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JUDICIAL EXPENSE FUND

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, CADDO PARISH

DECEMBER 31, 1998

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Release Date 6-23-99

JUDICIAL EXPENSE FUND
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA

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AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 1, 1999

Honorable Eugene W. Bryson, Jr., Chief Judge
Judicial Expense Fund for the First Judicial
District Court
Caddo Parish, Louisiana

Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Judicial Expense Fund for the First Judicial District Court as of December 31, 1998, and for the year then ended, as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of management of the Judicial Expense Fund for the First Judicial District Court. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Judicial Expense Fund for the First Judicial District Court as of December 31, 1998, and the results of its operations for the year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued a report dated June 1, 1999, on our consideration of the Fund's internal control structure and on its compliance with laws and regulations.

Heard, McElroy & Vestal, LLP

JUDICIAL EXPENSE FUND FOR THE FIRST
JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA
BALANCE SHEETS - ALL FUND TYPES AND ACCOUNT GROUPS

DECEMBER 31, 1998

	<u>Govern- mental Fund- General Fund</u>	<u>Account Group- General Fixed Assets</u>	<u>Total (Memo- randum Only)</u>
<u>A S S E T S</u>			
Cash and cash equivalents-Note 2	166,717	-	166,717
Receivables-Note 3	13,038	-	13,038
Furniture and equipment-Note 4	<u>-</u>	<u>27,161</u>	<u>27,161</u>
Total assets	<u>179,755</u>	<u>27,161</u>	<u>206,916</u>
<u>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</u>			
Liabilities:			
Accounts payable	10,400	-	10,400
Accrued salaries	<u>3,655</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,655</u>
Total liabilities	14,055	-	14,055
Fund balance:			
Investment in general fixed assets	-	27,161	27,161
Fund balance-unreserved-undesignated	<u>165,700</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>165,700</u>
Total fund balance	<u>165,700</u>	<u>27,161</u>	<u>192,861</u>
Total liabilities and fund balance	<u>179,755</u>	<u>27,161</u>	<u>206,916</u>

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

JUDICIAL EXPENSE FUND FOR THE FIRST
JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, CADDOPARISH, LOUISIANA
GOVERNMENTAL FUND - GENERAL FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET
(GAAP BASIS) AND ACTUAL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1998

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
<u>Revenues:</u>			
Criminal fees	55,000	59,947	4,947
Civil fees	100,000	105,906	5,906
Miscellaneous	-	275	275
Use of money and property- interest earnings	<u>6,500</u>	<u>7,201</u>	<u>701</u>
Total revenues	<u>161,500</u>	<u>173,329</u>	<u>11,829</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
General government - judicial:			
Salaries and related benefits	118,605	79,230	39,375
Books and subscriptions	28,800	36,809	(8,009)
Vehicle parking fees	3,240	2,738	502
General administration	<u>32,650</u>	<u>25,883</u>	<u>6,767</u>
Total expenditures	<u>183,295</u>	<u>144,660</u>	<u>38,635</u>
Excess of revenues over expenditures	(21,795)	28,669	50,464
Fund balance at beginning of year	<u>137,031</u>	<u>137,031</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund balance at end of year	<u>115,236</u>	<u>165,700</u>	<u>50,464</u>

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

JUDICIAL EXPENSE FUND FOR THE FIRST
JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 1998

Introduction

The Judicial Expense Fund for the First Judicial District Court was established by Louisiana Revised Statutes 13:996.16-18 for the purpose of administering the district court or the offices of the individual judges of the court. Operations of the Judicial Expense Fund for the First Judicial District Court are funded by court costs on criminal charges and costs on civil suits that are not exempted from court costs.

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Basis of Presentation

The accompanying financial statements of the Judicial Expense Fund have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and reporting principles.

B. Reporting Entity

As the governing authority of the parish, for reporting purposes, the Caddo Parish Commission is the financial reporting entity for Caddo Parish. The financial reporting entity consists of (a) the primary government (commission), (b) organizations for which the primary government is financially accountable, and (c) other organizations for which 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 established criteria for determining which component units should be considered within the Caddo Parish Commission reporting entity. 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. This criteria includes:

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

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Because the Judicial Expense Fund is fiscally dependent on the Caddo Parish Commission, it was determined to be a component unit of the Caddo Parish Commission, the financial reporting entity. The accompanying financial statements present information only on the funds maintained by the Judicial Expense Fund and do not present information on the commission, the general government services provided by that governmental unit, or the other governmental units that comprise the financial reporting entity.

C. Fund Accounting

The Judicial Expense Fund uses a fund and an account group to report on its financial position and the results of its operations. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions relating to certain government functions or activities.

A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. On the other hand, an account group is a financial reporting device designed to provide accountability for certain assets and liabilities that are not recorded in the funds because they do not directly affect net expendable available financial resources.

The fund (General Fund) is classified as a governmental fund. Governmental funds account for general activities, including the collection and disbursement of specific or legally restricted monies, the acquisition or construction of general fixed assets, and the servicing of general long-term debt. The General Fund is the general operating fund of the Judicial Expense Fund and accounts for all financial resources.

D. Basis of Accounting

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. The General Fund is accounted for using a current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities are generally included on the balance sheet. Operating statements of this fund present increases and decreases in net current assets. The modified accrual basis of accounting is used by the General Fund. The General Fund uses the following practices in recording revenues and expenditures:

Revenues

Court fees are recorded when earned and available. Interest income on time deposits is recorded when the time deposits have matured and the interest is available.

Expenditures

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

E. Budget

The Judicial Expense Fund adopts an annual budget for the General Fund for management control purposes. The budget was prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting and was adopted in October 1997. The amounts presented in the budget comparison reflect the amended budget for 1998. The budget is adopted and amended, as necessary, by the district judges. All appropriations contained in the budget lapse at year end, and encumbrance accounting is not used by the Fund.

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

F. Cash and Cash Equivalents and Investments

Cash includes amounts in demand deposits, interest bearing demand deposits, and money market accounts. Cash equivalents include amounts in time deposits. Under state law, the Judicial Expense Fund may deposit funds in demand deposits, interest bearing demand deposits, money market accounts, or time deposits with state banks organized under Louisiana law and national banks having their principal offices in Louisiana. The fund may invest in United States bonds, treasury notes, or certificates. These are classified as investments if their maturities at purchase exceed 90 days; however, if the original maturities are 90 days or less, they are classified as cash equivalents.

G. General Fixed Assets and Long-Term Debt

Fixed assets are recorded as expenditures at the time purchased, and the related assets are capitalized (reported) in the general fixed assets account group. No depreciation has been provided on general fixed assets. All fixed assets are valued at historical cost. There is no long-term debt at December 31, 1998.

H. Compensated Absences

Employees of the Judicial Expense Fund for the First Judicial District Court work for a one-year period as law clerks. These employees receive two weeks of paid vacation leave each year and eight hours of sick leave each month. Vacation leave may be accumulated only if the law clerk is employed for a second year. Employees are not compensated for any unused vacation or sick leave upon separation of service. At December 31, 1998, there are no material accumulated and vested leave benefits that require disclosure or accrual to conform with generally accepted accounting principles.

I. Total Column on Balance Sheet

The total column on the balance sheet is captioned Memorandum Only (overview) to indicate that it is presented only to facilitate financial analysis. Data in this column does not present financial position in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Neither is such data comparable to a consolidation.

2. Cash and Cash Equivalents

At December 31, 1998, the Judicial Expense Fund had cash and cash equivalents (book balances) totaling \$166,717 in the Caddo Parish Commission cash and investment pool.

Cash and cash equivalents are stated at cost, which approximates market. Under state law, these deposits must be secured by federal deposit insurance or pledge of securities owned by the bank. The market value of the pledged securities plus the federal deposit insurance must at all times equal the amount on deposit with the bank. At December 31, 1998, deposit balances (bank balances) are fully secured by federal deposit insurance of \$166,717. Information on the aggregate deposits of the Caddo Parish Commission and how they are secured is available in the financial statements of the Caddo Parish Commission.

3. Receivables

The following is a summary of receivables at December 31, 1998:

<u>Class of Receivable</u>	
Criminal fees	5,376
Civil fees	<u>7,662</u>
Total receivable	<u>13,038</u>

4. Changes in General Fixed Assets

There were no changes in general fixed assets during the year.

5. Budget Variances-Books and Subscriptions, Salaries and Related Benefits

Legal publications, to be current, are constantly being published and updated. Although some new publishing and updating was anticipated, the unexpected volume resulted in far greater expenditures than anticipated.

The Court anticipated full employment of four law clerks for 1998. Early departures, and unexpected delays in filling vacant positions, resulted in under-utilization of budgeted funds.

6. Pension Plan

Judges of the district court are members of the State Employees Retirement System of Louisiana. Salaries of the judges and the employer's portion of retirement contributions are paid by the State Supreme Court and are not included in the accompanying financial statements.

Employees (law clerks) of the First Judicial Expense Fund are members of the Parochial Employees Retirement System of Louisiana (System), a multiple-employer (cost-sharing), public employee retirement system (PERS), controlled and administered by a separate board of trustees. Generally, all full-time employees are eligible to participate in the System, with employee benefits vesting after 10 years of service. Although employees (law clerks) of the Fund are appointed for one-year terms as law clerks, they are required to become members of the System, and are required to contribute to the System; however, the employees do not remain in the System for sufficient time to become vested. Pension costs for the employees of the Fund are reported in the accompanying financial statements.

The System is composed of two distinct plans (Plan A and Plan B) with separate assets and benefit provisions. All employees of the Judicial Expense Fund are members of Plan A. For the year ended December 31, 1998, the total payroll and total covered payroll was \$67,704. The statutorily required contribution by the Judicial Expense Fund for the year ended December 31, 1998, for Plan A was \$11,679 which consisted of \$6,432 as the employee contribution and \$5,247 as the employer contribution. The actual contribution made by the Fund to Plan A was \$11,679.

Under Plan A, employees who retire at or after age 60 with at least 10 years of creditable service, at or after age 55 with 25 years of creditable service, or at any age with at least 30 years of creditable service are entitled to a retirement benefit, payable monthly for life, equal to 3 per cent of their final-average salary for each year of creditable service. The System also provides death and disability benefits. Benefits are established by state statute.

Contributions to the System include one-fourth of one per cent of the taxes shown to be collectible by the tax rolls of each parish, except Orleans and East Baton Rouge Parishes. These tax dollars are divided between Plan A and Plan B based proportionately on the salaries of the active members of each plan. State statute requires covered employees of Plan A to contribute a percentage of their salaries to the System. As provided by Louisiana Revised Statute 11:103, the employer contributions are determined by an actuarial valuation and are subject to change each year based on the results of the valuation for the prior fiscal year. During 1998, the Fund was required to contribute 7.75% of the salary of each employee covered by Plan A as an employer match.

Historical trend information showing the System's progress in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due is presented in the System's December 31, 1997, comprehensive annual financial report. The district court does not guarantee the benefits granted by the System.

7. Expenditures of the Judicial District Not Included in the Accompanying Financial Statements
The accompanying financial statements do not include certain salary expenditures for the district court paid out of the funds of the Caddo Parish Commission or directly by the state.
8. Litigation
There is no litigation pending against the Judicial Expense Fund at December 31, 1998.
9. Year 2000 Disclosures (UNAUDITED)
Management has addressed Year 2000 issues relating to its computer systems. These systems, subjected to the four stages, as defined by GASB Technical Bulletin 98-1, necessary to help implement a Year 2000-compliant system, are awareness, assessment, remediation, and validation/testing. The computers are in the validation/testing phase of work. However, there can be no assurance that, even with completion of all four stages of work, that these systems will be fully Year 2000-compliant under all circumstances.

OTHER REPORTS REQUIRED BY
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

June 1, 1999

Honorable Eugene W. Bryson, Jr., Chief Judge
Judicial Expense Fund for the First Judicial District Court
Caddo Parish, Louisiana

Report on Compliance and on Internal Control Over Financial
Reporting Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in
Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*

We have audited the financial statements of the Judicial Expense Fund for the First Judicial District Court as of and for the year ended December 31, 1998, and have issued our report thereon dated June 1, 1999. We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

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

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered internal control over financial reporting of the Judicial Expense Fund for the First Judicial District Court in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management and the Office of the Legislative Auditor, State of Louisiana and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Heard, McElroy & Vestal, LLP

JUDICIAL EXPENSE FUND FOR THE FIRST
JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1998

We have audited the financial statements of the Judicial Expense Fund for the First Judicial District Court as of and for the year ended December 31, 1998, and have issued our report thereon dated June 1, 1999. We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our audit of the financial statements as of December 31, 1998 resulted in an unqualified opinion.

Section I - Summary of Auditor's Reports

a. Report on Internal Control and Compliance Material to the Financial Statements

Internal Control - No material weakness or reportable condition was noted; no management letter was issued.

Compliance - no material noncompliance was noted.

b. Federal Awards - No major program.

Section II - Financial Statement Findings

No matters were reported.

JUDICIAL EXPENSE FUND FOR THE FIRST
JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA
SCHEDULE OF PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1998

No prior year findings were reported.