

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN

Franklin, Louisiana

Financial Report

Year Ended June 30, 2024

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Honorable Marsha McNulty, Judge
City Court of Franklin
Franklin, Louisiana

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City Court of Franklin (City Court), a component unit of the City of Franklin, Louisiana, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the City Court's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

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

Basis for Opinions

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

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 City Court's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

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

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

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

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the budgetary comparison information, the schedule of proportionate share of net pension liability, and the schedule of contributions on pages 37-40 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained

during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

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

Supplementary Information

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

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 30, 2024, on our consideration of the City Court's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the City Court'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 City Court's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Darnall, Sikes & Frederick

(A Corporation of Certified Public Accountants)

Morgan City, Louisiana
December 30, 2024

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Statement of Net Position
June 30, 2024

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
ASSETS	
Current assets:	
Cash and interest-bearing deposits	\$ 93,567
Accounts receivable	<u>9,786</u>
Total current assets	103,353
Noncurrent assets:	
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	<u>3,750</u>
Total assets	107,103
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Deferred outflows related to net pension liability	<u>23,612</u>
Total assets and deferred outflows of resources	<u>\$ 130,715</u>
LIABILITIES	
Current liabilities:	
Accounts payable	\$ 926
Noncurrent liabilities:	
Net pension liability	<u>105,021</u>
Total liabilities	105,947
NET POSITION	
Net investment in capital assets	3,750
Restricted for special programs	32,125
Unrestricted	<u>(11,107)</u>
Total net position	<u>24,768</u>
Total liabilities and net position	<u>\$ 130,715</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Statement of Activities
Year Ended June 30, 2024

Functions/Programs	Expenses	Program Revenues		Net (Expense) Revenue And Changes in Net Position
		Fees, Fines, and Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities
Governmental activities:				
General government	\$ 333,915	\$ 122,653	\$ 239,292	\$ 28,030
General Revenues:				
				77
				5,912
				5,989
				34,019
				(9,251)
				\$ 24,768

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MAJOR FUNDS' DESCRIPTION

GENERAL FUND

The General Fund is used to account for resources traditionally associated with governments which are not required to be accounted for in another fund.

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

Judicial Building Fund

To account for receipts of fees pursuant to R.S. 13:1910 and the expenditure of such collections which shall be used to the acquisition, leasing, construction, equipping, and maintenance of new and existing city courts and for the maintenance and payment of any bond indebtedness on any such existing facilities.

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds
June 30, 2024

	General Fund	Judicial Building Fund	Total
ASSETS			
Cash and interest-bearing deposits	\$ 61,222	\$ 32,345	\$ 93,567
Accounts receivable	<u>9,786</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,786</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 71,008</u>	<u>\$ 32,345</u>	<u>\$ 103,353</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE			
Liabilities:			
Accounts payable	\$ 706	\$ 220	\$ 926
Fund balance:			
Restricted	-	32,125	32,125
Unassigned	<u>70,302</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>70,302</u>
Total fund balance	<u>70,302</u>	<u>32,125</u>	<u>102,427</u>
Total liabilities and fund balance	<u>\$ 71,008</u>	<u>\$ 32,345</u>	<u>\$ 103,353</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

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

Total fund balance for governmental funds at June 30, 2024		\$	102,427
Cost of capital assets	81,448		
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(77,698)</u>		3,750
Deferred outflows of resources related to net pension liability			23,612
Net pension liability			<u>(105,021)</u>
Total net position of governmental activities at June 30, 2024		\$	<u>24,768</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes
in Fund Balances – Governmental Funds
Year Ended June 30, 2024

	General Fund	Judicial Building Fund	Total
Revenues:			
Fees, charges, and commissions -			
Court costs, fees, and fines	\$ 105,631	\$ 17,022	\$ 122,653
Intergovernmental	239,292	-	239,292
Interest income	77	-	77
Total revenues	<u>345,000</u>	<u>17,022</u>	<u>362,022</u>
Expenditures:			
Current -			
General government -			
Operating services	309,729	699	310,428
Repairs and maintenance	5,070	13,621	18,691
Travel and other charges	520	-	520
Total expenditures	<u>315,319</u>	<u>14,320</u>	<u>329,639</u>
Net change in fund balances	29,681	2,702	32,383
Fund balances, beginning	<u>40,621</u>	<u>29,423</u>	<u>70,044</u>
Fund balances, ending	<u>\$ 70,302</u>	<u>\$ 32,125</u>	<u>\$ 102,427</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

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

Total net change in fund balances for the year ended June 30, 2024 per Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance	\$ 32,383
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:	
Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures, however, in the statement of activities the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense. This is the amount of depreciation expense reported in the current period.	(2,846)
Effects of recording net pension liability and deferred inflows and outflows of resources related to net pension liability:	
Pension contributions subsequent to the measurement date	14,461
Cost of benefits earned net of employee contributions	(15,891)
Some revenues reported in the statement of activities do not provide current financial resources in the governmental funds:	
Non-employer pension contributions	<u>5,912</u>
Change in net position - governmental activities	<u>\$ 34,019</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Statement of Fiduciary Net Position
June 30, 2024

	<u>Custodial Funds</u>
ASSETS	
Cash and interest-bearing deposits	\$ <u>182,625</u>
Total assets	\$ <u>182,625</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION	
Liabilities	
Due to litigants and others pending court action	\$ 25,141
Net position	
Retricted for litigants and others pending court action	<u>157,484</u>
Total liabilities and net position	\$ <u>182,625</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position
Year Ended June 30, 2024

	<u>Custodial Funds</u>
Additions:	
Court costs/fines	\$ 500,258
Reductions:	
Payments to litigants and others	<u>465,385</u>
Net change in fiduciary net position	34,873
Net position, beginning	<u>122,611</u>
Net position, ending	<u>\$ 157,484</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements

INTRODUCTION

City Courts are created under the authority of LSA-RS 13:1871 et seq. The City Court of Franklin (hereinafter "City Court") accounts for the operation of the court's office. The City Court Judge is elected for a six-year term.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accompanying component unit financial statements of the City Court have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as applicable to governments. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

The following is a summary of certain significant accounting policies:

Financial Reporting Entity

As the governing authority, for reporting purposes, the City of Franklin is the financial reporting entity. The financial reporting entity consist of (a) the primary government, (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 Statement No. 14, *The Financial Reporting Entity*, as amended, established criteria for determining which component units should be considered part of the City of Franklin for financial reporting purposes. The basic criterion for including a potential component unit within the reporting entity is financial accountability. The GASB has set forth criteria to be considered in determining financial accountability. These criteria include:

1. Appointing a voting majority of an organization's governing body, and
 - a. The ability of the City to impose its will on the organization and/or
 - b. The potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to or impose specific financial burdens on the City.
2. Organizations for which the City does not appoint a voting majority but are fiscally dependent on the City.
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.

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Because the City of Franklin provides compensation and office space to the City Court and the significance of the relationship between the City Court and the City, the City Court was determined to be a component unit of the City of Franklin, the financial reporting entity. The accompanying financial statements present information only on the funds maintained by the City Court and do not present information on the City, the general government services provided by the City, or the other governmental units that comprise the financial reporting entity.

Basis of Presentation

The accompanying financial statements of the City Court have been prepared in conformity with governmental accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Government-wide Financial Statements

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

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

Fiduciary funds are not included in the government-wide financial statements. Fiduciary funds are reported only in the Statement of Fiduciary Net Position at the fund financial statement level.

Fund Financial Statements

The City Court uses funds to maintain City Court functions and activities. A fund is defined as a separate fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The various funds of the City Court are classified into two categories: governmental and fiduciary. The emphasis on fund financial statements is on major funds, each displayed in a separate column. A fund is considered major if it is the primary operating fund of the entity or its total assets and deferred outflows of resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of resources, revenues, or expenditures of the individual governmental fund is at least 10 percent of the corresponding total for all governmental funds. The general fund and judicial building fund of the City Court are considered to be major funds.

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

The funds of the City Court are described below:

Governmental Fund -

General Fund – This fund is the primary operating fund of the City Court and it accounts for the operations of the City Court's office. The general fund is available for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred in accordance with state and federal laws and according to City Court's policy.

Judicial Building Fund – Act 249 of the 2016 Louisiana Legislative Session amended RS 13:1910 by allowing City Court to impose a service charge dedicated exclusively to the acquisition, leasing, construction, equipping, and maintenance of new and existing city courts and for the maintenance and payment of any bond indebtedness on any such existing facilities.

Fiduciary Funds -

Fiduciary fund reporting focuses on net position and changes in net position. The only funds accounted for in this category by the City Court are custodial funds. The custodial funds account for assets held by the City Court as an agent for litigants in civil suits, cash bonds for criminal proceedings, and fees held by pending court action. Fiduciary fund statements are prepared using the economic resources measurement focus and accrual basis of accounting. The custodial funds are as follows:

Fines and Costs Fund – accounts for the receipts and disbursement of bonds, fines, and costs from criminal proceedings to the appropriate governmental entity.

Advance Deposit Fund – accounts for advance deposits on suits filed by litigants.

Measurement Focus/ Basis of Accounting

Measurement focus is a term used to describe "which" transactions are recorded with the various financial statements. Basis of accounting refers to "when" transactions are recorded regardless of the measurement focus applied.

Measurement Focus

On the government-wide statement of net position and the statement of activities, governmental activities are presented using the economic resources measurement focus as defined below. In the fund financial statements, the "current financial resources" measurement focus or the "economic resources." measurement focus is used as appropriate:

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

- a. The governmental fund utilizes a "current financial resources" measurement focus. Only current financial assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources are generally included on its balance sheet. Their operating statement presents sources and uses of available expendable financial resources during a given period. This fund uses fund balance as its measure of available expendable financial resources at the end of a period.
- b. The government-wide financial statement utilizes an economic resources" measurement focus. The accounting objectives of this measurement focus are the determination of operating income, changes in net position (or cost recovery), and financial position. All assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources (whether current or non-current) associated with its activities are reported. Government-wide fund equity is classified as net position.

Basis of Accounting

In the government-wide statement of net position and statement of activities, the governmental activities are presented using the accrual basis of accounting. Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recorded when the liability is incurred, or economic asset used. Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources resulting from exchange and exchange-like transactions are recognized when the exchange takes place.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities for the current period. For this purpose, the government considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures (including capital outlay) generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting.

Cash and Interest-bearing Deposits

For purposes of the statement of net position, cash and interest-bearing deposits includes all demand deposits, savings accounts and certificates of deposits of the City Court.

Under state law, the City Court may deposit funds in demand deposits, interest-bearing demand deposits, or time deposits with state banks organized under Louisiana law or any other state of the United States, or under the law of the United States.

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Short-term Interfund Receivables/Payables

During the course of operations, numerous transactions occur between individual funds for goods provided or services rendered. These receivables and payables are classified as due from other funds or due to other funds on the balance sheet.

Capital Assets

Capital assets, which include property and equipment, are reported in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are capitalized at historical cost or estimated cost if historical cost is not available. Donated assets are recorded as capital assets at their estimated fair market value at the date of donation. The City Court maintains a threshold level of \$2,500 for capitalizing assets.

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

Depreciation of all exhaustible capital assets is recorded as an expense in the statement of activities, with accumulated depreciation reflected in the statement of net position. Since surplus assets are sold for an immaterial amount when declared as no longer needed for public purposes, no salvage value is taken into consideration for depreciation purposes. Depreciation is provided over the assets' estimated useful lives using the straight-line method of depreciation. The range of estimated useful lives by type of asset is as follows:

Office Furniture	5 Years
Equipment	5 Years
Improvements	10-30 Years

Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statement of net position and/or balance sheet will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred outflows of resources, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. The City Court reports deferred outflows of resources related to its net pension liability.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of net position and/or balance sheet will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred inflows of resources, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until then. The City Court reports deferred inflows of resources related to its net pension liability.

See Note 7 for additional information related to deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to net pension liability.

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Equity Classifications

Government-wide Financial 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, reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes, or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets.
- b. Restricted – consists of net position items 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 – all other net position that does not meet the definition of “restricted” or “net investment in capital assets”.

When an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available, the City Court considers restricted funds to have been spent first.

Fund Financial Statements:

Fund balance for the City Court’s governmental fund is displayed in the following classification depicting the relative strength of the spending constraints placed on the purposes for which resources can be used:

- a. Nonspendable – amounts that cannot be spent either because they are in nonspendable form or because they are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.
- b. Restricted – amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes because of constitutional provisions or enabling legislation or because of constraints that are externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or the laws or regulations of other governments.
- c. Committed – amounts that can be used only for specific purposes determined by a formal action of the Judge. The Judge is the highest level of decision-making authority for City Court. Commitments may be established, modified, or rescinded only through process verbal of the Judge.
- d. Assigned – amounts that do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed but that are intended to be used for specific purposes. Under the City Court’s adopted policy, only the Judge may assign amounts for specific purposes.

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

- e. Unassigned – all other spendable amounts.

When an expenditure is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available, the City Court considers restricted funds to have been spent first. When an expenditure is incurred for which committed, assigned, or unassigned fund balances are available, City Court considers amounts to have been spent first out of committed funds, then assigned funds, and finally unassigned funds, as needed, unless the Judge have provided otherwise in its commitment or assignment actions.

Revenues, Expenditures and Expenses

Revenues and Fees

Revenues and fees, charges and commissions for services are recorded when City Court is entitled to the funds.

Expenditures/Expenses

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

Pensions

The City Court applies the provisions of GASB Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions*. This pronouncement requires the City Court to calculate and recognize a net pension liability at June 30, 2024. For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System (the Plan), and additions to/deductions from 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. Investments are reported at fair value. See Note 7 for further details.

Use of Estimates

The City Court uses estimates and assumptions in preparing financial statements. Those estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues, and expenditures.

Subsequent Event

The City Court has evaluated subsequent events through December 30, 2024, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 2 CASH AND INTEREST-BEARING DEPOSITS

At June 30, 2024, the City Court has cash and cash equivalents (book balances) totaling \$276,192 as follows:

	Governmental Activities	Fiduciary Funds	Total
Cash on hand	\$ 50	\$ -	\$ 50
Demand deposits	<u>93,517</u>	<u>182,625</u>	<u>276,142</u>
Total	<u><u>93,567</u></u>	<u><u>182,625</u></u>	<u><u>276,192</u></u>

Under state law, deposits, or the resulting bank balances, must be secured by federal deposit insurance or similar federal security or the pledge of securities owned by the fiscal agent bank. The fair market value of the pledged securities plus the federal deposit insurance must at all times equal the amount on deposit with the fiscal agent bank. These deposits are held in the name of the pledging fiscal agent bank in a holding or custodial bank that is mutually acceptable to both parties.

Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, City Court's deposits may not be recovered or City Court will not be able to recover collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. City Court does not have a policy to monitor or reduce exposure to custodial credit risk. As of June 30, 2024, the City Court had \$286,953 in deposits (bank balances). These deposits are secured from risk by federal deposit insurance and therefore not exposed to custodial credit risk.

NOTE 3 CAPITAL ASSETS

The following is a summary of the changes in capital assets for the year ended June 30, 2024:

	Balance July 1, 2023	Additions	Deletions	Balance June 30, 2024
Furniture, fixtures, and equipment	\$ 81,448	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 81,448
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(74,852)</u>	<u>(2,846)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(77,698)</u>
Capital assets, net	<u><u>\$ 6,596</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (2,846)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 3,750</u></u>

Depreciation expense in the amount of \$2,846 for the year ended June 30, 2024 was charged to the general government function.

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 4 FUND BALANCE

Fund balance is classified as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and/or unassigned based primarily on the extent to which the City Court is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in the governmental funds. The constraints placed on fund balance for the major governmental funds and all other governmental funds are presented as follows:

	General Fund	Judicial Building Fund	Total Governmental Funds
Fund balances			
Restricted for -			
Facility acquisition and maintenance	\$ -	\$ 32,125	\$ 32,125
Unassigned	<u>70,302</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>70,302</u>
Total	<u>70,302</u>	<u>32,125</u>	<u>102,427</u>

NOTE 5 CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION

The following is a summary of the changes in fiduciary net position for the year ended June 30, 2024:

	Balance at July 1, 2023	Additions	Reductions	Balance at June 30, 2024
Fiduciary fund type - Custodial funds				
Advance deposit fund	\$ 94,864	\$ 104,733	\$ 101,649	\$ 97,948
Fines and costs fund	<u>27,747</u>	<u>395,525</u>	<u>363,736</u>	<u>59,536</u>
Total	<u>\$ 122,611</u>	<u>\$ 500,258</u>	<u>\$ 465,385</u>	<u>\$ 157,484</u>

NOTE 6 ON-BEHALF PAYMENTS FOR SALARIES AND BENEFITS

GASB Statement No. 24, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Certain Grants and Other Financial Assistance*, requires City Court to report on-behalf payments made by the City of Franklin to City Court's employees for salaries and related benefits. The basis for recognizing the revenues and expenditure payments is that the actual contribution is made by the City of Franklin and not by City Court. For the year ended June 30, 2024, the City paid salaries and benefits, which include payments to the Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana (MERS) and Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System (LASERS), to and for the City Judge, Civil Court Clerk, Criminal Court Clerk, City Court Clerk, City Prosecutor, and Deputy Clerk. On-behalf payments recorded as revenue and expenditures in the general fund financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2024 totaled \$239,292.

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 7 RETIREMENT

Plan Description

Employees of the City Court are provided with pensions through a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit plan administered by the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System (LASERS). Section 401 of Title 11 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes (LA. R.S. 11:401) grants to LASERS Board of Trustees and the Louisiana Legislature the authority to review administration, benefit terms, investments, and funding of the plan. LASERS issues a publicly available financial report that can be obtained at www.lasersonline.org.

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

Retirement Benefits

The age and years of creditable service required in order for a member to retire with full benefits are established by statute, and vary depending on the member's hire date, employer, and job classification. Our rank-and-file members hired prior to July 1, 2006, may either retire with full benefits at any age upon completing 30 years of creditable service or at age 60 upon completing ten years of creditable service depending on their plan. Those members hired between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2015, may retire at age 60 upon completing five years of creditable service and those hired on or after July 1, 2015 may retire at age 62 upon completing five years of creditable service. The basic annual retirement benefit for members is equal to 2.5% to 3.5% of average compensation multiplied by the number of years of creditable service. Additionally, members may choose to retire with 20 years of service at any age, with an actuarially reduced benefit.

Average compensation is defined as the member's average annual earned compensation for the highest 36 consecutive months of employment for members employed prior to July 1, 2006. For members hired July 1, 2006 or later, average compensation is based on the member's average annual earned compensation for the highest 60 consecutive months of employment. The maximum annual retirement benefit cannot exceed the lesser of 100% of average compensation or a certain specified dollar amount of actuarially determined monetary limits, which vary depending upon the member's age at retirement. Judges, court officers, and certain elected officials receive an additional annual retirement benefit equal to 1.0% of average compensation multiplied by the number of years of creditable service in their respective capacity. As an alternative to the basic retirement benefits, a member may elect to receive their retirement throughout their life, with certain benefits being paid to their designated beneficiary after their death.

Act 992 of the 2010 Louisiana Regular Legislative Session, changed the benefit structure for LASERS members hired on or after January 1, 2011. This resulted in three new plans: regular, hazardous duty, and judges. The new regular plan includes regular members and those members who were formerly eligible to participate in specialty plans, excluding hazardous duty and judges. Regular members and judges are eligible to retire at age 60 after five years of creditable service

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 7 RETIREMENT (CONTINUED)

and, may also retire at any age, with a reduced benefit, after 20 years of creditable service. Hazardous duty members are eligible to retire with twelve years of creditable service at age 55, 25 years of creditable service at any age or with a reduced benefit after 20 years of creditable service. Average compensation will be based on the member's average annual earned compensation for the highest 60 consecutive months of employment for all three new plans. Members in the regular plan will receive a 2.5% accrual rate, hazardous duty plan a 3.33% accrual rate, and judges a 3.5% accrual rate. The extra 1.0% accrual rate for each year of service for court officers, the governor, lieutenant governor, legislators, House clerk, sergeants at arms, or Senate secretary, employed after January 1, 2011, was eliminated by Act 992. Specialty plan and regular members, hired prior to January 1, 2011, who are hazardous duty employees have the option to transition to the new hazardous duty plan.

Act 226 of the 2014 Louisiana Regular Legislative Session established new retirement eligibility for members of LASERS hired on or after July 1, 2015, excluding hazardous duty plan members. Regular members and judges under the new plan are eligible to retire at age 62 after five years of creditable service and, may also retire at any age, with a reduced benefit, after 20 years of creditable service. Average compensation will be based on the member's average annual earned compensation for the highest 60 consecutive months of employment. Members in the regular plan will receive a 2.5% accrual rate, and judges a 3.5% accrual rate, with the extra 1.0% accrual rate based on all years of service as a judge.

Members of the Harbor Police Retirement System who were members prior to July 1, 2014, may retire after 25 years of creditable service at any age, 12 years of creditable service at age 55, 20 years of creditable service at age 45, and 10 years of creditable service at age 60. Average compensation for the plan is the member's average annual earned compensation for the highest 36 consecutive months of employment, with a 3.33% accrual rate.

A member leaving employment before attaining minimum retirement age, but after completing certain minimum service requirements, becomes eligible for a benefit provided the member lives to the minimum service retirement age, and does not withdraw their accumulated contributions. The minimum service requirement for benefits varies depending upon the member's employer and service classification.

Deferred Retirement Benefits

The State Legislature authorized LASERS to establish a Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP). When a member enters DROP, their status changes from active member to retiree even though they continue to work and draw their salary for a period of up to three years. The election is irrevocable once participation begins. During DROP participation, accumulated retirement benefits that would have been paid to each retiree are separately tracked. For members who entered DROP prior to January 1, 2004, interest at a rate of one-half percent less than the System's realized return on its portfolio (not to be less than zero) will be credited to the System's retiree

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 7 RETIREMENT (CONTINUED)

after participation ends. At that time, the member must choose among available alternatives for the distribution of benefits that have accumulated in the DROP account. Members who enter DROP on or after January 1, 2004, are required to participate in LASERS Self-Directed Plan (SDP) which is administered by a third-party provider. The SDP allows DROP participants to choose from a menu of investment options for the allocation of their DROP balances. Participants may diversify their investments by choosing from an approved list of mutual funds with different holdings, management styles, and risk factors.

Members eligible to retire and who do not choose to participate in DROP may elect to receive at the time of retirement an initial benefit option (IBO) in an amount up to 36 months of benefits, with an actuarial reduction of their future benefits. For members who selected the IBO option prior to January 1, 2004, such amount may be withdrawn or remain in the IBO account earning interest at a rate of one-half percent less than the System's realized return on its portfolio (not to be less than zero). Those members who select the IBO on or after January 1, 2004, are required to enter the SDP as described above.

For members who are in the Harbor Police Plan, the annual DROP Interest Rate is the three-year average (calculated as the compound average of 36 months) investment return of the plan assets for the period ending the June 30th immediately preceding that given date. The average rate so determined is to be reduced by a "contingency" adjustment of 0.5%, but not to below zero. DROP interest is forfeited if the member does not cease employment after DROP participation.

Disability Benefits

Generally, active members with ten or more years of credited service who become disabled may receive a maximum disability retirement benefit equivalent to the regular retirement formula without reduction by reason of age.

Upon reaching age 60, the disability retiree may receive a regular retirement benefit by making application to the Board of Trustees.

For injuries sustained in the line of duty, hazardous duty personnel in the Hazardous Duty Services Plan will receive a disability benefit equal to 75% of final average compensation or 100% of final average compensation if the injury was the result of an intentional act of violence.

Members of the Harbor Police Retirement System who become disabled may receive a non-line of duty disability benefit after five years or more of credited service. Members age 55 or older may receive a disability benefit equivalent to the regular retirement benefit. Under age 55, the disability benefit is equal to 40% of final average compensation. Line of duty disability benefits are equal to 60% of final average compensation, regardless of years of credited service or 100% of final average compensation if the injury was the result of an intentional act of violence. If the disability benefit retiree is permanently confined to a wheelchair, or is an amputee incapable of serving as a law enforcement officer, or is permanently and legally blind, there is no reduction to the benefit if the retiree becomes gainfully employed.

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 7 RETIREMENT (CONTINUED)

Survivor's Benefits

Certain eligible surviving dependents receive benefits based on the deceased member's compensation and their relationship to the deceased. The deceased regular member hired before January 1, 2011 who was in state service at the time of death must have a minimum of five years of service credit, at least two of which were earned immediately prior to death, or who had a minimum of twenty years of service credit regardless of when earned in order for a benefit to be paid to a minor or handicapped child. Benefits are payable to an unmarried child until age 18, or age 23 if the child remains a full-time student. The aforementioned minimum service credit requirement is ten years for a surviving spouse with no minor children, and benefits are to be paid for life to the spouse or qualified handicapped child.

The deceased regular member hired on or after January 1, 2011, must have a minimum of five years of service credit regardless of when earned in order for a benefit to be paid to a minor child. The aforementioned minimum service credit requirements for a surviving spouse are 10 years, 2 years being earned immediately prior to death, and active state service at the time of death, or a minimum of 20 years of service credit regardless of when earned. A deceased member's spouse must have been married for at least one year before death.

A Hazardous Duty Services Plan member's surviving spouse and minor or handicapped or mentally incapacitated child or children are entitled to survivor benefits of 80% of the member's final average compensation if the member was killed in the line of duty. If the member dies in the line of duty as a result of an intentional act of violence, survivor benefits may be increased to 100% of the member's final average compensation.

Non-line of duty survivor benefits of the Harbor Police Retirement System may be received after a minimum of five years of credited service. Survivor benefits paid to a surviving spouse without children are equal to 40% of final average compensation, and cease upon remarriage. Surviving spouse with children under 18 benefits are equal to 60% of final average compensation, and cease upon remarriage, and children turning 18. No minimum service credit is required for line of duty survivor benefits which are equal to 60% of final average compensation to surviving spouse, or 100% of final average compensation if the injury was the result of an intentional act of violence, regardless of children. Line of duty survivor benefits cease upon remarriage and then benefit is paid to children under 18.

Cost-of-Living Adjustments

As fully described in Title 11 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, the System allows for the payment of cost-of-living adjustments, also known as (COLAs), that are funded through investment earnings when recommended by the Board of Trustees and approved by the State Legislature.

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 7 RETIREMENT (CONTINUED)

Employer Contributions

The employer contribution rate is established annually under La. R.S. 11:101-11:104 by the Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee (PRSAC), taking into consideration the recommendation of the System's Actuary. Each plan pays a separate actuarially-determined employer contribution rate. However, all assets of LASERS are used for the payment of benefits for all classes of members, regardless of their plan membership. Rates for the year ended June 30, 2024 are as follows:

Plan	Employer Rate
Appellate Law Clerks	41.30%
Appellate Law Clerks hired on or after 7/01/06	41.30%
Alcohol Tobacco Control	42.60%
Bridge Police	40.30%
Bridge Police hired on or after 7/01/06	40.30%
Corrections Primary	39.90%
Corrections Secondary	44.60%
Harbor Police	47.30%
Hazardous Duty	47.00%
Judges hired before 1/1/11	45.80%
Judges hired after 12/31/10	44.70%
Judges hired on or after 7/01/15	44.70%
Legislators	37.00%
Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) before 7/01/06	38.80%
Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) on or after 7/01/06	38.80%
Peace Officers	43.00%
Regular Employees hired before 7/01/06	41.30%
Regular Employees hired on or after 7/01/06	41.30%
Regular Employees hired on or after 1/1/11	41.30%
Regular Employees hired on or after 7/1/15	41.30%
Special Legislative Employees	39.00%
Wildlife Agents	53.10%
Aggregate Rate	41.90%

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 7 RETIREMENT (CONTINUED)

The City Court's contractually required composite contribution rate for the year ended June 30, 2023 was 43.8% of annual payroll, actuarially determined as an amount that, when combined with employee contributions, is expected to finance the costs of benefits earned by employees during the year, with an additional amount to finance any Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability. Contributions to the pension plan from the City Court were \$14,461 for the year ended June 30, 2024.

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

At June 30, 2024 the Employer reported a liability of \$105,021 for its proportionate share of the Net Pension Liability. The Net Pension Liability was measured as of June 30, 2023 and the total pension liability used to calculate the Net Pension Liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The City Court's proportion of the Net Pension Liability was based on a projection of the City Court's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating employers, actuarially determined. At June 30, 2023 the City Court's proportion was 0.00157%, which was an increase of 0.00037% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2022.

For the year ended June 30, 2024, the City Court recognized pension expense of \$15,891 in its activities.

At June 30, 2024, the City Court reported deferred outflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 2,273
Net difference between projected and actual investment earnings on pension plan investments	600
Changes in proportion and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions	6,278
Employer contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>14,461</u>
Total	<u>\$ 23,612</u>

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 7 RETIREMENT (CONTINUED)

\$14,461 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from City Court's contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the Net Pension Liability in the year ended June 30, 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 ending June 30,	
2025	\$ 9,148
2026	(3,793)
2027	5,173
2028	<u>(1,377)</u>
Total	<u>\$ 9,151</u>

Contributions – Proportionate Share

Differences between contributions remitted to the System and the employer's proportionate share are recognized in pension expense using the straight-line amortization method over a closed period equal to the average of the expected remaining service lives of all employees that are provided with a pension through the pension plan. The resulting deferred inflow/outflow and amortization is not reflected in the schedule of pension amounts by employer due to differences that could arise between contributions reported by the System and contributions reported by the participating employer.

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CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 7 RETIREMENT (CONTINUED)

Actuarial Assumptions

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

Valuation date	June 30, 2023																		
Actuarial cost method	Entry Age Normal																		
Actuarial assumptions:																			
Expected remaining service lives	2 years																		
Investment rate of return	7.25% per annum, net of investment expenses																		
Inflation rate	2.30% per annum																		
Mortality rates	Non-disabled members - Mortality rates were based on the RP-2014 Blue Collar (males/females) and White Collar (females) Healthy Annuitant Tables projected on a fully generational basis by Mortality Improvement Scale MP-2018. Disabled members – Mortality rates based on the RP-2000 Disabled Retiree Mortality Table, with no projection for mortality improvement.																		
Termination, disability, and retirement	Termination, disability, and retirement assumptions were projected based on a five-year (2014-2018) experience study of the System's members.																		
Salary increases	Salary increases were projected based on a 2014-2018 experience study of the System's members. The salary increase ranges for specific types of members are: <table><tr><td>Member Type</td><td>Lower Range</td><td>Upper Range</td></tr><tr><td>Regular</td><td>3.0%</td><td>12.8%</td></tr><tr><td>Judges</td><td>2.6%</td><td>5.1%</td></tr><tr><td>Corrections</td><td>3.6%</td><td>13.8%</td></tr><tr><td>Hazardous Duty</td><td>3.6%</td><td>13.8%</td></tr><tr><td>Wildlife</td><td>3.6%</td><td>13.8%</td></tr></table>	Member Type	Lower Range	Upper Range	Regular	3.0%	12.8%	Judges	2.6%	5.1%	Corrections	3.6%	13.8%	Hazardous Duty	3.6%	13.8%	Wildlife	3.6%	13.8%
Member Type	Lower Range	Upper Range																	
Regular	3.0%	12.8%																	
Judges	2.6%	5.1%																	
Corrections	3.6%	13.8%																	
Hazardous Duty	3.6%	13.8%																	
Wildlife	3.6%	13.8%																	
Cost-of-living adjustments	The present value of future retirement benefits is based on benefits currently being paid by the System and includes previously granted cost of living increases. The projected benefit payments do not include provisions for potential future increases not yet authorized by the Board of Trustees as they were deemed not to be substantively automatic.																		

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 7 RETIREMENT (CONTINUED)

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimates ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges 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 2.3% and an adjustment for the effect of rebalancing/diversification. The resulting expected long-term rate of return is 8.19% for 2023. Best estimates of geometric real rates of return for each major asset class included in the System's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2023 are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Long-term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Cash	0.80%
Domestic Equity	4.45%
International Equity	5.44%
Domestic Fixed Income	2.04%
International Fixed Income	5.33%
Alternative Investments	8.19%
Total Fund	5.75%

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.25%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that employee contributions will be made at the current contribution rates and that contributions from participating employers will be made at the actuarially determined rates approved by PRSAC taking into consideration the recommendation of the pension plan's actuary. Based on those assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 7 RETIREMENT (CONTINUED)

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

The following presents the net pension liability using the discount rate of 7.25%, as well as what the City Court's share of the net 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 6.25%	Current Discount Rate 7.25%	1% Increase 8.25%
Employer's proportionate share of the net pension liability	<u>\$ 137,517</u>	<u>\$ 105,021</u>	<u>\$ 77,491</u>

Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position

Detailed information about the pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued current LASERS Annual Comprehensive Financial Report at www.lasersonline.org.

Payables to the Pension Plan

The City Court recorded no accrued liabilities related to the pension plan for the year ended June 30, 2024.

NOTE 8 EFFECTS OF DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES ON NET POSITION

Net position is presented as net investments in capital assets and unrestricted on the City Court's government-wide statement of net position. City Court's net position is affected by transactions that resulted in the recognition of deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources, and the differences between the deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources and the balances of any related assets and liabilities are significant. As discussed in Note 7, City Court's recognition of net pension liability in accordance with GASBS No. 68 significantly affected City Court's unrestricted portion of net position as of June 30, 2024.

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTE 9 RISK MANAGEMENT

The City Court is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; error and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The City Court's primary government, the City of Franklin, has elected to purchase insurance coverage through the commercial insurance market to cover its exposure to loss. However, it is the policy of the City to retain the risk of losses related to general public liability (excluding vehicles and buildings).

The City is insured up to policy limits for each of the above risks. There were no significant changes in coverage, retentions, or limits during the year ended June 30, 2024. Settled claims have not exceeded the commercial coverage in any of the previous three fiscal years. The City Court has made no contributions to the premiums on the policy during the year ended June 30, 2024.

NOTE 10 COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENTS PAID TO CHIEF OFFICER

Act 706 of the 2014 Legislative Session Amended R.S. 24:513A requiring additional disclosure of total compensation, reimbursements, benefits, or other payments made to an agency head or chief officer. Payments to and on behalf of the City Court's chief officer, Judge Marsha McNulty, for the year ended June 30, 2024 are as follows:

Wages	\$ 32,350
Benefits - retirement	14,461
Wages and benefits paid by the City of Franklin on behalf of the City Court of Franklin	30,314
Dues	1,035
Travel	<u>60</u>
Total	<u>\$ 78,220</u>

NOTE 11 EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY COURT OFFICE PAID BY THE CITY OF FRANKLIN

The cost of some expenditures for the operation of City Court, as required by Louisiana Revised Statute 13:1889, is paid by the City of Franklin, Louisiana. Such expenditures are not included in the accompanying financial statements.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Budgetary Comparison Schedule – General Fund
Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance with Final Budget Favorable (Unfavorable)
Revenues:				
Fees, charges, and commissions -				
Court costs, fees, and fines	\$ 104,000	\$ 104,000	\$ 105,631	\$ 1,631
Interest income	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>77</u>
Total revenues	104,000	104,000	105,708	1,708
Expenditures:				
Current -				
General government -				
Operating services	61,300	61,300	70,437	(9,137)
Repairs and maintenance	11,000	11,000	5,070	5,930
Travel and other charges	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>520</u>	<u>(520)</u>
Total expenditures	<u>72,300</u>	<u>72,300</u>	<u>76,027</u>	<u>(3,727)</u>
Net change in fund balances	31,700	31,700	29,681	(2,019)
Fund balance, beginning of year	<u>40,621</u>	<u>40,621</u>	<u>40,621</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund balance, end of year	<u>\$ 72,321</u>	<u>\$ 72,321</u>	<u>\$ 70,302</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

See independent auditor's report and accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Budgetary Comparison Schedule – Judicial Building Fund
Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance with Final Budget Favorable (Unfavorable)
Revenues:				
Fees, charges, and commissions -				
Court costs, fees, and fines	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 17,022	\$ 1,022
Expenditures:				
Current -				
General government -				
Operating services	-	-	699	(699)
Repairs and maintenance	14,000	14,000	13,621	379
Total expenditures	14,000	14,000	14,320	(320)
Net change in fund balances	2,000	2,000	2,702	702
Fund balance, beginning of year	40,621	40,621	29,423	-
Fund balance, end of year	<u>\$ 42,621</u>	<u>\$ 42,621</u>	<u>\$ 32,125</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

See independent auditor's report and accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Schedule of Employer's Share of Net Pension Liability
Year Ended June 30, 2024

Plan Year Ended June 30,	Employer proportion of the net pension liability	Employer proportionate share of the net pension liability	Employer's covered payroll	Employer's share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered payroll	Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability
2018	0.00099%	\$ 67,473	\$ 25,523	264.36%	62.54%
2019	0.00176%	\$ 119,826	\$ 33,082	362.21%	64.30%
2020	0.00148%	\$ 107,225	\$ 41,812	256.45%	62.90%
2021	0.00192%	\$ 158,383	\$ 36,942	428.73%	58.00%
2022	0.00176%	\$ 96,870	\$ 32,092	301.85%	72.80%
2023	0.00120%	\$ 90,944	\$ 23,609	385.21%	63.65%
2024	0.00157%	\$ 105,021	\$ 32,901	319.20%	68.42%

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 accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Schedule of Employer Pension Contributions
Year Ended June 30, 2024

Plan Year Ended June 30,	Contractually required contribution	Contributions in relation to contractually required contribution	Contribution deficiency (excess)	Employer's covered payroll	Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll
2018	\$ 12,141	\$ 12,141	\$ -	\$ 33,082	36.70%
2019	\$ 16,379	\$ 16,379	\$ -	\$ 41,812	39.17%
2020	\$ 15,268	\$ 15,268	\$ -	\$ 36,942	41.33%
2021	\$ 11,920	\$ 11,920	\$ -	\$ 32,092	37.14%
2022	\$ 10,125	\$ 10,152	\$ -	\$ 23,609	43.00%
2023	\$ 14,411	\$ 14,411	\$ -	\$ 32,901	43.80%
2024	\$ 14,461	\$ 14,461	\$ -	\$ 32,350	44.70%

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 accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Notes to the Required Supplementary Information

NOTE 1 BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The budget for the general fund is not adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP); however, the budget for the judicial building fund is adopted on a GAAP-consistent basis. Budgeted amounts are as originally adopted or as finally amended by City Court.

NOTE 2 BUDGETARY ADOPTION

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

1. A proposed budget is prepared and submitted to the City Court Judge for the fiscal year prior to the beginning of each fiscal year.
2. If proposed expenditures exceed \$500,000, a summary of the proposed budget is published and the public is notified that the proposed budget is available for public inspection. At the same time, a public hearing is called, if required.
3. If required, a public hearing is held on the proposed budget at least ten days after publication of the call for a hearing.
4. After the holding of the public hearing, if required, and completion of all action necessary to finalize and implement the budget, the budget is legally adopted prior to the commencement of the fiscal year for which the budget is being adopted.
5. All budgetary appropriations lapse at the end of each fiscal year.

NOTE 3 NON-GAAP REPORTING RECONCILIATION

Budgetary amounts adopted by City Court do not include on-behalf payments made by the City of Franklin to City Court's employees for salaries and related benefits. These on-behalf payments are reflected as a revenue and as an expenditure in City Court's financial statements as required by GASB Statement No. 24, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Certain Grants and Other Financial Assistance*.

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CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Notes to the Required Supplementary Information

NOTE 3 NON-GAAP REPORTING RECONCILIATION (CONTINUED)

Actual amounts, net of amounts reimbursed, are reconciled on a non-GAAP basis for comparison to budget as follows:

	As Reported	Adjustment to Budgetary Basis	Non-GAAP Basis
Revenues:			
Intergovernmental	\$ 239,292	\$ (239,292)	\$ -
Expenditures:			
General government -			
Operating services	\$ 315,319	\$ (239,292)	\$ 76,027

NOTE 4 EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF APPROPRIATIONS

Expenditures exceeded budgeted appropriations in the general fund by \$3,727.

NOTE 5 PENSION PLAN

Changes of Benefit Terms - There were no changes of benefit terms for the Pension Plan during the year presented.

Changes of Assumptions -

Plan Year Ended June 30,	Discount rate	Investment rate of return	Inflation rate	Expected remaining service lives	Projected salary increase
2017	7.70%	7.70%	2.75%	3	2.8% - 5.3%
2018	7.65%	7.65%	2.75%	3	2.8% - 5.3%
2019	7.60%	7.60%	2.50%	2	2.8% - 5.3%
2020	7.55%	7.55%	2.30%	2	2.6% - 5.1%
2021	7.40%	7.40%	2.30%	2	2.6% - 5.1%
2022	7.25%	7.25%	2.30%	2	2.6% - 5.1%
2023	7.25%	7.25%	2.30%	2	2.6% - 5.1%

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Justice System Funding Schedule – Collecting and Disbursing Entity
As Required by Act 87 of the 2020 Regular Session
Year Ended June 30, 2024

	First Six Month Period Ended 12/31/2023	Second Six Month Period Ended 6/30/2024
Beginning Balance of Amounts Collected	\$ 136,416	\$ 169,323
Add: Collections		
Civil Fees	50,387	54,345
Criminal Court Costs/Fees	159,394	106,937
Criminal Fines - Other	74,458	53,886
Restitutions	788	63
Subtotal Collections	285,027	215,231
Less: Disbursements to Governments & Nonprofits		
City of Franklin - Criminal Fines	73,808	52,836
City of Franklin Police Dept - Witness Fees	3,933	3,027
City of Franklin Police Dept - Warrant Fees	800	1,150
St. Mary Parish Clerk of Court - Civil Fees	6,285	2,820
Franklin Marshal Fund - Civil Fees	5,401	4,886
Franklin Marshal Fund - Criminal Court Costs/Fees	22,226	14,410
Jeanerette Marshal Fund - Civil Fees	630	240
St. Mary Parish Sheriff - Criminal Court Costs/Fees	3,498	2,400
East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff - Civil Fees	39	-
Iberia Parish Sheriff - Civil Fees	295	35
Lafayette Parish Sheriff - Civil Fees	138	44
St. Mary Parish - Criminal Fines	650	450
Indigent Defender Board - Criminal Court Costs/Fees	27,630	18,045
Acadiana Criminalistics Lab - Criminal Court Costs/Fees	18,620	12,780
Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement - Criminal Court Costs/Fees	7,127	4,487
Louisiana State Treasurer - Civil Fees	3,454	3,540
Louisiana State Treasurer - Criminal Court Costs/Fees	1,842	1,203
LA Dept of Health & Hospitals THI/SCI - Criminal Court Costs/Fees	2,310	1,475
16th Judicial District Attorney's Office - Criminal Court Costs/Fees	50	-

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Justice System Funding Schedule – Collecting and Disbursing Entity
As Required by Act 87 of the 2020 Regular Session
Year Ended June 30, 2024

	First Six Month Period Ended <u>12/31/2023</u>	Second Six Month Period Ended <u>6/30/2024</u>
Less: Amounts Retained by Collecting Agency		
Amounts "Self-Disbursed" to Collecting Agency - Civil Fees	33,671	30,428
Amounts "Self-Disbursed" to Collecting Agency - Criminal Court Costs/Fees	33,999	22,884
Service/Collection Fees	12	137
Less: Disbursements to Individuals/ 3rd Party Collection or Processing Agencies		
Civil Fee Refunds	2,714	3,321
Criminal Fee Refunds	2,170	9,868
Restitution Payments to Individuals	818	185
Other Disbursements to Individuals	-	200
Subtotal Disbursements/ Retainage	<u>252,120</u>	<u>190,851</u>
Total: Ending Balance of Amounts Collected but not Disbursed/ Retained (i.e. cash on hand)	<u>\$ 169,323</u>	<u>\$ 193,703</u>

See independent auditor's report.

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

The Marsha McNulty, Judge
City Court of Franklin
Franklin, Louisiana

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City Court of Franklin (City Court), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the City Court's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated December 30, 2024.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

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

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

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

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the City Court's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance or other matters that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2024-002.

City Court's Response to Finding

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

Purpose of This Report

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

Darnall, Sikes & Frederick

(A Corporation of Certified Public Accountants)

Morgan City, Louisiana

December 30, 2024

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Summary Schedule of Prior Year Findings
Year Ended June 30, 2024

- 2023-001 Finding: Inadequate Segregation of Accounting Functions
Status: This finding is unresolved. See current year finding 2024-001.
- 2023-002 Finding: Financial Reporting
Status: This finding is resolved.
- 2023-003 Finding: Local Government Budget Act Budget Variance
Status: This finding is unresolved. See current year finding 2024-002.

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Schedule of Findings and Responses
Year Ended June 30, 2024

Part 1: Summary of Auditor's Results

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Auditor's Report – Financial Statements

An unmodified opinion has been issued on the City Court's financial statements as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024.

Internal Control Deficiencies – Financial Reporting

One deficiency in internal control over financial reporting was disclosed during the audit of the financial statements and is shown as item 2024-001 in Part 2. We consider this to be a material weakness.

Material Noncompliance and Other Matters– Financial Reporting

One instances of noncompliance was disclosed during the audit and is shown as item 2024-002 in Part 2.

FEDERAL AWARDS

This section is not applicable for the year ended June 30, 2024.

MANAGEMENT LETTER

This section is not applicable for the year ended June 30, 2024.

Part 2: Findings Relating to an Audit in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*

The results of our tests disclosed one finding related to the audit of the June 30, 2024 financial statements.

2024-001 Inadequate segregation of accounting functions

Criteria: A strong internal control system requires the segregation of responsibilities between different individuals responsible for separate major areas of the accounting system.

Condition: Due to the small number of accounting personnel, the City Court did not have adequate segregation of functions within the accounting system.

Cause: The failure to design and implement policies and procedures necessary to achieve adequate internal control led to this condition.

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Schedule of Findings and Responses (Continued)
Year Ended June 30, 2024

Part 2: Findings Relating to an Audit in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* (Continued)

2024-001 Inadequate segregation of accounting functions (Continued)

Effect: The likelihood that a material misstatement will not be prevented or detected and corrected on a timely basis is increased. The perpetration of fraudulent activity is easier to achieve under this condition.

Recommendation: An analysis of the benefits that would be obtained by adequately segregating functions within the accounting system and the costs to employ additional individuals to achieve adequate segregation should be performed.

Views of Responsible Officials and Planned Corrective Actions: This information is reported in a separate schedule titled "Management's Corrective Action Plan for Current Year Findings".

2024-002 Noncompliance with the Louisiana Local Government Budget Act

Criteria: Louisiana R.S. 39:1311 requires that budgets be amended when actual receipts plus projected revenue collections for the year fail to meet budgeted revenues by five percent or more, or when actual expenditures plus projected expenditures to year end exceed budgeted expenditures by five percent or more.

Condition: Expenditures in the General Fund exceeded budgeted appropriations by greater than five percent.

Cause: The failure to amend the operating budget for expenditures when they exceeded budgeted appropriations by greater than five percent.

Effect: The City Court is not in compliance with the Local Government Budget Act.

Recommendation: The City Court should implement procedures to ensure that budgets are amended when required.

Views of Responsible Officials and Planned Corrective Actions: This information is reported in a separate schedule titled "Management's Corrective Action Plan for Current Year Findings".

Part 3: Findings and Questioned Costs Relating to Federal Programs

At June 30, 2024, the City Court did not meet the requirements to have a single audit in accordance with *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*; therefore, this section is not applicable.

CITY COURT OF FRANKLIN
Franklin, Louisiana

Management's Corrective Action Plan for Current Year Findings
Year Ended June 30, 2024

Response to Finding 2024-001:

The City Court of Franklin is aware of the condition and has determined that based upon the size of the operation and the cost-benefit consideration of additional personnel, it is not feasible to achieve complete segregation of duties.

Name and Title of Contact Person: Marsha McNulty, Judge

Response to Finding 2024-002:

The City Court of Franklin will more closely monitor budget to actual comparisons and adopt the necessary amendments to ensure compliance with state statute.

Name and Title of Contact Person: Marsha McNulty, Judge



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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

To the City Court of Franklin and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor:

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

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

The procedures and associated findings are as follows:

1) Written Policies and Procedures

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

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

No written policies and procedures exist that address the functions noted above.

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

No written policies and procedures exist that address the functions noted above.

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

No written policies and procedures exist that address the functions noted above.

- iv. ***Receipts/Collections***, including receiving, recording, and preparing deposits. Also, policies and procedures should include management's actions to determine the completeness of all collections for each type of revenue or agency fund additions (e.g. periodic confirmation with outside parties,

reconciliation to utility billing after cutoff procedures, reconciliation of traffic ticket number sequences, agency fund forfeiture monies confirmation).

No written policies and procedures exist that address the functions noted above.

- 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(s) rate of pay or approval and maintenance of pay rate schedules.

No written policies and procedures exist that address the functions noted above.

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

No written policies and procedures exist that address the functions noted above.

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

No written policies and procedures exist that address the functions noted above.

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

No written policies and procedures exist that address the functions noted above.

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

No written policies and procedures exist that address the functions noted above.

- x. **Debt Service**, including (1) debt issuance approval, (2) continuing disclosure/EMMA reporting requirements, (3) debt reserve requirements, and (4) debt service requirements.

No written policies and procedures exist that address the functions noted above.

- xi. **Information Technology Disaster Recovery/ Business Continuity**, including (1) identification of critical data and frequency of data backups, (2) storage of backups in a separate physical location isolated from the network, (3) periodic testing/verification that backups can be restored, (4) use of antivirus software on all systems, (5) timely application of all available system and software patches/updates, and (6) identification of personnel, processes, and tools needed to recover operations after a critical event.

No written policies and procedures exist that address the functions noted above.

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

No written policies and procedures exist that address the functions noted above.

2) Board or Finance Committee

- A. Obtain and inspect the board/finance committee minutes for the fiscal period, as well as the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or equivalent document in effect during the fiscal period, and:
 - i. Observe that the board/finance committee met with a quorum at least monthly, or on a frequency in accordance with the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or other equivalent document.

Not applicable to entities managed by an independently elected official such as a judge.

- 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, quarter budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on proprietary funds, and semi-annual budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on all special revenue funds.

Not applicable to entities managed by an independently elected official such as a judge.

- 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.

Not applicable to entities managed by an independently elected official such as a judge.

- iv. Observe whether the board/finance committee received written updates of the progress of resolving audit finding(s), according to management's corrective action plan at each meeting until the findings are considered fully resolved.

Not applicable to entities managed by an independently elected official such as a judge.

3) Bank Reconciliations

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

Obtained listing of bank accounts from management and management's representation that the listing is complete.

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

No exceptions noted.

- ii. Bank reconciliations include written evidence that a member of management or a board member who does not handle cash, post ledgers, or issue checks has reviewed each bank reconciliation within 1 month of the date the reconciliation was prepared (e.g., initialed and dated, electronically logged); and

Four of four bank reconciliations tested include no evidence of being reviewed by management.

- 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.

There is no evidence reflecting the research of reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than twelve months.

4) Collections (excluding electronic fund transfers)

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

Obtained listing of deposit sites and management's representation that the listing is complete.

- B. For each deposit site selected, obtain a listing of collection locations and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one collection location for each deposit

site (i.e. 5 collection locations for 5 deposit sites), obtain and inspect written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if no written policies or procedures, inquire of employees about their job duties) at each collection location, and observe that job duties are properly segregated at each collection location such that:

Obtained listing of collection locations from management and management's representation that the listing is complete.

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

No exceptions noted.

- 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.

The employee responsible for collecting cash also makes the deposit.

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

The employee responsible for collecting cash is also the employee posting collection entries to the general ledger.

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

The employee responsible for collecting cash is also the employee who reconciles collections to the general ledger.

- 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 enforced during the fiscal period.

No exceptions noted.

- 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 10 deposits and:

- i. Observe that receipts are sequentially pre-numbered.

No exceptions noted.

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

No exceptions noted.

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

No exceptions noted.

- 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).

Two instances were observed where deposits were made more than one business day after funds were collected.

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

No exceptions noted.

5) Non-Payroll Disbursements (excluding card purchases/payments, 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).

Listing of locations that process payments and management's representation that the listing is complete was obtained.

- B. For each location selected under procedure #5A above, obtain a listing of those employees involved with non-payroll purchasing and payment functions. Obtain written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if the agency has no written policies and procedures, inquire of employees about their job duties), and observe that job duties are properly segregated such that:

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

No exceptions noted.

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

No exceptions noted.

- 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.

The employee responsible for processing payments is also able to add/modify 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.

The employee responsible for mailing checks is also responsible for processing payments.

- 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.

No exceptions noted.

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

- i. Observe that the disbursement whether by paper or electronic means, matched the related original itemized invoice and supporting documentation indicates deliverables included on the invoice were received by the entity, and

No exceptions noted.

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

Observed that the disbursement documentation included evidence of segregation of duties for items tested under #5 with the exceptions noted above at item B.iii and B.iv.

- 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.*

Not applicable.

6) Credit Cards/Debit Cards/Fuel Cards/P-Cards

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

Listing of active credit cards, bank debit cards, fuel cards, and P-cards, including the card numbers and the names of the persons who maintained possession of the cards, and management's representation that the listing is complete was obtained.

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

- i. Observe whether there is evidence that the monthly statement or combined statement and supporting documentation (e.g., original receipts for credit/debit card purchases, exception reports for excessive fuel card usage) were reviewed and approved, in writing (or electronically approved) by someone other than the authorized card holder (those instances requiring such approval that may constrain the legal authority of certain public officials, such as the mayor of a Lawrason Act municipality, should not be reported); and

There was no evidence that the monthly statement was reviewed and approved.

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

No exceptions noted.

- C. Using the monthly statements or combined statements selected under procedure #6B above, excluding fuel cards, randomly select 10 transactions (or all transactions if less than 10) from each statement, and obtain supporting documentation for the transactions (e.g., each card should have 10 transactions subject to inspection). For each transaction, observe that it is supported by (1) an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased, (2) written documentation of the business/public purpose, and (3) documentation of the individuals participating in meals (for meal charges only). For missing receipts, the practitioner should describe the nature of the transaction and observe whether management had a compensating control to address missing receipts, such as a "missing receipt statement" that is subject to increased scrutiny.

No exceptions noted.

7) Travel and Travel-Related 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, 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:

Listing of all travel and travel-related expense reimbursements, and management's representation that the listing is complete was obtained.

- i. If reimbursed using a per diem, agree the reimbursement rate to those rates established either by the State of Louisiana or the U.S. General Services Administration (www.gsa.gov).

No exceptions noted.

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

Not applicable

- iii. Observe that each reimbursement is supported by documentation of the business/public purpose (for meal charges, observe that the documentation includes the names of those individuals participating) and other documentation required by Written Policies and Procedures procedure #1A(vii); and

No exceptions noted.

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

No exceptions noted.

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 City Court does not have any agreements/contracts for services, supplies, leases, etc.

- i. Observe that the contract was bid in accordance with the Louisiana Public Bid Law (e.g., solicited quotes or bids, advertised), if required by law.

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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/officials, obtain related paid salaries and personnel files, and agree paid salaries to authorized salaries/pay rates in the personnel files.

Listing of employees and management's representation that the listing is complete was obtained. Authorized salaries/pay rates traced to personnel files without exception.

- B. Randomly select one pay period during the fiscal period. For the 5 employees/officials selected under #9A above, obtain attendance records and leave documentation for the pay period, and:

- i. Observe that all selected employees/officials documented their daily attendance and leave (e.g., vacation, sick, compensatory). (Note: Generally, an elected official is not eligible to earn leave and does not document his/her attendance and leave. However, if the elected official is earning leave according to policy and/or contract, the official should document his/her daily attendance and leave.)

Not applicable.

- ii. Observe that supervisors approved the attendance and leave of the selected employees/officials.

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

No exceptions noted.

- 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, obtain related documentation of the hours and pay rates used in management's termination payment calculations and the entity's policy on termination payments. Agree the hours to the employee or officials' cumulative leave records, agree the pay rates to the employee or officials' authorized pay rates in the employee or officials' personnel files, and agree the termination payment to entity policy

No exceptions noted.

- 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 associated forms have been filed, by required deadlines.

No exceptions noted.

10) Ethics

- 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 each employee/official completed one hour of ethics training during the calendar year are required by R.S. 42:1170; and.

No exceptions noted.

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

Not applicable.

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

No exceptions noted.

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

Not applicable.

- 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).

Not applicable.

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.

No misappropriations of public funds and assets noted.

- 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.

No exceptions noted.

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

We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

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

We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

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

We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

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

Not applicable.

- 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.

No exceptions noted.

14) Sexual Harassment

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

No exceptions noted.

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

No exceptions noted.

- 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;

The report notes that 100% of public servants in the agency have completed training requirements without exception.

- ii. Number of sexual harassment complaints received by the agency;

No sexual harassment complaints were received by the agency.

- iii. Number of complaints which resulted in a finding that sexual harassment occurred;

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

- v. Amount of time it took to resolve each complaint.

Not applicable.

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

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

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

Darnall, Sikes & Frederick
(A Corporation of Certified Public Accountants)

Morgan City, Louisiana

December 30, 2024

City Court
City of Franklin, Louisiana

317 WILLOW STREET
FRANKLIN, LOUISIANA 70538
TELEPHONE (337) 828-3858
FAX # (337) 413-1180

December 30, 2024

Darnall, Sikes, & Frederick
A Corporation of Certified Public Accountants
Morgan City, Louisiana

The following is management's response to the 2023-2024 AUP report submitted for the City Court of Franklin

Written Policies and Procedures:

- 1) The City Court has no written policies and procedures.

Response: Management plans to draft and implement policies and procedures for the City Court of Franklin for the following categories: budgeting, purchasing, disbursements, receipts/collections, payroll/personnel, contracting, travel and expense reimbursements, credit cards, ethics, debt service, information technology disaster recover/business continuity and sexual harassment prevention.

Bank Reconciliations:

- 3) A.ii. There is no evidence of management reviewing the bank reconciliations.

Response: Management intends to implement procedures requiring a member of management review and initial bank reconciliation within one month of the date it is prepared.

- 3) A.iii. Reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than 12 months have not been reviewed.

Response: Management intends to research reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than 12 months from the statement closing date.

Collections:

- 4) B.ii. One employee responsible for collecting cash is also responsible for preparing/making bank deposits.

Response: Management is aware of the inadequate segregation of accounting functions and has determined that based upon the size of the operation and the cost-benefit consideration of additional personnel, it is not feasible to achieve complete segregation of duties.

- 4) B.iii. One employee responsible for collecting cash is also responsible for posting collection entries to the general ledger.

Response: Management is aware of the inadequate segregation of accounting functions and has determined that based upon the size of the operation and the cost-benefit consideration of additional personnel, it is not feasible to achieve complete segregation of duties.

- 4) B.iv. One employee responsible for collecting cash is also responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general ledger.

Response: Management is aware of the inadequate segregation of accounting functions and has determined that based upon the size of the operation and the cost-benefit consideration of additional personnel, it is not feasible to achieve complete segregation of duties.

- 4) D.iv. Two instances noted where deposits were made more than one business day after receipt.

Response: Deposits will be made on a timely basis.

Non-Payroll Disbursements

- 5) B.iii. An employee responsible for processing payments can add/modify vendor files.

Response: Management is aware of the inadequate segregation of accounting functions and has determined that based upon the size of the operation and the cost-benefit consideration of additional personnel, it is not feasible to achieve complete segregation of duties.

- 5) B.iv. An employee responsible for mailing checks can process payments.

Response: Management is aware of the inadequate segregation of accounting functions and has determined that based upon the size of the operation and the cost-benefit consideration of additional personnel, it is not feasible to achieve complete segregation of duties.

- 5) C.ii. An employee responsible for processing payments is also responsible for adding/modifying vendor files and mailing check payments.

Response: Management intends to implement procedures requiring a member of management review and initial bank reconciliation within one month of the date it is prepared.

Credit Cards/Debit Cards/Fuel Cards/Purchase Cards

- 6) B.i. There was no evidence that monthly statements were reviewed by someone other than the authorized cardholder.

Response: Management intends to implement procedures requiring that monthly statements be reviewed.