granted at the discretion of the assessor. At December 31, 2023, there are no accumulated and vested benefits relating to vacation and sick leave.

The cost of leave privileges, computed in accordance with GASB Codification Section C60, is recognized as a current-year expenditure in the General Fund when leave is actually taken.

I. RISK MANAGEMENT

The assessor is exposed to various risk of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; and injuries to employees. To handle such risk of loss, the assessor maintains commercial insurance policies covering his automobile, professional liability and surety bond coverage. No claims were paid on any of the policies during the past three years which exceeded the policies' coverage amounts. There were no significant reductions in insurance coverage during the year ended December 31, 2023.

J. PENSION PLANS

The Bienville Parish Tax Assessors's Office is a participating employer in a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan as described in Note 5. For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of each of the plans, and additions to/deductions for the plan's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the plan. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms.

K. EQUITY CLASSIFICATIONS

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

- a. Net investment in capital assets - Consists of capital assets including restricted capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes, or other borrowing that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets.

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR
Arcadia, Louisiana
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

- b. Restricted net position - Consists of net position with constraints 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 net position that does not meet the definition of "restricted" or "net investment in capital assets."

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

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

Nonspendable - 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 Assessor's 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 Assessor's highest level of decision-making authority.

Assigned - represents balances that are constrained by the government's intent to be used for specific purposes, but are not restricted nor committed.

Unassigned - represents balances that have not been assigned to other funds and that have not been restricted, committed, or assigned to specific purposes within the general fund.

The General Fund has an unassigned fund balance of \$2,787,219. If applicable, the Assessor would typically use restricted fund balances first, followed by committed resources and assigned resources as appropriate opportunities arise, but reserves the right to selectively spend unassigned resources first and to defer the use of these other classified funds. The Assessor considers restricted amounts have been spent when an expenditure

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR
Arcadia, Louisiana
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

has been incurred for the purpose for which both restricted and unrestricted fund balance is available.

L. DEFERRED OUTFLOWS/INFLOWS OF RESOURCES

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

M. ESTIMATES

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

2. RECEIVABLES

The following is a summary of receivables at December 31, 2023:

<u>Class of receivables:</u>	
Taxes - ad valorem	\$847,996
Fees, charges and commissions	<u>7,365</u>
Total receivables	<u>\$855,361</u>

3. LEVIED TAXES

The Assessor levied a millage of 2.10 for ad valorem taxes for 2023.

The following are the principal taxpayers for the parish and their 2023 assessed valuation (amounts expressed in thousands):

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR
 Arcadia, Louisiana
 Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

	2023 Assessed Valuation	Per cent of Total Assessed Valuation
Gulf South Pipeline Company	\$71,214	16.04%
Aethon III BR, LLC	62,407	14.06%
ETC Tiger Pipeline, LLC	28,280	6.37%
Bear Creek Storage Comp	18,506	4.17%
Comstock Oil & Gas	18,357	4.13%
Regency Intrastate	17,385	3.92%
Gulf Run Transmission, LLC	11,216	2.53%
BP Energy	8,292	1.87%
ETC Texas Pipeline	8,137	1.83%
Arcadia Gas Storage, LLC	<u>6,650</u>	<u>1.50%</u>
Total	<u>\$250,444</u>	<u>56.41%</u>

4. CHANGES IN CAPITAL ASSETS

A summary of changes in office furnishings and equipment follows:

Balance, January 1, 2023	\$312,437
Additions	NONE
Deletions	<u>NONE</u>
Balance, December 31, 2023	312,437
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(281,517)</u>
Net Capital Assets	<u>\$30,920</u>

Depreciation expense of \$28,107 was charged to the taxation function.

5. PENSION PLAN

The Bienville Parish Tax Assessor contributes to the Louisiana Assessor's Retirement Fund (fund) which is a cost-sharing, multiple employer, defined benefit pension plan. Substantially all employees participate in the Plan. The Fund was created by Act 91 Section 1 of the 1950 regular Legislature Session, and it functions under the provisions of Louisiana Revised Statute 11:1401 through 1494. The plan is a qualified plan as defined by the Internal Revenue code Section 401(a), effective January 1, 1998. Membership in the Louisiana Assessors' Retirement Fund is a condition of employment for Assessors and their full time employees.

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR

Arcadia, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

Summary of Significant Accounting Policies.

The Fund prepares its employer schedules in accordance with Governmental Accounting Statement No. 68 - *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions - an amendment of GASB Statement No. 27*. GASB Statement No. 68 established standards for measuring and recognizing liabilities, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources and expenses/expenditures. It provides methods and assumptions that should be used to project benefit payments, discount projected benefit payments to their actuarial present value and attribute that present value to periods of employee service. It also provides methods to calculate participating employer's proportionate share of net pension liability(asset), deferred inflows, deferred outflows, pension expense and amortization periods for deferred inflows and deferred outflows.

The Fund's employer schedules were prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. Employer contributions, on which the employer allocations are based, are recognized in the period in which the employee is compensated for services performed.

The preparation of schedules of employer allocations and pension amounts by employer in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires the use of estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities. Accordingly, actual results may differ from estimated amounts.

Plan Fiduciary Net Position

Plan fiduciary net position is a significant component of the Fund's collective net pension liability (asset). The Fund's plan fiduciary net position was determined using the accrual basis of accounting. The Fund's assets, liabilities, revenues, and expenses were recorded with the use of estimates and assumptions in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Such estimates and assumptions primarily relate to actuarial evaluations or unsettled transactions and events as of the date of the financial statements and estimates in the determination of the fair market value of the Fund's investments. Accordingly, actual results may differ from estimated amounts.

Plan Description.

The Louisiana Assessors' Retirement and Relief Fund was established for the purpose of providing retirement allowances and other benefits as stated under the provisions of R.S. Title 11:1401 for eligible employees of the assessors' office. The projection of benefit payments in the calculation of the total pension liability includes all benefits to be provided to current active and inactive employees through the Fund in accordance with the benefit terms and any additional legal agreements to provide benefits that are in force at the measurement date.

The Fund has issued a stand-alone audit report on their financial statements. Access to the report can be found on the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's website, www.la.la.gov, or by contacting the Louisiana Assessors' Retirement fund, Post Office Box 14699, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898.

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR

Arcadia, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

Plan Benefits

Pension benefits

Members who were hired before October 1, 2013, will be eligible for pension benefits once they have either reached the age of fifty-five and have at least twelve years of service or have at least thirty years of service, regardless of age. Employees who were hired on or after October 1, 2013, will be eligible for pension benefits once they have either reached the age of sixty and have at least twelve years of service or have reached the age of fifty-five and have at least thirty years of service.

Members whose first employment making them eligible for membership began prior to October 1, 2006, are entitled to annual pension benefits equal to three and one-third percent of their highest monthly average final compensation received during any 36 consecutive months, multiplied by their total years of service, not to exceed 100% of final compensation. Members whose first employment making them eligible for membership began on or after October 1, 2006, but before October 1, 2013, are entitled to annual pension benefits equal to three and one-third percent of their highest monthly average final compensation received during any 60 consecutive months, multiplied by their total years of service, not to exceed 100% of monthly average final compensation. Members whose first employment making them eligible for membership began on or after October 1, 2013 but who have less than thirty years of service, are entitled to annual pension benefits equal to three percent of their highest monthly average final compensation received during any 60 consecutive months, multiplied by their total years of service, not to exceed 100% of monthly average final compensation. Members whose first employment making them eligible for membership began on or after October 1, 2013 and have thirty or more years of service, are entitled to annual pension benefits equal to three and one-third percent of their highest monthly average final compensation received during any 60 consecutive months, multiplied by their total years of service, not to exceed 100% of monthly average final compensation. Members may elect to receive their pension benefits in the form of a joint and survivor annuity.

If members terminate before rendering 12 years of service, they forfeit the right to receive the portion of their accumulated plan benefits attributable to the employer's contributions. Benefits are payable over the employees' lives in the form of a monthly annuity. Employees may elect a reduced benefit or any of four options at retirement.

The Fund also provides death and disability benefits. Benefits are established or amended by state statute.

Contributions

According to state statute, contribution requirements for all employers are actuarially determined each year. For the year ended December 31, 2023, the actual employer contribution rate was 5%, actuarially determined as an amount that, when combined with employee contributions, is expected to finance the costs of benefits earned by employees during the year. Members are required by state statute to contribute 8% of their annual covered salary. The contributions are deducted from the member's salary and remitted by the participating agency. Administrative costs of the Fund are financed through employer contributions. The fund also received one-fourth of one percent of the property taxes assessed in each

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR

Arcadia, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

parish of the state as well as a state revenue sharing appropriation. These additional sources of income are used as employer contributions and are considered support from non-employer contributing entities, but are not considered special funding situations. The Bienville Parish Assessor’s contributions to the Fund for the year ending December 31, 2023 was \$15,352. Non-employer contribution revenue for the year ended December 31, 2023 was \$125,291.

The Assessor has elected under state statute to pay both the employer and the employee contributions to the retirement system. Due to this election, the Assessor contributed an additional \$26,679 on behalf of the employees for the year.

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions

For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Assessor reported a liability of \$381,268 and \$506,847, respectively, for its proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset). The net pension liability was measured as of September 30, 2023, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The Assessors’ proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the Assessors’ long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating assessors’, actuarially determined. At September 30, 2023, the Assessors’ proportion was 0.788 percent, which was a decrease of 0.013 from its proportion measured as of September 30, 2022.

For the year ended December 31, 2023, the Assessor recognized pension expense of \$255,718 plus difference in proportionate share and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions, which was \$(18,844). Total pension expense for the Assessor for the year ended December 31, 2022 was \$236,874.

At December 31, 2023, the Assessor reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$12,278	\$41,920
Changes in assumptions	100,312	
Net Difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan	199,190	
Changes in employer’s proportion of beginning NPL	3,783	95
Differences between employer and proportionate share of contributions		11,225
Subsequent measurement contributions	5,203	
Total	\$320,766	\$53,240

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR
 Arcadia, Louisiana
 Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

\$5,203 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from the Assessors' contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended December 31, 2024. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year ended December 31:	
2024	\$62,091
2025	81,612
2026	154,011
2027	(33,016)
2028	(2,372)

Actuarial assumptions. The total pension liability in the September 30, 2023 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Valuation Date	September 30, 2023
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal
Actuarial Assumptions:	
Investment rate of return	5.50%, net of investment expense, including inflation
Inflation rate	2.10%
Salary increases	5.25%
Annuitant and beneficiary mortality	Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Table for General Healthy Retirees multiplied by 120% with full generational projection using the appropriate MP-2019 improvement scale.
Active members mortality	Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Table for General Retirees multiplied by 120% with full generational projection using the appropriate MP-2019 improvement scale.
Disabled lives mortality	Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Table for General Disabled Retirees multiplied by 120% with full generational projection using the appropriate MP-2019 improvement scale.

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation, of 2.5%, and an adjustment for the effect of rebalancing/diversification. The resulting long-term expected arithmetic nominal return was 7.85% as of September 30, 2023.

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR
 Arcadia, Louisiana
 Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

Sensitivity of the Assessors' proportionate share of the net pension liability to changes in the discount rate.

The following presents the net pension liability of the fund calculated using the discount rate of 5.50%, as well as what the funds pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower, or one percentage point higher than the current rate.

	1% Decrease (4.50%)	Current Discount Rate (5.50%)	1% Increase (6.50%)
Assessors' proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$856,459	\$381,268	(\$22,791)

6. POST RETIREMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSION

Plan Description. The Bienville Parish Assessor (the Assessor) provides certain continuing health care and life insurance benefits for its retired employees. The Bienville Parish Assessor's OPEB Plan (the OPEB Plan) is a single-employer defined benefit OPEB plan administered by the Assessor. The authority to establish and/or amend the obligation of the employer, employees and retirees rests with the Assessor. No assets are accumulated in a trust that meets the criteria in Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

Benefits Provided - Benefits are provided through comprehensive plans and are made available to employees upon actual retirement. Employees are covered by the Louisiana Assessors' Retirement Fund, whose retirement eligibility (D.R.O.P. entry) provisions are as follows: Attainment of age 55 and 12 years of service; or, any age and 30 years of service; employees hired on and after October 1, 2013 are not able to retire or enter DROP until age 60 with 12 years of service; or, age 55 with 30 years of service. The retiree must also have 20 years of service for the retiree to receive employer contributions.

Employees covered by the benefit terms - At December 31, 2023, the following employees were covered by the benefit terms:

Inactive employees or beneficiaries currently receiving benefit payments	3
Inactive employees entitled to but not yet receiving benefit payments	0
Active employees	6
Total employees	<u>9</u>

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR
 Arcadia, Louisiana
 Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

Total OPEB Liability

The Assessor’s total OPEB liability of \$1,421,752 was measured as of December 31, 2023 and was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date.

Actuarial Assumptions and other inputs - The total OPEB liability in the December 31, 2023 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions and other inputs, applied to all periods included in the measurement, unless otherwise specified:

Inflation	3.0% annually
Salary increases	3.0% annually
Discount rate	3.72%, annually (Beginning of Year to Determine ADC) 3.26% annually (As of End of Year Measurement Date)
Healthcare cost trend rates	Getzen model, with an initial trend of 5.5%
Mortality	Pub-2010/2021

The discount rate was based on the Bond Buyers’ 20 Year General Obligation municipal bond index as of December 31, 2023, the end of the applicable measurement period.

The actuarial assumptions used in the December 31, 2023 valuation were based on the results of ongoing evaluations of the assumptions from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2023.

Changes in the Total OPEB Liability

Balance at December 31, 2022	\$1,224,933
Changes for the year:	
Service cost	61,309
Interest	46,708
Changes of benefit terms	NONE
Differences between expected and actual	28,878
Changes in assumptions	97,167
Benefit payments and net transfers	(37,243)
Net Changes	<u>196,819</u>
Balance at December 31, 2023	<u>\$1,421,752</u>

Sensitivity of the total OPEB liability to changes in the discount rate - The following presents the total OPEB liability of the Assessor, as well as what the Assessor’s total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (2.26%) or 1-percentage-point higher (4.26%) than the current discount rate:

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR
 Arcadia, Louisiana
 Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

	1.0% Decrease (2.26%)	Current Discount Rate (3.26%)	1.0% Increase (4.26%)
<u>Total OPEB liability</u>	<u>\$1,691,704</u>	<u>\$1,421,752</u>	<u>\$1,205,318</u>

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

	1.0% Decrease (4.5%)	Current Discount Rate (5.5%)	1.0% Increase (6.5%)
<u>Total OPEB liability</u>	<u>\$1,198,883</u>	<u>\$1,421,752</u>	<u>\$1,727,676</u>

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

For the year ended December 31, 2023, the Assessor recognized OPEB expense of \$137,595. At December 31, 2023, the Assessor reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>	<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>
Differences between expected and actual expenditures	\$291,121	(\$80,044)
Changes in assumptions	306,814	(345,124)
Total	<u>\$597,935</u>	<u>(\$425,168)</u>

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

Year ended December 31:	
2024	\$29,578
2025	29,578
2026	29,578
2027	29,578
2028	29,578
Thereafter	\$24,875

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR

Arcadia, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

7. DEFERRED COMPENSATION

All of the employees of the Bienville Parish Assessor are eligible to participate in the State of Louisiana deferred compensation plan. Employees may contribute up to 100% of their salary (not to exceed statutory amount set by the IRS) to the plan on a pre-tax basis. The contributions are withheld from the employees' paycheck and the Assessor matches contributions up to \$150 per pay period of the employees salary. The contributions are fully vested immediately and are remitted to a third-party administrator each pay period, where they are deposited to an account in the employee's name. The Bienville Parish Assessor does not assume any liability for the funds and does not have any control over the funds once they are remitted to the third-party administrator. During the year ended December 31, 2023, the Assessor's office matched \$13,800 of deferred contributions.

8. LITIGATION AND CLAIMS

The Bienville Parish Assessor is not involved in any litigation at December 31, 2023, nor is she aware of any unasserted claims.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

PART II

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR
Arcadia, Louisiana
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
GENERAL FUND
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	ORIGINAL/ FINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL (BUDGETARY BASIS)	VARIANCE FAVORABLE (UNFAVORABLE)
REVENUES			
Taxes - ad valorem	\$700,000	\$890,557	\$190,557
Intergovernmental-state funds- state revenue sharing	11,800	10,818	(982)
Fees, charges, and commissions for services	6,000	5,241	(759)
Use of money and property - interest earnings	15,000	56,662	41,662
Use of money and property - interest earnings		394	394
Total revenues	<u>732,800</u>	<u>963,672</u>	<u>230,872</u>
EXPENDITURES			
Current:			
General government - taxation:			
Personal services and related benefits	577,300	622,033	(44,733)
Operating services	100,000	104,539	(4,539)
Materials and supplies	11,000	6,402	4,598
Travel and other charges	14,000	21,046	(7,046)
Capital outlay	30,000		30,000
Total expenditures	<u>732,300</u>	<u>754,020</u>	<u>(21,720)</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	500	209,652	209,152
FUND BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>NONE</u>	<u>2,577,567</u>	<u>2,577,567</u>
FUND BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	<u>\$500</u>	<u>\$2,787,219</u>	<u>\$2,786,719</u>

See independent auditor's report and the related notes to the financial statements.

Bienville Parish Assessor
Arcadia, Louisiana

NOTE TO BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE

The proposed budget for the General Fund, prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting, is made available for public inspection at least fifteen days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year. The budget is then legally adopted by the assessor and amended during the year, as necessary. The budget is established and controlled by the assessor at the object level of expenditure. Appropriations lapse at year-end and must be reappropriated for the following year to be expended. All changes in the budget must be approved by the assessor.

Formal budgetary integration is employed as a management control device during the year. Budgeted amounts included in the accompanying financial statement include the original adopted budget amounts. There were no budget amendments for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Bienville Parish Assessor
 Schedule of Changes in Net OPEB Liability and Related Ratios
 FYE December 31, 2023

Total OPEB Liability	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Service cost	\$16,807	\$26,186	\$25,383	\$41,911	\$41,119	\$61,309
Interest	24,779	27,070	29,365	32,614	30,883	46,708
Changes of benefits terms	NONE	135,351	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE
Differences between expected and actual experience	(16,743)	52,494	285,012	(104,997)	71,655	28,878
Changes of assumptions	(72,359)	188,964	141,680	15,954	(362,050)	97,167
Benefit payments	<u>(17,235)</u>	<u>(18,183)</u>	<u>(23,035)</u>	<u>(24,302)</u>	<u>(35,301)</u>	<u>(37,243)</u>
Net change in total OPEB liability	(64,751)	411,882	458,405	(38,820)	(253,694)	196,819
Total OPEB liability - beginning	711,911	647,160	1,059,042	1,517,447	1,478,627	1,224,933
Total OPEB liability - ending	<u>\$647,160</u>	<u>\$1,059,042</u>	<u>\$1,517,447</u>	<u>\$1,478,627</u>	<u>\$1,224,933</u>	<u>\$1,421,752</u>
Covered employee payroll	\$311,176	\$320,511	\$353,797	\$364,411	\$365,203	\$376,159
Net OPEB liability as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	207.97%	202.60%	428.90%	405.76%	335.41%	377.97%
<i>Benefit Changes</i>	None	50% Spouse Coverage	None	None	None	None
<i>Changes in Assumptions</i>						
<i>Discount Rate:</i>	4.10%	2.74%	2.12%	2.06%	3.72%	3.26%
<i>Mortality:</i>	RP-2000	RP-2000	RP-2014	RP-2014	Pub-2010/2021	Pub-2010/2021
<i>Trend:</i>	5.50%	5.50%	variable	variable	Getzen model	Getzen model

This schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available. See independent auditor's report and the related notes to the financial statements.

Schedule 3

**Bienville Parish Assessor
Schedule of Employer's Share of Net Pension Liability
December 31, 2023**

Fiscal Year*	Employer Proportion of the Net Pension Liability (Asset)	Employer Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset)	Employer's Covered Employee Payroll	Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) as a Percentage of its Covered Employee Payroll	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability
2014	0.871513%	\$304,678	\$322,941	94.34%	89.98%
2015	0.816347%	\$427,213	\$343,002	124.55%	85.57%
2016	0.745004%	\$262,889	\$324,352	81.05%	90.68%
2017	0.757528%	\$132,928	\$332,576	39.97%	95.61%
2018	0.714467%	\$138,895	\$314,926	44.10%	95.46%
2019	0.713608%	\$188,237	\$317,476	59.29%	97.76%
2020	0.763719%	\$116,678	\$351,076	33.23%	96.79%
2021	0.784206%	(\$257,816)	\$363,026	(71.02)%	106.48%
2022	0.765130%	\$506,847	\$365,326	138.74%	87.25%
2023	0.778161%	\$381,268	\$382,463	99.69%	90.91%

* Amounts presented were determined as of the measurement date (9/30/23).

See independent auditor's report and the related notes to the financial statements.

**Bienville Parish Assessor
Schedule of Employer Contributions
December 31, 2023**

Fiscal Year *	Contractually Required Contribution	Contributions in Relations to Contractual Required Contributions	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	Employer's Covered Employee Payroll	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
2014	\$43,597	\$43,597	\$0	\$322,941	13.50%
2015	\$46,305	\$46,305	\$0	\$343,002	13.50%
2016	\$43,788	\$43,788	\$0	\$324,352	13.50%
2017	\$33,258	\$33,258	\$0	\$332,576	10.00%
2018	\$25,194	\$25,194	\$0	\$314,926	8.00%
2019	\$25,399	\$25,399	\$0	\$317,476	8.00%
2020	\$28,087	\$28,087	\$0	\$351,076	8.00%
2021	\$29,043	\$29,043	\$0	\$363,026	8.00%
2022	\$18,266	\$18,266	\$0	\$365,326	5.00%
2023	\$13,386	\$13,386	\$0	\$382,463	3.50%

* Amounts presented were determined as of the measurement date (9/30/23).

See independent auditor's report and the related notes to the financial statements.

OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

PART III

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR
Arcadia, Louisiana

Schedule of Compensation, Benefits and Other Payments to Agency Head
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

CAROL BROWN, ASSESSOR

PURPOSE	AMOUNT
Salary	\$137,365
Expense allowance	14,860
Benefits-insurance	25,589
Benefits-retirement	17,660
Benefits-deferred compensation	3,600
Benefits-other	1,903
Registration fees	400
Housing and lodging	363
Membership dues - Association	3,832
Meals	30
Surety bond	100

See independent auditor's report.

**REPORTS REQUIRED BY
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS
PART III**

**Independent Auditor's Report Required
by *Government Auditing Standards***

The following independent auditor's report on compliance and internal control over financial reporting is presented in compliance with the requirements of *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*, issued by the Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor.

Member:
American Institute of
Certified Public Accountants
Society of Louisiana Certified
Public Accountants

MARY JO FINLEY, CPA, INC.
A PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING CORPORATION
116 Professional Drive - West Monroe, LA 71291
Phone (318) 329-8880 - Fax (318) 239-8883

Practice Limited to
Governmental Accounting,
Auditing and
Financial Reporting

**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***

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR
Arcadia, 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 and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*, the financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of the Bienville Parish Assessor, a component unit of the Bienville Parish Police Jury, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023 and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Bienville Parish Assessor's basic financial statements, and have issued my report thereon dated June 10, 2024.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

A deficiency in internal control exist 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 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.

My 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 have not been identified. Given these limitations, during my audit I did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that I consider to be material weaknesses.

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR

Arcadia, Louisiana

Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance

And Internal Control Over Financial Reporting, etc.

December 31, 2023

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Bienville Parish Assessor's financial statements are free from 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 is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this 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 Bienville Parish Assessor'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 Bienville Parish Assessor's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the Legislative Auditor as a public document.



West Monroe, Louisiana

June 10, 2024

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR
Arcadia, Louisiana

Schedule of Audit Results
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

A. SUMMARY OF AUDIT RESULTS

1. The auditor's report expresses an unmodified opinion on the annual financial statements of the Bienville Parish Assessor.
2. No instances of noncompliance material to the financial statements of the Bienville Parish Assessor were disclosed during the audit.
3. No material weaknesses relating to the audit of the financial statements are reported in the Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control.

B. FINDINGS - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AUDIT

None

BIENVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR
Arcadia, Louisiana

Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

There were no findings reported in the audit report for the year ended December 31, 2022.

Independent Accountant's Report
on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures

Bienville Parish Assessor
100 Courthouse Drive, Suite 1200
Arcadia, Louisiana 71001

To the Bienville Parish Assessor

I 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 January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. Management of Bienville Parish Assessor is responsible for those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs.

Bienville Parish Assessor 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 the LLA's SAUP's for the fiscal period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. 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:

AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

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.
 - ii. **Purchasing**, including (1) how purchases are initiated; (2) how vendors are added to the vendor list; (3) the preparation and approval process of purchase requisitions and purchase orders; (4) controls to ensure compliance with the public bid law; and (5) documentation required to be maintained for all bids and price quotes.
 - iii. **Disbursements**, including processing, reviewing, and approving,

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

Written policies and procedures were obtained and address the function noted above.

2) BOARD OR FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Assessor does not have a board or finance committee, so this is not applicable.

- 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.
 - 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, at a minimum, on all proprietary funds, and semi-annual budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on all special revenue funds.
 - 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.
 - iv. Observe whether the board/finance committee received written updates of the process of resolving audit finding(s), according to management's corrective action plan at each meeting until the findings are considered fully resolved.

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:
 - i. Bank reconciliations include evidence that they were prepared within 2 months of the related statement closing date (e.g., initialed and dated, electronically logged);
 - ii. Bank reconciliations include evidence that a member of management 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, electronically logged); and,
 - iii. Management has documentation reflecting that it has researched reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than 12 months from the statement closing date, if applicable.

The agency provided me with a certified list of all bank accounts. June, 2023 was randomly selected to be tested. For the 5 bank accounts selected for testing it was determined that all bank reconciliations were performed by the chief deputy and reviewed by the Assessor. There was evidence that the reconciliations are performed within 60 days of the bank statement date. One of the 5 accounts selected to test had outstanding reconciling items over 12 months.

4) COLLECTIONS

- 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).

The agency provided me with a certified list of deposit sites and I verified that it was 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, then inquire of employees about their job duties) at each collection location, and observe that job duties are properly segregated at each collection location such that:

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

The agency has 1 collection location. The assessor does have an insurance policy that covers employee theft for the assessor, but not for the other employees. The agency has no cash drawers and does not collect any cash. The chief deputy receives the payments, reviews and gives them to the Assessor who makes the deposits. The deposit slip is given to the chief deputy to post to the quickbooks accounting software. An outside consultant monitors the quickbooks accounting system. Deposits are taken to the bank on the day that checks are received. At the end of the month the chief deputy reconciles the bank accounts and the assessor reviews them.

- C) 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 in force during the fiscal period.

The Bienville Parish Assessor has surety bond coverage on the Assessor, but none of the employees of the Assessor are covered by an insurance policy which covers employee theft.

- 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). *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 deposits and:

- i. Observe that receipts are sequentially pre-numbered.
- ii. Trace sequentially pre-numbered receipts, system reports, and other related collection documentation to the deposit slip.
- iii. Trace the deposit slip total to the actual deposit per the bank statement.
- iv. Observe that the deposit was made within one business day of receipt at the collection location (within one week if the depository is more than 10 miles from the collection location or the deposit is less than \$100 and the cash is stored securely in a locked safe or drawer).
- v. Trace the actual deposit per the bank statement to the general ledger.

The Bienville Parish Assessor does not use pre-numbered receipts. If a receipt is requested, it is printed from the computer. Deposit documentation was traced to the supporting documentation for the deposits. The deposit slips selected were traced to the bank statement. The deposits were traced to the posting in the Quickbooks accounting software.

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).

The agency provided a complete list of locations that process payments and represented that the list was complete.

- B. For each location selected under #5A above, obtain a listing of those employees involved with non-payroll purchasing and payment functions. Obtain written policies and procedures relating to

employee job duties (if the agency has no written policies and procedures, then inquire of employees about their job duties), and observe that job duties are properly segregated such that:

- i. At least two employees are involved in initiating a purchase request, approving a purchase, and placing an order/making the purchase.
- ii. At least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors.
- iii. The employee responsible for processing payments is prohibited from adding/modifying vendor files, unless another employee is responsible for periodically reviewing changes to vendor files.
- iv. Either the employee/official responsible for signing checks mails the payment or gives the signed checks to an employee to mail who is not responsible for processing payments; and
- v. Only employee/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.

The Assessor does not use a purchase order system. The chief deputy initiates purchases and the Assessor approves all purchases. Of the disbursements selected to be tested, all were processed with all of the required support. The chief deputy adds all new vendors upon approval from the Assessor. The chief deputy enters all invoices into the quickbooks accounting system and initiates the checks. The Assessor signs all checks. The chief deputy mails all check payments. The outside consultant prepares the financial reports and the Assessor reviews the financial reports and all invoices. The chief deputy initiates electronic disbursements and the Assessor approves all electronic disbursements.

C. For each location selected under #5A above, obtain the entity's non-payroll disbursement transaction population (excluding cards and travel reimbursements) and obtain management's representation that the population is complete. Randomly select 5 disbursements for each location, obtain supporting documentation for each transaction and:

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

All disbursements selected to be tested had the proper support documentation. The chief deputy initiates the disbursements and the Assessor signs all checks. The chief deputy reconciles all bank statements and the Assessor reviews the reconciliations. The outside consultant prepares the financial report and the Assessor reviews financial reports and invoices.

- 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.

5 electronic disbursements from the test month were randomly selected and were properly approved by authorized employees, no exceptions noted.

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.

The agency provided me with a certified statement for all credit cards, fuel cards, etc.

- B. Using the listing prepared by management, randomly select 5 cards, (or all cards if less than 5) that were used during the fiscal period. Randomly select one monthly statement or combined statement for each card (for a debit card, randomly select one monthly bank statement). Obtain supporting documentation, and
- i. Observe that there is evidence that the monthly statement or combined statement and supporting documentation (e.g., original receipts for credit/debit card purchases, exception reports for excessive fuel card usage) 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 .
 - ii. Observe that finance charges and late fees were not assessed on the selected statements.

The Assessor has 1 credit card and 1 fuel card. The Assessor reviews and approves all credit card statements, then gives them to the chief deputy who writes the checks and the Assessor signs the checks. The chief deputy reconciles the bank accounts and the Assessor reviews them. The Assessor is the authorized card holder.

- 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 (i.e. each card should have 10 transactions subject to inspection). For each transaction, observe that it is supported by (1) an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased, (2) written documentation of the business/public purpose, and (3) documentation of the individuals participating in meals (for

meal charges only). For missing receipts, the practitioner should describe the nature of the transaction and observe whether management had a compensating control to address missing receipts, such as a “missing receipt statement” that is subject to increased scrutiny.

The credit card account was selected to test and June, 2023 was selected as the test month. 10 transactions were selected to be tested. The credit card charges were for business purposes. There was proper documentation for the purchases. There were no charges on the credit card that meet the requirements to use the bid law.

7) TRAVEL AND EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

- 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:

The agency provided me with a certified list of travel or related expense reimbursements during the testing period and represented that the list was complete. I randomly selected 5 reimbursements to be tested.

- i. 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).
- ii. If reimbursed using actual costs, observe that the reimbursement is supported by an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased.
- iii. Observe that each reimbursement is supported by documentation of the business/public purpose (for meal charges, observe that the documentation includes the names of those individuals participating) and other documentation required by written policies and procedures #1A(vii); and
- iv. Observe that each reimbursement was reviewed and approved, in writing, by someone other than the person receiving reimbursement.

The agency has written policies or procedures for travel and 5 employee reimbursements for travel and travel related expense reimbursement were randomly selected and tested against the policy - no exceptions noted. It was noted the expenditures were for business purposes. All reimbursements were supported by proper documentation. No meal charges were tested, the Assessor pays per diem for meals. The Assessor reviews and approves all travel reimbursements.

8) CONTRACTS

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

The agency provided a certified list of contracts in effect during the test period.

- 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.
- 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).
- iii. 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, the documented approval);
- 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 the invoice and related payment agreed to the terms and conditions of the contract.

The agency provided a certified statement for all contracts in effect during the test period. None of the contracts tested required compliance with the public bid law. The agency did solicit quotes to get the best deal for the Assessor. The contracts selected were not amended. The contract payments that were tested were in compliance with the contract terms and conditions. All contracts are approved by the Assessor.

9) PAYROLL AND PERSONNEL

- 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.

The agency provided a certified list of all employees with their authorized salaries. I randomly selected 5 employees and agreed them to authorized salaries. No exceptions were noted.

- 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).
- ii. Observe whether supervisors approved the attendance and leave of the selected employees or officials;
- iii. Observe that any leave accrued or taken during the pay period is reflected in the entity's cumulative leave records; and
- iv. Observe the rate paid to the employees or officials agree to the authorized salary/pay rate found within the personnel file.

Of the 5 employees selected, all employees that are eligible to earn leave time documented their leave time taken. The agency tracks leave time earned and used. The employees are not allowed to accumulate sick leave time and carry forward. The employees are not allowed to accumulate annual leave time. The 5 employees of the Bienville Parish Assessor that were chosen to be tested were paid in accordance with the terms and conditions of their employment. All changes to the salaries of the 5 employees chosen were approved by the Assessor in writing.

- 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 officials' cumulative leave records, agree the pay rates to the employee's or officials' authorized pay rates in the employee's or officials' personnel files, and agree the termination payment to entity policy.

The agency provided a certified list noting that no employees were terminated during the test 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.

During testing of the agency it was determined that the Bienville Parish Assessor is submitting payroll tax, retirement contributions, and required forms by the required deadlines.

10) ETHICS (EXCLUDING NONPROFITS)

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

The agency provided support for ethics training for the 5 employees randomly selected to be tested. There were no changes to the ethics policy during the fiscal period.

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

The agency provided documentation that an ethics designee has been appointed.

11) DEBT SERVICE

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

The Bienville Parish Assessor had no bonds/notes or other debt instruments issued during the fiscal period that required bond commission approval.

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

The Bienville Parish Assessor had no outstanding debt during at the end of the fiscal period.

12) FRAUD NOTICE

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

The Bienville Parish Assessor has no known misappropriation of funds during the test period.

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

I observed the fraud hotline notice posted on the premises and the website.

13) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DISASTER RECOVERY/BUSINESS CONTINUITY

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

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

I performed the procedure and discussed the results with management. It appears agency is in compliance with attributes above.

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

The agency provided a certified list noting no employees were terminated during the test 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

I randomly selected 5 employees/officials and verified that all 5 employees have completed cybersecurity training.

14) PREVENTION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT

- A. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from procedure #9A under “Payroll and Personnel” above, 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.

The agency provided support for sexual harassment training for the 5 employees randomly selected to be tested.

- 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).

I observed the sexual harassment policy posted on the premises and the website.

- C. Obtain the entity’s annual sexual harassment report for the current fiscal period, observe that the report was dated on or before February 1, and observe it 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.

For the current fiscal period the Assessor prepared an annual report in February, 2024 for fiscal period 2023. The agency did not have any complaints noted during the test period.

I was engaged by Bienville Parish Assessor to perform this agreed-upon procedures 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 was 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, 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 Bienville Parish Assessor and to meet my other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to my agreed-upon procedures engagement.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mary Jo Finley".

Mary Jo Finley, CPA
June 10, 2024

Carol T. Brown, CLA

Bienville Parish Assessor
100 Courthouse Drive, Suite 1200
Arcadia, LA 71001

Phone: 318-263-2214

Fax: 318-263-7439

June 10, 2024

Response to Statewide AUP Exceptions

- 3a. We are in the process of clearing up old, outstanding items.
- 4c. I do not have employee theft insurance coverage due to the size of the office; we do not collect cash and it is not cost effective to do so. I will research the possibility.



Carol Brown, CLA
Bienville Parish Assessor

