

MOREHOUSE PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Bastrop, Louisiana

*Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended June 30, 2024*

**Morehouse Parish Clerk of Court**  
Bastrop, Louisiana

INDEX

	<u>Statement</u>	
Independent Auditor's Report		1-3
<b>BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</b>		
Government-Wide Financial Statements:		
Statement of Net Position	A	4
Statement of Activities	B	5
Fund Financial Statements:		
Balance Sheet	C	6
Reconciliation of the Governmental Funds Balance Sheet to The Statement of Net Position	D	7
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances	E	8
Reconciliation of the Governmental Funds Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances to The Statement of Activities	F	9
Fiduciary Funds:		
Statement of Fiduciary Assets and Liabilities	G	10
Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position	H	11
Notes to the Financial Statements		12-27
<b>REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION</b>		
	<u>Schedule</u>	
Budget Comparison Schedules		
General Fund	I	28
Schedule of Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	II	29
Schedule of Employer Contributions to Pension Plan	III	29
Schedule of Changes in Net OPEB Liability and Related Ratios	IV	30
Notes to Budgetary Comparison Schedules		31

**Morehouse Parish Clerk of Court**  
Bastrop, Louisiana

INDEX

Schedule

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

Agency Funds Descriptions	V	32
Schedule of Compensation, Benefits and Other Payments to Agency Head or Chief Executive Officer	VI	33
Judicial System Funding Schedule	VII	34

**OTHER REPORTS REQUIRED BY *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS* AND  
BY OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET *UNIFORM GUIDANCE***

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 <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>		35-36
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs		37-38
Schedule of Prior Year Findings		39
Independent Accountant's Report on Applying Agreed Upon Procedures		40-49

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Honorable Tifani Thomas  
Morehouse Parish Clerk of Court  
Bastrop, Louisiana

*Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements*

*Opinions*

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities of the Morehouse Parish Clerk of Court, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Clerk of 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 of the Morehouse Parish Clerk of 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 Morehouse Parish Clerk of 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 opinions.

*Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements*

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

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Morehouse Parish Clerk of 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.

Honorable Tifani Thomas  
Morehouse Parish Clerk of Court  
Bastrop, Louisiana

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

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

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess 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 of the effectiveness of the Clerk of 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 my judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Morehouse Parish Clerk of 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 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such 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.

Honorable Tifani Thomas  
Morehouse Parish Clerk of Court  
Bastrop, Louisiana

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 the 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 assurances.

Management has omitted 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 the 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.

#### ***Other Information***

The Schedule of Compensation, Benefits and Other Payments to Agency Head and the Justice System Funding Reporting Schedules are the responsibility of management and were 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 Compensation, Benefits and Other Payments to Agency Head and Justice System Funding Reporting Schedules are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

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

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 14, 2024 on our consideration of the Morehouse Parish Clerk of 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 Morehouse Parish Clerk of Court's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Governmental Auditing Standards* in considering the Morehouse Parish Clerk of Court's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

*David M. Hault, CPA (APAC)*

West Monroe, Louisiana  
November 14, 2024

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MOREHOUSE PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Bastrop, Louisiana

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION  
JUNE 30, 2024

	Governmental Activities
<i><u>Assets</u></i>	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 205,660
Investments	606,973
Accounts Receivable	15,159
Capital Assets:	
Depreciable	12,212
Total Assets	840,004
<i><u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u></i>	
Resources Related to Pensions	314,277
Resources Related to OPEB	234,362
<i><u>Liabilities</u></i>	
Accounts Payable	25,443
Net Pension Liability	1,065,686
Net OPEB Obligation	1,204,080
Total Liabilities	2,295,209
<i><u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u></i>	
Resources Related to Pensions	85,654
Resources Related to OPEB	359,266
<i><u>Net Position</u></i>	
Net Investment in Capital Assets	12,212
Net Position - Unrestricted	(1,363,698)
Total Net Position	\$ (1,351,486)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.



MOREHOUSE PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Bastrop, Louisiana

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Charges for Services</u>	<u>Operating Grants and Contributions</u>	<u>Capital Grants and Contributions</u>	<u>Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position</u>
Governmental Activities:					
Public Safety & Judicial					
Prosecution	<u>\$ 1,185,824</u>	<u>\$ 932,599</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (253,225)</u>
			General Revenues:		
			Interest Earnings		44,551
			Miscellaneous		66,200
			Total General Revenues		<u>110,751</u>
			Changes in Net Position		(142,474)
			Net Position - Beginning		<u>(1,209,012)</u>
			NET POSITION - ENDING		<u>\$ (1,351,486)</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

MOREHOUSE PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Bastrop, Louisiana

BALANCE SHEET, GOVERNMENTAL FUND  
JUNE 30, 2024

	<u>General Fund</u>
<u>Assets</u>	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 205,660
Investments	606,973
Accounts Receivable	15,159
Interfund Receivables	-
<u>Total Assets</u>	\$ 827,792
<u>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</u>	
<u>Liabilities</u>	
Accounts Payable	\$ 25,443
Interfund Payables	-
<u>Total Liabilities</u>	25,443
<u>Fund Balance</u>	
Unassigned	802,349
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND</u> <u>FUND BALANCE</u>	\$ 827,792

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

MOREHOUSE PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Bastrop, Louisiana

BALANCE SHEET, GOVERNMENTAL FUND  
JUNE 30, 2024

**Reconciliation of the Balance Sheet of the Governmental Funds  
to the Statement of Net Position**

*Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Net Position are  
different because:*

Fund Balance, Governmental Funds:	\$ 802,349
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds.	12,212
Net pension liability does not require the use of current financial resources and therefore is not reported in the funds.	(1,065,686)
The net effect of deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions do not require the use of current financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds.	103,719
Long-term obligations are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the fund statements: Net OPEB obligation	<u>(1,204,080)</u>
Net Position of Governmental Activities	<u>\$ (1,351,486)</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

MOREHOUSE PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Bastrop, Louisiana

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE  
GOVERNMENTAL FUND  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	<u>General Fund</u>
<u>Operating Revenue</u>	
Licenses and Permits - Marriage	\$ 3,185
Intergovernmental Revenues - State Funds:	
Clerk's Supplemental Compensation	29,550
Grant Reimbursements	-
Fees, Charges, and Commissions for Services:	
Court Costs, Fees, and Charges	289,286
Fees for Recording Legal Documents	297,855
Fees for Certified Copies of Documents	68,818
Criminal Fees	6,051
UCC Fees	27,303
Other	134,904
Bond Forfeitures	12,957
Use of Money and Property - Interest Earnings	44,551
Other	66,200
Total Operating Revenue	980,660
 <u>Operating Expenditures</u>	
Current:	
General Government	
Personnel Services	896,145
Contractual Charges	123,871
Materials and Supplies	21,745
Travel and Other Charges	50,373
Total Operating Expenditures	1,092,134
 <u>Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over</u>	
<u>Expenditures</u>	(111,474)
 <u>Fund Balance - Beginning of the Year (Restated)</u>	913,823
 <u>FUND BALANCE - END OF THE YEAR</u>	\$ 802,349

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

MOREHOUSE PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Bastrop, Louisiana

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE  
GOVERNMENTAL FUND  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

**Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures,  
and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds  
To the Statement of Activities**

*Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities  
are different because:*

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds		\$ (111,474)
Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures, however, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is depreciated over their estimated useful lives.		
Expenditures for capital assets	-	
Less current year depreciation	<u>(7,774)</u>	(7,774)
Postretirement benefit plan expenditures		(43,199)
Governmental funds report current year pension contributions as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, these contributions are reported as deferred inflows of resources and the District's proportionate share of the plans pension expense is reported as pension expense.		
		62,690
The District's proportionate share of non-employer contributions to the pension plans do not provide current financial resources and are not reported in the governmental funds.		
		<u>(42,717)</u>
Changes in net position of governmental activities		<u>\$ (142,474)</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

MOREHOUSE PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Bastrop, Louisiana

STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY ASSETS AND LIABILITIES  
JUNE 30, 2024

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 392,373
Certificate of Deposit	1,040,000
Accounts Receivable - Advance Deposits	24,603
Accounts Receivable - Support Enforcement	-
 TOTAL ASSETS	 <u>1,456,976</u>

LIABILITIES

Deposits Due Others	1,456,976
 TOTAL LIABILITIES	 <u>\$ 1,456,976</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

MOREHOUSE PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Bastrop, Louisiana

FIDUCIARY FUND TYPE - AGENCY FUNDS  
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION  
BALANCES DUE TO TAXING BODIES AND OTHERS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	<u>Advance Deposit Fund</u>	<u>Registry of Court Fund</u>	<u>Non Support Fund</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b><u>Unsettled Deposits at</u></b>				
<b><u>Beginning of the Year</u></b>	\$ 1,337,163	\$ 127,654	\$ 6,614	\$ 1,471,431
<b>Additions</b>				
Appropriations from State	-	-	-	-
Deposits in Suits	551,254	63,380	-	614,634
Interest Earned on Investments	-	1,634	-	1,634
Total Additions	<u>551,254</u>	<u>65,014</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>616,268</u>
Total	1,888,417	192,668	6,614	2,087,699
<b>Reductions</b>				
Clerk's Costs to General Fund	287,652	-	-	287,652
Deposits Settled To:				
Litigants	164,040	51,583	-	215,623
Appraisers, Curators, and Keepers	29,720	-	-	29,720
Sheriff	33,426	-	6,614	40,040
Other Reductions	57,688	-	-	57,688
Total Reductions	<u>572,526</u>	<u>51,583</u>	<u>6,614</u>	<u>630,723</u>
<b><u>UNSETTLED DEPOSITS AT</u></b>				
<b><u>END OF THE YEAR</u></b>	<u>\$ 1,315,891</u>	<u>\$ 141,085</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,456,976</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

MOREHOUSE PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Bastrop, Louisiana  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

## INTRODUCTION

As provided by Article V, Section 28 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, the Clerk of Court serves as the ex-officio notary public, the recorder of conveyances, mortgages and other acts, and shall have other duties and powers provided by law. The Clerk of Court is elected for a term of four years.

## NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

**A. BASIS OF PRESENTATION** The accompanying basic financial statements of the Morehouse Parish Clerk of Court have been prepared in conformity with United States Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units.

**B. REPORTING ENTITY** The Clerk of Court is an independent elected official; however, the Clerk of Court is fiscally dependent on the Ouachita and Morehouse Parish Police Juries. The police juries maintain and operate the parish courthouse in which the Clerk of Court's office is located and provides funds for equipment and furniture of the Clerk of Court's office.

For these reasons, the Clerk of Court was determined to be a component unit of the Morehouse Parish Police Jury, the financial reporting entity, in as much as it provides significantly more support to the reporting entity than does the Morehouse Parish Police Jury.

As the governing authority of the parish, for reporting purposes, the Morehouse Parish Police Jury is the financial reporting entity for Morehouse Parish. The financial reporting entity consists of (a) the primary government (police jury), (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 established criteria for determining which component units should be considered part of the Morehouse Parish Police Jury 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. This criteria includes:

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



MOREHOUSE PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Bastrop, Louisiana  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

**NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**B. REPORTING ENTITY (CONTINUED)**

Because the Clerk of Court is fiscally dependent on the police jury, the Clerk of Court was determined to be a component unit of the Morehouse Parish Police Jury, the financial reporting entity. The accompanying financial statements present information only on the funds maintained by the Clerk of Court and do not present information on the police jury, the general government services provided by that governmental unit, or the other governmental units that comprise the financial reporting entity.

**C. FUND ACCOUNTING** The Clerk of Court uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid management by segregating transactions related to certain clerk of court functions and activities. A fund is defined as a separate fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts.

Funds of the Clerk of Court are classified into two categories; governmental and fiduciary. In turn each category is divided into separate fund types. The fund classifications and a description of each existing fund type follow:

**Governmental Funds** Governmental funds account for all or most of the Clerk of Court's general activities. These funds focus on the sources, uses, and balances of current financial resources. The following is the Clerk of Court's governmental fund:

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

**Fiduciary Funds** The Advance Deposit, Registry of Court and Non Support Expense agency funds are used to account for assets held as an agent for others. Agency funds are custodial in nature (assets equal liabilities) and do not involve measurement of results of operations.

**D. MEASUREMENT FOCUS/BASIS OF ACCOUNTING**

*Government- Wide Financial Statements*

The statement of net position and the statement of activities display information about the reporting government as a whole. The government-wide financial statements were prepared using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets, liabilities and deferred outflows/inflows of resources 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, liabilities and deferred outflows/inflows of resources resulting from non-exchange transactions are recognized in accordance with the requirements of GASB No. 33, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Non - exchange transactions*. Fiduciary funds are not included in the government-wide financial statements.

***Program Revenues*** - Program revenues included in the Statement of Activities derive directly from parties outside the Clerk of Court's taxpayers or citizenry, as a whole. Program revenues reduce the costs of the function to be financed from the Clerk of Court's general revenues.

MOREHOUSE PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Bastrop, Louisiana  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

**D. MEASUREMENT FOCUS/BASIS OF ACCOUNTING**

*Fund Financial Statements (FFS)*

The amounts reflected in the Governmental funds statements are accounted for using a current financial resources measurement focus and a modified accrual basis of accounting. With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities are generally included on the balance sheet. The statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances reports on the sources (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and uses (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) of current financial resources.

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

The Clerk of Court considers all revenues available if they are collected within 60 days after the fiscal year end. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for claims and judgments which are recognized when the obligations are expected to be liquidated with expendable available financial resources. The governmental funds use the following practices in recording revenues and expenditures:

The agency funds are custodial in nature and do not present results of operations or have a measurement focus. Agency funds are accounted for using the accrual basis of accounting.

*Revenues*

Commissions on fines and bond forfeitures are recorded in the year they are collected by the parish tax collectors.

Grants are recorded when the Clerk of Court is entitled to the funds. Interest earned on investments is recorded when the investment has matured and the income is available. Substantially all other revenues are recorded when received.

*Expenditures*

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

**E. BUDGETS** The Clerk of Court uses the following budget practices:

An annual operating budget is adopted each year for the General Fund and the modified accrual basis of accounting is used to reflect actual revenues and expenditures, which is consistent with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

All appropriations lapse at year-end and any unexpended fund balance is carried forward into subsequent years. Formal budget integration is not employed as a management control device, and the Clerk of Court does not use encumbrance accounting.

MOREHOUSE PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Bastrop, Louisiana  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

**F. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS** Cash includes amounts in demand deposits, interest-bearing demand deposits, and time deposits. The Clerk of Court considers all short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of 90 days or less to be treated as cash equivalents. Under state law, the Clerk of Court may deposit funds in demand deposits, interest-bearing demand deposits, or time deposits with state banks organized under Louisiana law and national banks having their principal offices in Louisiana.

**G. INVESTMENTS** Investments are limited by Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 33:2955 and the Clerk of Court's investment policy. If the original maturities of investments exceed 90 days, they are classified as investments; however, if the original maturities are 90 days or less, they are classified as cash equivalents. Investments in non-participating interest-earning contracts, such as non-negotiable certificates of deposit with redemption terms that do not consider market rates, are reported using a cost-based measure.

**H. CAPITAL ASSETS** Capital assets are capitalized at historical cost or estimated historical costs for assets where actual cost is not available. Donated assets, if any, are recorded as capital assets at their estimated fair market value at the date of donation. The Clerk of Court maintains a threshold level of \$5,000 or more for capitalizing capital assets.

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Lives</u>
Buildings and building improvements	20-40 years
Furniture and fixtures	5-10 years
Vehicles	5-15 years
Equipment	5-20 years

**I. ANNUAL AND SICK LEAVE** All employees of the Clerk of Court's office earn from 5 to 20 days of vacation leave each year, depending on length of service. Vacation leave must be taken during the year earned and cannot be carried forward to the following year. All employees of the Clerk's office earn five days of sick leave annually. A maximum of 420 hours (60 days) sick leave may be accumulated and carried forward to the succeeding calendar year. Employees are not paid for accumulated sick leave upon termination of employment.

**J. RISK MANAGEMENT** The Clerk is exposed to various risk of loss related to torts: theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions, and injuries to employees. To handle such risk of loss, the Clerk maintains commercial insurance policies covering professional liability and surety bond coverage. In addition to the above policies, the Clerk also maintains an errors and omissions claims paid policy with the Louisiana Clerks of Court Risk Management Agency. No claims were paid on any of the policies during the past three years which exceeded the policies' coverage amounts. There were no significant reductions in insurance coverage during the year ended June 30, 2024.

**L. FUND BALANCE OF FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Fund balance amounts are reported within the fund balance categories as follows:

Non-spendable: Fund balance that is not in spendable form or legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

Restricted: Fund balance that can be spent only for the specific purposes stipulated by constitution, external resource providers, or through enabling legislation.

MOREHOUSE PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Bastrop, Louisiana  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

**L. FUND BALANCE OF FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

Committed: Fund balance that can only be used for specific purposes determined by the Clerk of Court. Committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Clerk of Court removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action it employed to previously commit the funds.

Assigned: Fund balance that is constrained by the Clerk of Court's intent to be used for specific purposes but are neither restricted nor committed. Intent should be expressed by the Clerk of Court.

Unassigned: Fund balance that is the residual classification for the general fund or a deficit fund balance in other funds.

The Clerk of Court reduces committed amounts, followed by assigned amounts and then unassigned amounts when an expenditure is incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of those unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used. The Clerk of Court considers restricted amounts to have been spent when an expenditure is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted fund balance is available.

**M. INTERFUND TRANSACTIONS** Transactions that constitute reimbursements to a fund for expenditures initially made from it that are properly applicable to another fund are recorded as expenditures in the reimbursing fund and as reductions of expenditures in the fund that is reimbursed. Nonrecurring or non-routine permanent transfers of equity are reported as residual equity transfers. All other interfund transactions are reported as transfers.

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

**O. DEFERRED OUTFLOWS/INFLOWS OF RESOURCES** In addition to assets, the Statement of Net Position 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 or resources (expense/expenditure) until then. The Clerk of Court has one item, deferred outflows related to pensions that qualifies in this category and is reported only in the governmental activities.

In addition to liabilities, the Statement of Net Position 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 until that time. The Clerk of Court has one item, deferred inflows related to pensions that qualifies in this category and is reported only in the governmental activities.

For purposes 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 retirement systems and additions to/deductions from the retirements systems fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the retirement systems.

MOREHOUSE PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Bastrop, Louisiana  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

**O. DEFERRED OUTFLOWS/INFLOWS OF RESOURCES (CONTINUED)**

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.

**NOTE 2 – CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

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

**Interest Rate Risk:** The Clerk of Court’s policy does not address interest rate risk.

**Credit Risk:** The Clerk of Court’s investments are in Certificates of Deposits which do not have credit ratings; however, the Clerk’s policy does not address credit rate risk.

**Custodial Credit Risk:** At year-end the Clerk of Court’s carrying amount of deposits was \$2,255,080 and the bank balance was \$2,306,726, which includes \$1,646,973 in certificate of deposits classified as investments.

Of the bank balance, \$1,500,000 was covered by federal depository insurance. The remaining balance was collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution's trust department or agent but not in the Clerk of Court’s name. The Clerk of Court’s policy does not address custodial credit risk. Even though the pledged securities are considered uncollateralized under the provisions of GASB Statement No. 3, Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1229 imposes a statutory requirement on the custodial bank to advertise and sell the pledged securities within 10 days of being notified by the Clerk of Court that the fiscal agent has failed to pay deposited funds upon demand.

**NOTE 3 – RECEIVABLES**

The following is a summary of receivables at June 30, 2024:

<u>Class of Receivables</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Agency Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
Appropriation from State	\$ -	\$ 7,603	\$ 7,603
Suits and Successions	-	17,000	17,000
Fees, Charges and Commissions for Services:			
Recordings, Cancellations, Mortgages, etc.	5,450	-	5,450
Court Attendance	3,684	-	3,684
Criminal Fees and Bonds	<u>6,025</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,025</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$ 15,159</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 24,603</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 39,762</u></b>

MOREHOUSE PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Bastrop, Louisiana  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

**NOTE 4 – CAPITAL ASSETS**

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

	<u>Beginning</u> <u>Balance</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deletions</u>	<u>Ending</u> <u>Balance</u>
Governmental Activities:				
Furniture & Equipment	\$ 320,288	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 320,288
Less Accumulated Depreciation				
Furniture & Equipment	<u>300,302</u>	<u>7,774</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>308,076</u>
Capital Assets, Net	<u>\$ 19,986</u>	<u>\$ 7,774</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 12,212</u>

Depreciation expense of \$7,774 was charged to the judicial function.

**NOTE 5 – PENSION PLAN**

**Retirement Systems**

**Louisiana Clerks' of Court Retirement and Relief Fund (Fund)**

The Fund was established for the purpose of providing retirement allowances and other benefits as stated under the provisions of R.S. Title 11:1501 for eligible employees of the Clerk of the Supreme Court, each of the district courts, each of the courts of appeal, each of the city and traffic courts in cities having a population in excess of four hundred thousand at the time of entrance into the Fund, the Louisiana Clerks' of Court Association, the Louisiana Clerks' of Court Insurance Fund, and the employees of the Fund. The projection of benefit payments in the calculation of the total pension liability includes all benefits to be provided to current active and inactive employees through the Fund in accordance with the benefit terms and any additional legal agreements to provide benefits that are in force at the measurement date.

The 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*

A member or former member shall be eligible for regular retirement benefits upon attaining 12 or more years of credited service, attaining the age of 55 years (age 60 if hired on or after January 1, 2011), and terminating employment. Regular retirement benefits, payable monthly for life, is equal to 3% percent of the member's monthly average final compensation multiplied by the number of years of credited service, not to exceed 100% of the monthly average final compensation. The retirement benefit accrual rate is increased to 3 1/3% for all service credit accrued after June 30, 1999 (for members hired prior to January 1, 2011). For members hired before July 1, 2006 and who retire prior to January 1, 2011, monthly average final compensation is based on the highest 36 consecutive months, with a limit increase of 10% in each of the last three years of measurement.

MOREHOUSE PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Bastrop, Louisiana  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

**NOTE 5 – PENSION PLAN (CONTINUED)**

For members hired after July 1, 2006, monthly average final compensation is based on the highest compensated 60 consecutive months, or successive joined months if service was interrupted, with a limit increase of 10% in each of the last five years of measurement. For members who were employed prior to July 1, 2006 and who retire after December 31, 2010, the period of final average compensation is 36 months plus the number of whole months elapsed since January 1, 2011, not to exceed 60 months.

*Disability Benefits*

Disability benefits are awarded to active members who are totally and permanently disabled as a result of injuries sustained in the line of duty or to active members with 10 or more years of credible service who are totally disabled due to any cause. A member who is officially certified as totally or permanently disabled by the State Medical Disability Board will be paid monthly disability retirement benefits equal to the greater of forty percent of their monthly average final compensation or 75% of their monthly regular retirement benefit computed as per R.S. 11:1521 (C).

*Survivor Benefits*

Upon the death of any active contributing member with less than five years of credited service, his/her accumulated contributions are paid to his/her designated beneficiary. Upon the death of any active contributing member with five or more years of credited service, automatic option 2 benefits are payable to the surviving spouse. These benefits are based on the retirement benefits accrued at the member's date of death with option factors used as if the member had continued in service to earliest normal retirement age. Benefit payments are to commence on the date a member would have first become eligible for normal retirement assuming continued service until that time. In lieu of a deferred survivor benefit, the surviving spouse may elect benefits payable immediately with benefits reduced 1/4 of 1% for each month by which payments commence in advance member's earliest normal retirement age. If a member has no surviving spouse, the surviving minor children under 18 or disabled children shall be paid ½ of the member's accrued retirement benefit in equal shares. Upon the death of any former member with 12 or more years of service, automatic option 2 benefits are payable to the surviving spouse with payments to commence on the member's retirement eligibility date. In lieu of periodic payments, the surviving spouse or children may receive a refund of the member's accumulated contributions.

*Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP)*

In lieu of terminating employment and accepting a service retirement allowance, any member of the Fund who is eligible for a service retirement allowance may elect to participate in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) for up to 36 months and defer the receipt of benefits. Upon commencement of participation in the plan, active membership in the Fund terminates and the participant's contributions cease; however, employer contributions continue. Compensation and creditable service remain as they existed on the effective date of commencement of participation in the plan. The monthly retirement benefits that would have been payable, had the member elected to cease employment and receive a service retirement allowance, are paid into the DROP account. Upon termination of employment at the end of the specified period of participation, a participant in the program may receive, at his option, a lump sum payment from the DROP account equal to the payments to the account or a true annuity based upon his account (subject to approval by the Board of Trustees). In addition, the member receives the monthly benefits that were paid into the DROP fund during his period of participation.

MOREHOUSE PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Bastrop, Louisiana  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

**NOTE 5 – PENSION PLAN (CONTINUED)**

If employment is not terminated at the end of the participation period, payments into the account cease and the member resumes active contributing membership in the Fund. Interest is paid on DROP account balances for members who complete their DROP participation but do not terminate employment. The interest earnings are based on the actual rate of return on funds in such accounts. These interest accruals cease upon termination of employment.

Upon termination, the member receives a lump-sum payments from the DROP fund equal to the payments made to that fund on his behalf or a true annuity based in his account (subject to approval by the Board of Trustees). The monthly benefit payments that were being paid into the DROP fund are paid to the retiree and an additional benefit based on his additional service rendered since termination of DROP participation is calculated using the normal method of benefit computation. Prior to January 1, 2011, the average compensation used to calculate the additional benefit is that used to calculate the original benefit unless his period of additional service is at least 36 months. Effective January 1, 2011, the average compensation for members whose additional service is less than 36 months is equal to the lesser amount used to calculate his original benefit or the compensation earned in the period of additional service divided by the number of months of additional service. For former DROP participants who retire after December 30, 2010, the period used to determine final average compensation for post-DROP service is 36 months plus the number of whole months elapsed from January 1, 2011 to the date of DROP entry. In no event can the entire monthly benefit amount paid to the retiree exceed 100% of the average compensation used to compute the additional benefit. If a participant dies during the period of participation in the program, a lump sum payment equal to his account balance is paid to his named beneficiary or, if none, to his estate.

*Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA)*

The Board of Trustees is authorized to grant retired members and widows of members who have been retired for at least one full calendar year an annual cost of 2.5% of their benefit (not to exceed \$40 per month), and all retired members and widows who are 65 years of age or older a 2% increase in their original benefit (or their benefit as of October 1, 1977, if they retired prior to that time). In order to grant the 2.5% COLA, the increase in the consumer price index must have exceeded 3% since the last COLA granted. In order for the Board to grant either of these increases, the Fund must meet certain other criteria as detailed in the Louisiana statute relating to funding status. In lieu of granting the above cost of living increases, Louisiana statutes allow the Board to grant a cost-of-living increase where the benefits shall be calculated using the number of years of service at retirement or at death plus the number of years since retirement or death multiplied by the cost of living amount which cannot exceed \$1.

For the year ended June 30, 2024, the Morehouse Parish Clerk of Court total payroll for all employees was \$591,134. Total covered payroll was \$536,964. Covered payroll refers to all compensation paid by the Morehouse Parish Clerk of Court to active employees covered by the Plan.

*Contributions*

According to state statute, contribution requirements for all employers are actuarially determined each year. For the year ending June 30, 2024, the actual employer contribution rate was 23.00%. The Morehouse Parish Clerk of Court's contributions to the Fund for the year ending June 30, 2024 were \$123,501.

In accordance with state statute, the Fund also receives ad valorem taxes and state revenue sharing funds. These additional sources of income are used as employer contributions and are considered support from non-employer contributing entities. Non-employer contributions are recognized as revenue during the year and excluded from pension expense. Non-employer contribution revenue for the System for the year ended June 30, 2023, was \$62,692.



MOREHOUSE PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Bastrop, Louisiana  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

**NOTE 5 – PENSION PLAN (CONTINUED)**

Members are required by state statute to contribute 8.25% of their annual covered salary. The contributions are deducted from the employee's wages or salary and remitted by the Morehouse Parish Clerk of Court to the Fund monthly.

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

At June 30, 2023, the Assessor reported a liability of \$1,065,686 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 Morehouse Parish Clerk of Court's proportion of the Net Pension Liability was based on a projection of the Clerk'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 Assessor's proportion was 0.495381%, which was a decrease of 0.030961% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2022.

For the year ended June 30, 2024, the Morehouse Parish Clerk of Court recognized pension expense of \$223,430 plus employer's amortization of change in proportionate share and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions, which was (\$148,060). Total pension expense for the Clerk for the year ended June 30, 2024 was \$75,370.

At June 30, 2023, the Assessor reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	5,755	10,847
Changes in assumptions	53,126	-
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan	118,865	-
Changes in employer's proportion of beginning net pension liability	12,949	73,547
Differences between employer and proportionate share of contributions	80	1,260
Subsequent measurement contributions	123,501	-
Total	314,277	85,654

Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year ended June 30,	
2024	48,335
2025	(17,198)
2026	101,079
2027	(27,095)

MOREHOUSE PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Bastrop, Louisiana  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

**NOTE 5 – PENSION PLAN (CONTINUED)**

*Actuarial Assumptions*

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

Valuation Date	June 30, 2023
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal
Actuarial Assumptions:	
Investment Rate of Return	6.55%, net of investment expense
Projected salary increases	1-5 years of service – 6.20% 5 years or more – 5.00%
Inflation rate	2.40%
Mortality rates	Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans multiplied by 120%. Mortality Table with full generational projection using the appropriate MP-2019 improvement scale
Expected remaining service lives	2023 – 5 years 2022 – 5 years 2021 – 5 years 2020 – 5 years 2019 – 5 years
Cost of Living Adjustments	The present value of future retirement benefits is based on benefits currently being paid by the Fund and includes previously granted cost of living increases. The present values 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.

The actuarial assumptions used are based on the assumptions used in the 2023 actuarial funding valuation which (with the exception of mortality) were based on results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2019, unless otherwise specified. In cases where benefit structures were changes after the experience study period, assumptions were based on future experiences.

The mortality rate assumption used was verified by combining data from this plan with two other statewide plans which have similar workforce composition in order to produce a credible experience. The aggregated data was collected over the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2019. The data was then assigned credibility weighting and combined with a standard table to produce current levels of mortality. This mortality was then projected forward to a period equivalent to the estimated duration of the Fund's liabilities. Annuity values calculated based on this mortality were compared to those produced by using a setback of standard tables. The result of the procedure indicated that these tables would produce liability values approximating the appropriate generational mortality tables used.

The long-term expected real 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 return, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges were 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. The long term expected rate of return was 5.81%, for the year ended June 30, 2023.

MOREHOUSE PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Bastrop, Louisiana  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

**NOTE 5 – PENSION PLAN (CONTINUED)**

Best estimates of geometric real rates of return for each major asset class included in the Fund's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2023, is summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Asset	Long-Term Expected Rate of Return	Real
Fixed Income:				
Domestic Bonds	30.00%		2.50%	
International Bonds			3.50%	
Domestic Equity	35.00%		7.50%	
International Equity	20.00%		8.50%	
Real Estate	15.00%		4.50%	
	100.00%			

*Discount Rate*

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 6.55%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members will be made at the current contribution rates and that contributions from participating employers will be made at the actuarially determined rates approved by the Board of Trustees and the Public Retirement System's Actuarial Committee (PRSAC), taking into consideration the recommendation of the Fund's actuary. Based on those assumptions, the Fund'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.

*Sensitivity of the Morehouse Parish Clerk of Court's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate*

The following presents the Morehouse Parish Clerk of Court's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 6.55%, as well as what the Police Jury's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage-point lower (5.55%) or one percentage-point higher (7.55%) than the current rate:

	1.0% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1.0% Increase
Employer's proportionate share of net pension liability	1,590,712	1,065,686	623,129

*Payables to the Pension Plan*

These financial statements include a payable to the pension plan of \$0, which is the legally required contribution due at June 30, 2024. This amount is recorded in accrued expenses.

MOREHOUSE PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Bastrop, Louisiana  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

**NOTE 5 – PENSION PLAN (CONTINUED)**

*Plan Fiduciary Net Position*

Detailed information about the Fund's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued Louisiana Clerks' of Court Retirement and Relief Fund Audit Report.

The Louisiana Clerks' of Court Retirement and Relief Fund of Louisiana has issued a stand-alone audit report on their financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2023. Access to the report can be found on the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's website, [www.lla.la.gov](http://www.lla.la.gov).

**NOTE 6 – POSTEMPLOYMENT HEALTH CARE AND LIFE INSURANCE BENEFITS**

**General Information about the OPEB Plan**

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

*Benefits Provided* – Benefits are provided through comprehensive plans and are made available to employees upon actual retirement. Employees are covered by a retirement system whose retirement eligibility (D.R.O.P. entry) provisions are as follows: Attainment of age 55 and 12 years of service; or, attainment of age 60 and 12 years of service for employees hired on and after January 1, 2011. Employees hired on and after January 1, 2011 are not able to retire or enter DROP until age 60 without actuarial reduction in benefits.

Life insurance coverage is provided to retirees and 100% of the blended rate (active and retired) is paid by the employer. The amount of insurance coverage while active is continued after retirement, but insurance coverage amounts are reduced to 50% of the original amount at age 70.

*Employees covered by benefit terms* – As of the measurement date June 30, 2024, the following employees were covered by the benefit terms:

Inactive employees or beneficiaries currently receiving benefit payments	7
Inactive employees entitled to but not yet receiving benefit payments	-
Active employees	<u>11</u>
	<u><u>18</u></u>

**Total OPEB Liability**

The Clerk's total OPEB liability is \$1,204,080 as of the measurement date June 30, 2024, the end of the fiscal year.

*Actuarial Assumptions and other inputs* – The total OPEB liability in the June 30, 2024 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions and other inputs, applied to all periods included in the measurement, unless otherwise specified:

MOREHOUSE PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Bastrop, Louisiana  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

**NOTE 6 – POSTEMPLOYMENT HEALTH CARE AND LIFE INSURANCE BENEFITS (CONT.)**

Inflation	3.0%
Salary increases	3.0%, including inflation
Prior discount rate	3.65% annually
Discount rate	3.93% annually
Healthcare cost trend rates	Getzen model, initial trend of 5.5%
Mortality	Pub-2010/2021

The discount rate was based on the Bond Buyers' 20 Year General Obligation municipal bond index over the 52 weeks immediately preceding the applicable measurement dates.

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2024 valuation were based on the results of ongoing evaluations of the assumptions from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2024.

Changes in the Total OPEB Liability

Balance at June 30, 2023	\$ <u>1,236,329</u>
Changes for the year:	
Service cost	33,340
Interest	45,734
Differences between expected and actual experience	(4,511)
Changes of assumptions	(62,831)
Benefit payments and net transfers	(43,981)
Net changes	<u>(32,249)</u>
Balance at June 30, 2024	\$ <u>1,204,080</u>

Sensitivity of the total OPEB liability to changes in the discount rate – The following presents the total OPEB liability of the Clerk, as well as what the Clerk’s total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (2.93%) or 1-percentage-point higher (4.93%) than the current discount rate:

	<b>1.0% Decrease (2.93%)</b>	<b>Current Discount Rate (3.93%)</b>	<b>1.0% Increase (4.93%)</b>
Total OPEB liability	\$ 1,402,803	\$ 1,204,080	\$ 1,044,213

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

	<b>1.0% Decrease (4.5%)</b>	<b>Current Trend (5.5%)</b>	<b>1.0% Increase (6.5%)</b>
Total OPEB liability	\$ 1,084,166	\$ 1,204,080	\$ 1,357,019

MOREHOUSE PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Bastrop, Louisiana  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

**NOTE 6 – POSTEMPLOYMENT HEALTH CARE AND LIFE INSURANCE BENEFITS (CONT.)**

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

For the year ended June 30, 2024, the Clerk recognized OPEB expense of \$54,450. At June 30, 2024, the Clerk reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 31,007	\$ (106,346)
Changes in assumptions	203,354	(252,920)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 234,362</b>	<b>\$ (359,266)</b>

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

Years ending June 30:	
2025	(24,624)
2026	(24,624)
2027	(24,624)
2028	(24,624)
2029	(11,507)
Thereafter	(14,902)

**NOTE 7 – CHANGES IN AGENCY FUND BALANCES**

	Balance at Beginning of Year	Additions	Reductions	Balance at End of Year
Advance Deposit Fund	\$ 1,337,163	\$ 551,254	\$ 572,526	\$ 1,315,891
Registry of Court Fund	127,654	65,014	51,583	141,085
Non Support Fund	6,614	-	6,614	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,471,431</b>	<b>\$ 616,268</b>	<b>\$ 630,723</b>	<b>\$1,456,976</b>

**NOTE 8 – LITIGATION AND CLAIMS**

The Morehouse Parish Clerk of Court is not involved in any litigation at June 30, 2024, nor is she aware of any unasserted claims.

MOREHOUSE PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Bastrop, Louisiana  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

**NOTE 9 – EXPENDITURES OF THE CLERK OF COURT PAID BY THE POLICE JURY**

The Morehouse Parish Clerk of Court's office is located in the parish courthouse. The cost of maintaining and operating the courthouse, as required by Louisiana Revised Statute 33:4715, is paid by the Morehouse Parish Police Jury.

**NOTE 10 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

Subsequent events have been evaluated through November 14, 2024, which is the day the financial statements were available to be issued, and it has been determined that no significant events have occurred for disclosure.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION



MOREHOUSE PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Bastrop, Louisiana

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE  
BUDGET TO ACTUAL  
GENERAL FUND  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts Budgetary Basis	Variance With Final Budget Over(Under)
	Original	Final		
<u>Operating Revenue</u>				
Licenses and Permits - Marriage	4,100	3,200	\$ 3,185	\$ (15)
Clerk's Supplemental Compensation	25,800	24,400	29,550	5,150
Grant Reimbursements	-	-	-	-
Court Costs, Fees, and Charges	311,000	283,600	289,286	5,686
Fees for Recording Legal Documents	335,500	298,000	297,855	(145)
Fees for Certified Copies of Documents	70,000	53,470	68,818	15,348
Criminal Fees	9,500	6,200	6,051	(149)
UCC Fees	36,500	27,350	27,303	(47)
Other Fees	147,120	176,411	134,904	(41,507)
Bond Forfeitures	2,500	11,000	12,957	1,957
Use of Money and Property - Interest Earnings	3,140	43,000	44,551	1,551
Other	54,000	48,925	66,200	17,275
Total Operating Revenues	<u>\$ 999,160</u>	<u>\$ 975,556</u>	<u>\$ 980,660</u>	<u>\$ 5,104</u>
<u>Operating Expenditures</u>				
General Government				
Personnel Services	851,176	883,946	896,145	(12,199)
Contractual Charges	74,356	115,676	123,871	(8,195)
Materials and Supplies	11,700	23,234	21,745	1,489
Travel and Other Charges	61,350	48,574	50,373	(1,799)
Total Expenditures	<u>998,582</u>	<u>1,071,430</u>	<u>1,092,134</u>	<u>(20,704)</u>
<u>Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over</u>				
<u>Expenditures</u>	578	(95,874)	(111,474)	(15,600)
<u>Fund Balance - Beginning of the Year</u>	<u>913,823</u>	<u>913,823</u>	<u>913,823</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>FUND BALANCE - END OF THE YEAR</u>	<u>\$ 914,401</u>	<u>\$ 817,949</u>	<u>\$ 802,349</u>	<u>\$ (15,600)</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

## Schedule II

MOREHOUSE PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Bastrop, Louisiana  
SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYER'S SHARE OF NET PENSION LIABILITY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

Fiscal Year	Agency's proportion of the net pension liability (asset)	Agency's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset)	Agency's covered payroll	Agency's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered payroll	Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability
2014	0.537415%	\$ 724,899	\$485,639	149.27%	79.37%
2015	0.519498%	\$ 779,263	\$469,993	165.80%	78.13%
2016	0.519152%	\$ 960,418	\$473,853	202.68%	74.17%
2017	0.520215%	\$ 787,051	\$469,305	167.71%	79.69%
2018	0.567078%	\$ 943,221	\$526,315	179.21%	79.08%
2019	0.563219%	\$ 1,022,801	\$551,570	185.43%	77.93%
2020	0.555361%	\$ 1,336,124	\$550,670	242.64%	72.09%
2021	0.512993%	\$ 682,403	\$517,769	131.80%	84.40%
2022	0.526342%	\$ 1,275,729	\$530,906	240.29%	74.09%
2023	49.538100%	\$ 1,065,686	\$526,462	202.42%	77.56%

Amounts presented were determined as of the measurement date (previous fiscal year end).

Schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

## Schedule III

SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

Fiscal Year	(a) Statutorily required contribution	(b) Contributions in relation to the statutorily required contribution	(a-b) Contribution deficiency	Agency's covered payroll	Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll
2014	\$ 89,843	\$ 89,743	\$ -	\$ 485,639	18.48%
2015	\$ 89,299	\$ 89,299	\$ -	\$ 469,993	19.00%
2016	\$ 90,032	\$ 90,032	\$ -	\$ 473,853	19.00%
2017	\$ 89,168	\$ 89,168	\$ -	\$ 469,305	19.00%
2018	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ 526,315	19.00%
2019	\$ 104,051	\$ 104,051	\$ -	\$ 551,570	18.86%
2020	\$ 104,627	\$ 104,627	\$ -	\$ 551,570	18.97%
2021	\$ 108,732	\$ 108,732	\$ -	\$ 517,769	21.00%
2022	\$ 118,126	\$ 118,126	\$ -	\$ 530,906	22.25%
2023	\$ 117,137	\$ 117,137	\$ -	\$ 526,462	22.25%
2024	\$ 123,501	\$ 123,501	\$ -	\$ 536,964	23.00%

Amounts presented were determined as of the end of the fiscal year.

Schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

MOREHOUSE PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Bastrop, Louisiana

SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN NET OPEB LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
<b>Total OPEB Liability</b>							
Service cost	\$ 28,201	\$ 29,047	\$ 70,818	\$ 44,147	45,471	34,221	33,340
Interest	33,778	34,456	38,266	32,018	32,749	44,362	45,734
Changes of benefit terms	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Differences between expected and actual experience	(12,576)	41,714	(165,187)	(3,697)	(34,745)	7,972	(4,511)
Changes of assumptions	-	-	442,101	12,357	(272,455)	(56,339)	(62,831)
Benefit payments	(16,353)	(17,252)	(17,181)	(18,126)	(28,385)	(29,946)	(43,981)
<b>Net change in total OPEB liability</b>	<u>33,051</u>	<u>87,965</u>	<u>368,817</u>	<u>66,699</u>	<u>(257,365)</u>	<u>270</u>	<u>(32,249)</u>
<b>Total OPEB liability - beginning</b>	<u>936,892</u>	<u>969,943</u>	<u>1,057,908</u>	<u>1,426,725</u>	<u>1,493,424</u>	<u>1,236,059</u>	<u>1,236,329</u>
<b>Total OPEB liability - ending (a)</b>	<u>\$ 969,943</u>	<u>\$ 1,057,908</u>	<u>\$ 1,426,725</u>	<u>\$ 1,493,424</u>	<u>\$ 1,236,059</u>	<u>\$ 1,236,329</u>	<u>\$ 1,204,080</u>
Covered-employee payroll	\$ 529,330	\$ 545,210	\$ 570,176	\$ 587,281	466,632	480,631	610,990
Net OPEB liability as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	183.24%	194.04%	250.23%	254.29%	264.89%	257.23%	197.07%
<b>Notes to Schedule:</b>							
<i>Benefit Changes:</i>	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
<i>Changes of Assumptions:</i>							
Discount Rate:	3.50%	3.50%	2.21%	2.16%	3.54%	3.65%	3.93%
Mortality:	RP-2000	RP-2000	RP-2014	RP-2014	RP-2014	RP-2014	Pub-2010-2021
Trend:	5.5%	5.5%	Variable	Variable	Variable	Variable	Getzen model

This schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

MOREHOUSE PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Bastrop, Louisiana  
NOTES TO THE BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

A proposed budget, prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting, is published in the official journal at least ten days prior to the public hearing. A public hearing is held at the Morehouse Parish Clerk of Court's office during the month of June for comments from taxpayers. The budget is then legally adopted by the Clerk and amended during the year, as necessary. The budget is established and controlled by the Clerk at the object level of expenditure. Appropriations lapse at year end and must be reappropriated for the following year to be expended.

Formal budgetary integration is employed as a management control device during the year. Budgeted amounts included in the accompanying budgetary comparison schedule include the original adopted budget amounts and all subsequent amendments.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

MOREHOUSE PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Bastrop, Louisiana  
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION SCHEDULES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

**FIDUCIARY FUND TYPE – AGENCY FUNDS**

**ADVANCE DEPOSIT FUND**

The Advance Deposit Fund, as provided by Louisiana Revised Statute 13:842, accounts for advance deposits on suits filed by litigants. The advances are refundable to the litigants after all costs have been paid.

**REGISTRY OF COURT FUND**

The Registry of Court Fund, as provided by Louisiana Revised Statute 13:475, accounts for funds which have been ordered by the court to be held until judgement has been rendered in court litigation. Withdrawals of the funds can be made only upon order of the court.

**NON SUPPORT FUND**

The Non Support Fund accounts for the collection and distribution of child support obligations and the assessment and remittance of a five per cent fee on the child support payments. As in common practice with Clerks of Court around the State, this fund is included with the Advance Deposit Fund as of July 1, 2023.

MOREHOUSE PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Bastrop, Louisiana

SCHEDULE OF COMPENSATION, BENEFITS AND OTHER PAYMENTS TO AGENCY HEAD OR  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

**Agency Head: Tifani Thomas, Clerk of Court**

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Salary	\$ 167,707
Benefits – Insurance	\$ 12,256
Benefits – Retirement	\$ 43,518
Per diem	\$ 325
Travel	\$ 0
Dues	\$ 1,868

**Morehouse Parish Clerk of Court**  
Bastrop, Louisiana

**Justice System Funding Schedule - Collecting/Disbursing Entity**  
**As Required by Act 87 of the 2020 Regular Legislative Session**

	First Six Month Period Ended <u>12/31/2023</u>	Second Six Month Period Ended <u>6/30/2024</u>
<b>Beginning Balance of Amounts Collected</b>	1,371,842	1,381,598
<b>Add: Collections</b>		
Civil Fees	240,174	269,819
Bond Fees	20,700	5,160
Other	1,236	285
<b>Total Collections</b>	<u>262,110</u>	<u>275,264</u>
<b>Less: Disbursements to Governments</b>		
Court Reporter/Civil	376	52
Judicial Expense/Civil	4,590	5,520
Judges Compensation/Civil	9,291	11,151
Judicial College Fee/Civil	150	181
Battered Womens Fund/Civil	280	440
LA Secretary of State	1,350	1,800
Court of Appeals/Civil	682	492
Witness Fees	-	50
Curator Fees	18,288	11,432
Sheriff of Ascension Parish	53	-
Sheriff of Bienville Parish	-	35
Sheriff of Caddo Parish	123	468
Sheriff of Bossier Parish	99	50
Sheriff of East Baton Rouge Parish	1,603	3,836
Sheriff of East Carroll Parish	32	63
Sheriff of Grant Parish	-	41
Sheriff of Jackson Parish	-	32
Sheriff of Jefferson Parish	120	120
Sheriff of Lafayette Parish	236	232
Sheriff of Lincoln Parish	333	126
Sheriff of Livingston Parish	-	26
Sheriff of Madison Parish	120	60
Sheriff of Morehouse Parish	12,978	17,069
Sheriff of Natchitoches Parish	-	143
Sheriff of Orleans Parish	120	120
Sheriff of Ouachita Parish	4,257	4,854
Sheriff of Rapides Parish	-	67
Sheriff of Richland Parish	211	386
Sheriff of St. Landry Parish	-	64
Sheriff of St. Tammany Parish	-	43
Sheriff of Union Parish	193	616
Sheriff of Vernon Parish	35	72
Sheriff of Webster Parish	-	32
Sheriff of West Baton Rouge	-	32
Sheriff of West Carroll Parish	518	270
<b>Less: Amounts Retained by Collecting Agency</b>		
Civil Fees	130,292	153,153
<b>Less: Disbursements to Individuals/3rd Party Collection or Processing</b>		
Civil Fee Refunds	63,581	100,409
Bond Fee Refunds	-	-
Other Disbursements to Individuals	2,443	2,192
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<u>252,354</u>	<u>315,729</u>
<b>Ending Balance of Amounts Collected but not Disbursed</b>	<u>\$ 1,381,598</u>	<u>\$ 1,341,133</u>



OTHER REPORTS REQUIRED BY *GOVERNMENT AUDITING*  
*STANDARDS* AND BY OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
*UNIFORM GUIDANCE*

**Independent Auditors' 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***

Honorable Tifani Thomas  
Morehouse Parish Clerk of Court  
Bastrop, 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 Morehouse Parish Clerk of Court (Clerk of Court), a component unit of Morehouse Parish Police Jury, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Clerk of Court's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated November 14, 2024.

**Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing my audit of the financial statements, we considered the Clerk of Court's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the 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 Clerk of Court's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Clerk of 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. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Honorable Tifani Thomas  
Morehouse Parish Clerk of Court  
Bastrop, Louisiana  
Page 2

### **Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Clerk of 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 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 or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

### **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 Office of the Louisiana Legislative Auditor as a public document.

*David M. Hart, CPA (SPAC)*

West Monroe, Louisiana  
November 14, 2024

MOREHOUSE PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Bastrop, Louisiana  
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

Honorable Tifani Thomas  
 Morehouse Parish Clerk of Court  
 Bastrop, Louisiana

We have audited the financial statements of Morehouse Parish Clerk of Court, a component unit of the Morehouse Parish Police Jury as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and have issued our report thereon dated November 14, 2024. 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 audit of the financial statements as of June 30, 2024, resulted in an unqualified opinion.

Section I- Summary of Auditor’s Results

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

Internal Control

Material Weakness \_\_\_ yes X no  
 Significant Deficiencies not considered to be  
 Material Weaknesses \_\_\_ yes X no

Compliance

Compliance Material to Financial Statements \_\_\_ yes X no

B. Federal Awards – N/A

Material Weakness Identified \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no  
 Significant Deficiencies not considered to be  
 Material Weaknesses \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no

Type of Opinion on Compliance For Major Programs (No Major Programs)

Unqualified \_\_\_ Qualified \_\_\_  
 Disclaimer \_\_\_ Adverse \_\_\_

Are there findings required to be reported in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, Section .510 (a)? N/A

C. Identification of Major Programs: N/A

Name of Federal Program (or cluster) CFDA Number(s) N/A

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between Type A and Type B Programs. N/A

Is the auditee a “low-risk” auditee, as defined by the Uniform Guidance? N/A

MOREHOUSE PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Bastrop, Louisiana  
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

Section I - Internal Control and Compliance Material to the Financial Statements

No findings were reported under this section.

Section II - Financial Statement Findings

No findings were reported under this section.

Section III - Management Letter

No management letter was issued.

MOREHOUSE PARISH CLERK OF COURT  
Bastrop, Louisiana  
SCHEDULE OF PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

Section I - Internal Control and Compliance Material to the Financial Statements

This section is not applicable for this entity.

Section II - Internal Control and Compliance Material to Federal Awards

This section is not applicable for this entity.

Section III - Management Letter

This section is not applicable for this entity.

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT  
ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

To the Morehouse Parish Clerk of Court and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor:

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

Morehouse Parish Clerk of 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 through June 30, 2024. Additionally, LLA has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate for its purposes. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of this report and may not meet the needs of all users of this report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

The procedures and related exceptions obtained are described in the attachment to this report.

We were engaged by the Morehouse Parish Clerk of Court 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 Morehouse Parish Clerk of Court 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.

*David M. Hartt, CPA (APAC)*

West Monroe, Louisiana  
November 14, 2024

## 1) *Written Policies and Procedures*

---

- A. Obtain and inspect the entity's written policies and procedures and observe whether they address each of the following categories and subcategories if applicable to public funds and the entity's operations:
- i. ***Budgeting***, including preparing, adopting, monitoring, and amending the budget.
  - ii. ***Purchasing***, including (1) how purchases are initiated, (2) how vendors are added to the vendor list, (3) the preparation and approval process of purchase requisitions and purchase orders, (4) controls to ensure compliance with the Public Bid Law, and (5) documentation required to be maintained for all bids and price quotes.
  - iii. ***Disbursements***, including processing, reviewing, and approving.
  - iv. ***Receipts/Collections***, including receiving, recording, and preparing deposits. Also, policies and procedures should include management's actions to determine the completeness of all collections for each type of revenue or agency fund additions (e.g., periodic confirmation with outside parties, reconciliation to utility billing after cutoff procedures, reconciliation of traffic ticket number sequences, agency fund forfeiture monies confirmation).
  - v. ***Payroll/Personnel***, including (1) payroll processing, (2) reviewing and approving time and attendance records, including leave and overtime worked, and (3) approval process for employee rates of pay or approval and maintenance of pay rate schedules.
  - vi. ***Contracting***, including (1) types of services requiring written contracts, (2) standard terms and conditions, (3) legal review, (4) approval process, and (5) monitoring process.
  - vii. ***Travel and Expense Reimbursement***, including (1) allowable expenses, (2) dollar thresholds by category of expense, (3) documentation requirements, and (4) required approvers.
  - viii. ***Credit Cards (and debit cards, fuel cards, purchase cards, if applicable)***, including (1) how cards are to be controlled, (2) allowable business uses, (3) documentation requirements, (4) required approvers of statements, and (5) monitoring card usage (e.g., determining the reasonableness of fuel card purchases).
  - ix. ***Ethics***, including (1) the prohibitions as defined in Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 42:1111-1121, (2) actions to be taken if an ethics violation takes place, (3) system to monitor possible ethics violations, and (4) a requirement that documentation is maintained to demonstrate that all employees and officials were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy.
  - x. ***Debt Service***, including (1) debt issuance approval, (2) continuing disclosure/EMMA reporting requirements, (3) debt reserve requirements, and (4) debt service requirements.
  - xi. ***Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity***, including (1) identification of critical data and frequency of data backups, (2) storage of backups in a separate physical location isolated from the network, (3) periodic testing/verification that backups can be restored, (4) use of antivirus software on all systems, (5) timely application of all available system and software patches/updates, and (6) identification of personnel, processes, and tools needed to recover operations after a critical event.



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

Exceptions

No exceptions noted in the above procedures.

***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.
  - ii. For those entities reporting on the governmental accounting model, observe whether the minutes referenced or included monthly budget-to-actual comparisons on the general fund, quarterly budget-to-actual comparisons, at a minimum, on all proprietary funds, and semi-annual budget-to-actual comparisons, at a minimum, on all special revenue funds. *Alternatively, for those entities reporting on the not-for-profit accounting model, observe that the minutes referenced or included financial activity relating to public funds if those public funds comprised more than 10% of the entity's collections during the fiscal period.*
  - iii. For governmental entities, obtain the prior year audit report and observe the unassigned fund balance in the general fund. If the general fund had a negative ending unassigned fund balance in the prior year audit report, observe that the minutes for at least one meeting during the fiscal period referenced or included a formal plan to eliminate the negative unassigned fund balance in the general fund.
  - iv. Observe whether the board/finance committee received written updates of the progress of resolving audit finding(s), according to management's corrective action plan at each meeting until the findings are considered fully resolved.

No exceptions noted in the above procedures.

***3) Bank Reconciliations***

---

- A. Obtain a listing of entity bank accounts for the fiscal period from management and management's representation that the listing is complete. Ask management to identify the entity's main operating account. Select the entity's main operating account and randomly select 4 additional accounts (or all accounts if less than 5). Randomly select one month from the fiscal period, obtain and inspect the corresponding bank statement and reconciliation for each selected account, and observe that:
  - i. Bank reconciliations include evidence that they were prepared within 2 months of the related statement closing date (e.g., initialed and dated or electronically logged);
  - ii. Bank reconciliations include written evidence that a member of management or a board member who does not handle cash, post ledgers, or issue checks has reviewed each bank reconciliation within 1 month of the date the reconciliation was prepared (e.g., initialed and dated or electronically logged); and

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

Exception

No exceptions noted in the above procedures.

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

---

- A. Obtain a listing of deposit sites for the fiscal period where deposits for cash/checks/money orders (cash) are prepared and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 deposit sites (or all deposit sites if less than 5).
- 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 (e.g., 5 collection locations for 5 deposit sites), obtain and inspect written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if there are no written policies or procedures, then inquire of employees about their job duties) at each collection location, and observe that job duties are properly segregated at each collection location such that
  - i. Employees responsible for cash collections do not share cash drawers/registers;
  - ii. Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not also responsible for preparing/making bank deposits, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling collection documentation (e.g., pre-numbered receipts) to the deposit;
  - iii. Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not also responsible for posting collection entries to the general ledger or subsidiary ledgers, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling ledger postings to each other and to the deposit; and
  - iv. The employee(s) responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general ledger and/or subsidiary ledgers, by revenue source and/or custodial fund additions, is (are) not also responsible for collecting cash, unless another employee/official verifies the reconciliation.
- C. Obtain from management a copy of the bond or insurance policy for theft covering all employees who have access to cash. Observe that the bond or insurance policy for theft was in force during the fiscal period.
- D. Randomly select two deposit dates for each of the 5 bank accounts selected for Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A (select the next deposit date chronologically if no deposits were made on the dates randomly selected and randomly select a deposit if multiple deposits are made on the same day). *Alternatively, the practitioner may use a source document other than bank statements when selecting the deposit dates for testing, such as a cash collection log, daily revenue report, receipt book, etc.* Obtain supporting documentation for each of the 10 deposits and
  - i. Observe that receipts are sequentially pre-numbered.
  - ii. Trace sequentially pre-numbered receipts, system reports, and other related collection documentation to the deposit slip.
  - iii. Trace the deposit slip total to the actual deposit per the bank statement.
  - iv. Observe that the deposit was made within one business day of receipt at the collection location (within one week if the depository is more than 10 miles from the collection

location or the deposit is less than \$100 and the cash is stored securely in a locked safe or drawer).

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

#### Exceptions

No exceptions noted in the above procedures.

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

---

- A. Obtain a listing of locations that process payments for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 locations (or all locations if less than 5).
- 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, then inquire of employees about their job duties), and observe that job duties are properly segregated such that
  - i. At least two employees are involved in initiating a purchase request, approving a purchase, and placing an order or making the purchase;
  - ii. At least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors;
  - iii. The employee responsible for processing payments is prohibited from adding/modifying vendor files, unless another employee is responsible for periodically reviewing changes to vendor files;
  - iv. Either the employee/official responsible for signing checks mails the payment or gives the signed checks to an employee to mail who is not responsible for processing payments; and
  - v. Only employees/officials authorized to sign checks approve the electronic disbursement (release) of funds, whether through automated clearinghouse (ACH), electronic funds transfer (EFT), wire transfer, or some other electronic means.

*[Note: Findings related to controls that constrain the legal authority of certain public officials (e.g., mayor of a Lawrason Act municipality) should not be reported.]*

- C. For each location selected under procedure #5A above, obtain the entity's non-payroll disbursement transaction population (excluding cards and travel reimbursements) and obtain management's representation that the population is complete. Randomly select 5 disbursements for each location, obtain supporting documentation for each transaction, and
  - i. Observe whether the disbursement, whether by paper or electronic means, matched the related original itemized invoice and supporting documentation indicates that deliverables included on the invoice were received by the entity, and
  - ii. Observe whether the disbursement documentation included evidence (e.g., initial/date, electronic logging) of segregation of duties tested under procedure #5B above, as applicable.

- 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.*

Exceptions

No exceptions noted in the above procedures.

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

- A. Obtain from management a listing of all active credit cards, bank debit cards, fuel cards, and purchase cards (cards) for the fiscal period, including the card numbers and the names of the persons who maintained possession of the cards. Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete.
- 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
  - ii. Observe that finance charges and late fees were not assessed on the selected statements.
- C. Using the monthly statements or combined statements selected under procedure #7B above, excluding fuel cards, randomly select 10 transactions (or all transactions if less than 10) from each statement, and obtain supporting documentation for the transactions (e.g., each card should have 10 transactions subject to inspection). For each transaction, observe that it is supported by (1) an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased, (2) written documentation of the business/public purpose, and (3) documentation of the individuals participating in meals (for meal charges only). For missing receipts, the practitioner should describe the nature of the transaction and observe whether management had a compensating control to address missing receipts, such as a "missing receipt statement" that is subject to increased scrutiny.

No exceptions noted in the above procedures.

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

- A. Obtain from management a listing of all travel and travel-related expense reimbursements during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing or general ledger is complete. Randomly select 5 reimbursements and obtain the related expense reimbursement forms/prepaid

expense documentation of each selected reimbursement, as well as the supporting documentation. For each of the 5 reimbursements selected

- i. If reimbursed using a per diem, observe that the approved reimbursement rate is no more than those rates established either by the State of Louisiana or the U.S. General Services Administration ([www.gsa.gov](http://www.gsa.gov));
- ii. If reimbursed using actual costs, observe that the reimbursement is supported by an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased;
- iii. Observe that each reimbursement is supported by documentation of the business/public purpose (for meal charges, observe that the documentation includes the names of those individuals participating) and other documentation required by Written Policies and Procedures procedure #1A(vii); and
- iv. Observe that each reimbursement was reviewed and approved, in writing, by someone other than the person receiving reimbursement.

No exceptions noted in the above procedures.

#### **8) Contracts**

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- A. Obtain from management a listing of all agreements/contracts for professional services, materials and supplies, leases, and construction activities that were initiated or renewed during the fiscal period. *Alternatively, 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
  - i. Observe whether the contract was bid in accordance with the Louisiana Public Bid Law (e.g., solicited quotes or bids, advertised), if required by law;
  - ii. Observe whether the contract was approved by the governing body/board, if required by policy or law (e.g., Lawrason Act, Home Rule Charter);
  - iii. If the contract was amended (e.g., change order), observe that the original contract terms provided for such an amendment and that amendments were made in compliance with the contract terms (e.g., if approval is required for any amendment, the documented approval); and
  - iv. Randomly select one payment from the fiscal period for each of the 5 contracts, obtain the supporting invoice, agree the invoice to the contract terms, and observe that the invoice and related payment agreed to the terms and conditions of the contract.

No exceptions noted in the above procedures.

#### **9) Payroll and Personnel**

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

- B. Randomly select one pay period during the fiscal period. For the 5 employees or officials selected under procedure #9A above, obtain attendance records and leave documentation for the pay period, and
- i. Observe that all selected employees or officials documented their daily attendance and leave (e.g., vacation, sick, compensatory);
  - ii. Observe whether supervisors approved the attendance and leave of the selected employees or officials;
  - iii. Observe that any leave accrued or taken during the pay period is reflected in the entity's cumulative leave records; and
  - iv. Observe the rate paid to the employees or officials agrees to the authorized salary/pay rate found within the personnel file.
- C. Obtain a listing of those employees or officials that received termination payments during the fiscal period and management's representation that the list is complete. Randomly select two employees or officials and obtain related documentation of the hours and pay rates used in management's termination payment calculations and the entity's policy on termination payments. Agree the hours to the employee's or official's cumulative leave records, agree the pay rates to the employee's or official's authorized pay rates in the employee's or official's personnel files, and agree the termination payment to entity policy.
- D. Obtain management's representation that employer and employee portions of third-party payroll related amounts (e.g., payroll taxes, retirement contributions, health insurance premiums, garnishments, workers' compensation premiums, etc.) have been paid, and any associated forms have been filed, by required deadlines.

No exceptions noted in the above procedures.

## **10) Ethics**

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- A. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A obtain ethics documentation from management, and
- i. Observe whether the documentation demonstrates that each employee/official completed one hour of ethics training during the calendar year as required by R.S. 42:1170; and
  - ii. Observe whether the entity maintains documentation which demonstrates that each employee and official were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy during the fiscal period, as applicable.
- B. Inquire and/or observe whether the agency has appointed an ethics designee as required by R.S. 42:1170.

No exceptions noted in the above procedures.

## **11) Debt Service**

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

- 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).

This section not applicable..

### 12) Fraud Notice

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

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- A. Perform the following procedures, **verbally discuss the results with management, and report "We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management."**
  - i. Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has backed up its critical data (if there is no written documentation, then inquire of personnel responsible for backing up critical data) and observe evidence that such backup (a) occurred within the past week, (b) was not stored on the government's local server or network, and (c) was encrypted.
  - ii. Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has tested/verified that its backups can be restored (if there is no written documentation, then inquire of personnel responsible for testing/verifying backup restoration) and observe evidence that the test/verification was successfully performed within the past 3 months.
  - 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.
- B. Randomly select 5 terminated employees (or all terminated employees if less than 5) using the list of terminated employees obtained in Payroll and Personnel procedure #9C. Observe evidence that the selected terminated employees have been removed or disabled from the network.

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

We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management. No exceptions were noted.

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

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- A. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A, obtain sexual harassment training documentation from management, and observe that the documentation demonstrates each employee/official completed at least one hour of sexual harassment training during the calendar year as required by R.S. 42:343.
- B. Observe that the entity has posted its sexual harassment policy and complaint procedure on its website (or in a conspicuous location on the entity's premises if the entity does not have a website).
- C. Obtain the entity's annual sexual harassment report for the current fiscal period, observe that the report was dated on or before February 1, and observe that the report includes the applicable requirements of R.S. 42:344:
- i. Number and percentage of public servants in the agency who have completed the training requirements;
  - ii. Number of sexual harassment complaints received by the agency;
  - iii. Number of complaints which resulted in a finding that sexual harassment occurred;
  - iv. Number of complaints in which the finding of sexual harassment resulted in discipline or corrective action; and
  - v. Amount of time it took to resolve each complaint.

#### Exceptions

There were no exceptions noted in the above procedures.