

LAWRENCE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

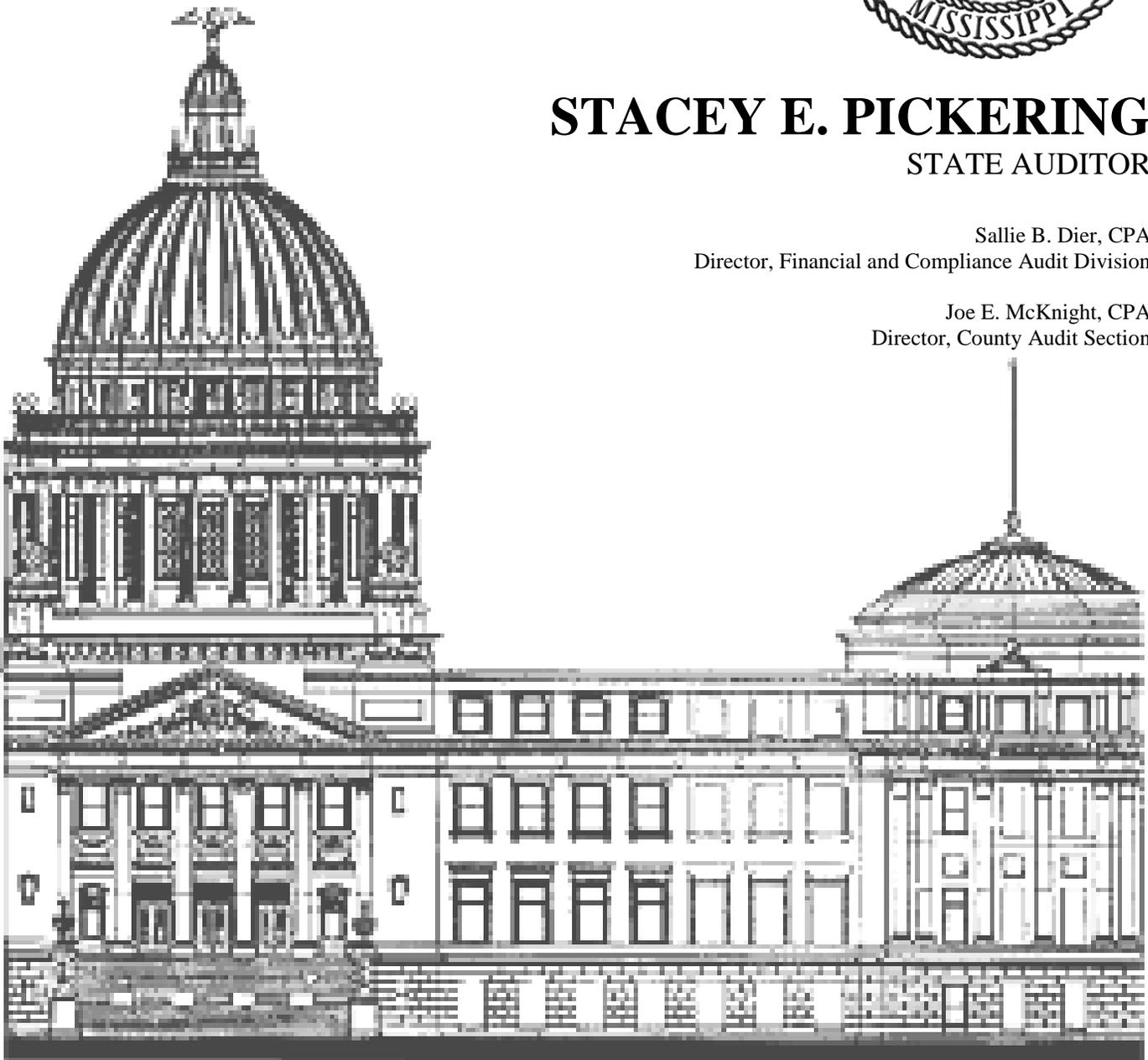
Audited Financial Statements and Special Reports
For the Year Ended September 30, 2014



STACEY E. PICKERING STATE AUDITOR

Sallie B. Dier, CPA
Director, Financial and Compliance Audit Division

Joe E. McKnight, CPA
Director, County Audit Section



A Report from the County Audit Section

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STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR
STACEY E. PICKERING
AUDITOR

April 1, 2016

Members of the Board of Supervisors
Lawrence County, Mississippi

Dear Board Members:

I am pleased to submit to you the 2014 financial and compliance audit report for Lawrence County. This audit was performed pursuant to Section 7-7-211(e), Mississippi Code Ann. (1972). The audit was performed 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.

I appreciate the cooperation and courtesy extended by the officials and employees of Lawrence County throughout the audit. Thank you for working to move Mississippi forward by serving as a supervisor for Lawrence County. If I or this office can be of any further assistance, please contact me or Joe McKnight of my staff at (601) 576-2674.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacey E. Pickering". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "P".

Stacey E. Pickering
State Auditor

LAWRENCE COUNTY

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LAWRENCE COUNTY

FINANCIAL SECTION

LAWRENCE COUNTY

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**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR
STACEY E. PICKERING
AUDITOR**

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Members of the Board of Supervisors
Lawrence County, Mississippi

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying cash basis financial statements of the governmental activities, the major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of Lawrence County, Mississippi, (the County) as of and for the year ended September 30, 2014, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements of the County's primary government as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the cash basis of accounting, as described in Note 1. This includes determining that the cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible 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.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. 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. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on the Aggregate Discretely Presented Component Units

The financial statements do not include financial data for the County's legally separate component units. Accounting principles applicable to the County's cash basis of accounting require the financial data for those component units to be reported with the financial data of the County's primary government unless the County also issues financial statements for the financial reporting entity that include the financial data for its component units. The County has not issued such reporting entity financial statements. The amount by which this departure would affect the cash basis assets, net position, receipts and disbursements of the aggregate discretely presented component units is not reasonably determinable.

Adverse Opinion

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the "Basis for Adverse Opinion on the Aggregate Discretely Presented Component Units" paragraph, the financial statements referred to above do not present fairly, the cash basis financial position of the aggregate discretely presented component units of Lawrence County, Mississippi, as of September 30, 2014, or the changes in cash basis financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles applicable to the County's cash basis of accounting.

Unmodified Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to previously present fairly, in all material respects, the respective cash basis financial position of the governmental activities, the major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of Lawrence County, Mississippi, as of September 30, 2014, and the respective changes in cash basis financial position thereof for the year then ended, in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statements which describes that Lawrence County, Mississippi prepares its financial statements on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinions are not modified with respect to this matter.

Other Matters

Report on Supplementary and Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise Lawrence County, Mississippi's basic financial statements. The accompanying Schedule of Operating Costs of Solid Waste is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. The Schedule of Operating Costs of Solid Waste is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. 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 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 Operating Costs of Solid Waste is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

The Budgetary Comparison Schedule, Schedule of Capital Assets, Schedule of Changes in Long-term Debt, Schedule of Surety Bonds for County Officials and corresponding notes have not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements, and accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on such information.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 1, 2016, on our consideration of Lawrence County, Mississippi'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 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 internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Lawrence County, Mississippi's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

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JOE E. MCKNIGHT, CPA
Director, County Audit Section

April 1, 2016

LAWRENCE COUNTY

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LAWRENCE COUNTY

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

LAWRENCE COUNTY

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LAWRENCE COUNTY
Statement of Net Position - Cash Basis
September 30, 2014

Exhibit 1

	<u>Primary Government</u>
	Governmental
	<u>Activities</u>
ASSETS	
Cash	\$ 6,465,478
Total Assets	<u>6,465,478</u>
NET POSITION	
Restricted:	
Expendable:	
General government	229,930
Public safety	762,529
Public works	2,037,952
Health and welfare	221,521
Culture and recreation	1,683
Economic development and assistance	25,107
Debt service	367,418
Unemployment compensation	12,219
Unrestricted	<u>2,807,119</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 6,465,478</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

LAWRENCE COUNTY
Statement of Activities - Cash Basis
For the Year Ended September 30, 2014

Exhibit 2

Functions/Programs	Program Cash Receipts				Net (Disbursements) Receipts and Changes in Net Position
	Cash Disbursements	Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Primary Government Governmental Activities
Primary government:					
Governmental activities:					
General government	\$ 2,439,078	199,891	30,025		(2,209,162)
Public safety	2,050,598	208,540	93,328	12,331	(1,736,399)
Public works	2,762,255	17,635	535,108	87,310	(2,122,202)
Health and welfare	295,895		20,657		(275,238)
Culture and recreation	10,603				(10,603)
Education	255,160				(255,160)
Conservation of natural resources	47,911				(47,911)
Economic development and assistance	142,682				(142,682)
Debt service:					
Principal	597,218				(597,218)
Interest	83,512				(83,512)
Total Governmental Activities	\$ 8,684,912	426,066	679,118	99,641	(7,480,087)
General receipts:					
Property taxes				\$ 5,864,626	
Road & bridge privilege taxes				187,313	
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs				571,911	
Unrestricted interest income				6,292	
Miscellaneous				203,712	
Proceeds from debt issuance				296,475	
Sale of county property				41,403	
Total General Receipts and Other Cash Sources				7,171,732	
Changes in Net Position					(308,355)
Net Position - Beginning					6,773,833
Net Position - Ending					\$ 6,465,478

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

LAWRENCE COUNTY
Statement of Cash Basis Assets and Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
September 30, 2014

Exhibit 3

	<u>Major Fund</u>		
	General Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS			
Cash	\$ 2,807,119	3,658,359	6,465,478
Total Assets	<u>\$ 2,807,119</u>	<u>3,658,359</u>	<u>6,465,478</u>
FUND BALANCES			
Restricted for:			
General government	\$	229,930	229,930
Public safety		762,529	762,529
Public works		2,037,952	2,037,952
Health and welfare		221,521	221,521
Culture and recreation		1,683	1,683
Economic development and assistance		25,107	25,107
Debt service		367,418	367,418
Unemployment compensation		12,219	12,219
Assigned to:			
Health and welfare	190,595		190,595
Economic development and assistance	1,255		1,255
Unassigned	2,615,269		2,615,269
Total Fund Balances	<u>\$ 2,807,119</u>	<u>3,658,359</u>	<u>6,465,478</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Exhibit 4

Statement of Cash Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Basis Fund Balances -
Governmental Funds
For the Year Ended September 30, 2014

	<u>Major Fund</u>		
	General Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
RECEIPTS			
Property taxes	\$ 3,880,013	1,984,613	5,864,626
Road and bridge privilege taxes		187,313	187,313
Licenses, commissions and other receipts	99,110	4,204	103,314
Fines and forfeitures	110,284	6,380	116,664
Intergovernmental receipts	632,181	718,489	1,350,670
Charges for services	48,230	157,858	206,088
Interest income	6,283	9	6,292
Miscellaneous receipts	62,208	141,504	203,712
Total Receipts	<u>4,838,309</u>	<u>3,200,370</u>	<u>8,038,679</u>
DISBURSEMENTS			
General government	2,328,611	110,467	2,439,078
Public safety	1,541,233	509,365	2,050,598
Public works		2,762,255	2,762,255
Health and welfare	295,845	50	295,895
Culture and recreation		10,603	10,603
Education	255,160		255,160
Conservation of natural resources	47,911		47,911
Economic development and assistance	142,300	382	142,682
Debt service:			
Principal	35,794	561,424	597,218
Interest	1,697	81,815	83,512
Total Disbursements	<u>4,648,551</u>	<u>4,036,361</u>	<u>8,684,912</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Receipts over Disbursements	<u>189,758</u>	<u>(835,991)</u>	<u>(646,233)</u>
OTHER CASH SOURCES (USES)			
Proceeds from long-term debt issuance	26,852	269,623	296,475
Sale of county property		41,403	41,403
Transfers in	25,000	491,875	516,875
Transfers out	(107,862)	(409,013)	(516,875)
Total Other Cash Sources and Uses	<u>(56,010)</u>	<u>393,888</u>	<u>337,878</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Receipts and other Cash Sources over Disbursements and other Cash Uses	133,748	(442,103)	(308,355)
Cash Basis Fund Balances - Beginning	<u>2,673,371</u>	<u>4,100,462</u>	<u>6,773,833</u>
Cash Basis Fund Balances - Ending	<u>\$ 2,807,119</u>	<u>3,658,359</u>	<u>6,465,478</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

LAWRENCE COUNTY
Statement of Fiduciary Assets and Liabilities - Cash Basis
September 30, 2014

Exhibit 5

	<u>Agency Funds</u>
ASSETS	
Cash	\$ <u>432,557</u>
Total Assets	\$ <u><u>432,557</u></u>
LIABILITIES	
Amounts held in custody for others	\$ <u>432,557</u>
Total Liabilities	\$ <u><u>432,557</u></u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

LAWRENCE COUNTY

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LAWENCE COUNTY

Notes to Financial Statements
For the Year Ended September 30, 2014

(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies.

A. Financial Reporting Entity.

Lawrence County, Mississippi (the County), is a political subdivision of the State of Mississippi. The County is governed by an elected five-member Board of Supervisors. The financial statements of the County are presented on a cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as established by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. These accounting principles require Lawrence County to present these financial statements on the primary government and its component units which have significant operational or financial relationships with the County.

Management has chosen to omit from these financial statements the following component units which have significant operational or financial relationships with the County. Accordingly, the financial statements do not include the data of all of the County's component units necessary for reporting in accordance with accounting principles applicable to the County's cash basis of accounting.

- Lawrence County Economic Development District
- Lawrence County Human Resource Agency

State law pertaining to county government provides for the independent election of county officials. The following elected and appointed officials are all part of the County legal entity and therefore are reported as part of the primary government financial statements.

- Board of Supervisors
- Chancery Clerk
- Circuit Clerk
- Justice Court Clerk
- Purchase Clerk
- Tax Assessor-Collector
- Sheriff

B. Basis of Presentation.

The County's basic financial statements consist of government-wide statements, including a Statement of Net Position – Cash Basis and a Statement of Activities – Cash Basis, fund financial statements and accompanying note disclosures which provide a detailed level of financial information.

Government-wide Financial Statements:

The Statement of Net Position – Cash Basis and Statement of Activities – Cash Basis display information concerning the County as a whole. The statements include all nonfiduciary activities of the primary government. For the most part, the effect of interfund activity has been removed from these statements. Governmental activities are generally financed through taxes, intergovernmental receipts and other nonexchange receipts.

The Statement of Net Position – Cash Basis presents the financial condition of the governmental activities of the County at year-end. The Government-wide Statement of Activities – Cash Basis presents a comparison between direct disbursements and program receipts for each function or program of the County's governmental activities. Direct disbursements are those that are specifically associated with a service, program or department and therefore, are clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program receipts include charges paid by the recipient of the goods or services offered by the program, grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program.

LAWENCE COUNTY

Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended September 30, 2014

Taxes and other receipts not classified as program receipts are presented as general receipts of the County, with certain limited exceptions. The comparison of direct disbursements with program receipts identifies the extent to which each governmental function is self-financing or draws from the general receipts of the County.

Fund Financial Statements:

Fund financial statements of the County are organized into funds, each of which is considered to be separate accounting entities. Each fund is accounted for by providing a separate set of self-balancing accounts that constitute its assets, fund equity, receipts and disbursements. Funds are organized into governmental and fiduciary. Major individual Governmental Funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements. Nonmajor funds are aggregated and presented in a single column as Other Governmental Funds.

C. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting.

The Government-wide, Governmental Funds and Fiduciary Funds financial statements are presented on a cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as established by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. This basis of accounting involves the reporting of only cash and cash equivalents and the changes therein resulting from cash inflows (cash receipts) and cash outflows (cash disbursements) reported in the period in which they occurred. This cash basis of accounting differs from GAAP primarily because revenues (cash receipts) are recognized when received in cash rather than when earned and susceptible to accrual, and expenditures or expenses (cash disbursements) are recognized when paid rather than when incurred or subject to accrual.

The County reports the following major Governmental Fund:

General Fund - This fund is used to account for and report all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund.

Additionally, the County reports the following fund types:

GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES

Special Revenue Funds - These funds are used to account for and report the proceeds of specific cash sources that are restricted or committed to disbursement for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects.

Debt Service Funds - These funds are used to account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to disbursement for principal and interest.

Capital Projects Funds - These funds are used to account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to disbursement for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets.

FIDUCIARY FUND TYPE

Agency Funds - These funds account for various taxes, deposits and other monies collected or held by the County, acting in the capacity of an agent, for distribution to other governmental units or designated beneficiaries.

LAWENCE COUNTY

Notes to Financial Statements
For the Year Ended September 30, 2014

D. Account Classifications.

The account classifications used in the financial statements conform to the broad classifications recommended in *Governmental Accounting, Auditing and Financial Reporting* as issued in 2012 by the Government Finance Officers Association.

E. Deposits.

State law authorizes the County to invest in interest bearing time certificates of deposit for periods of fourteen days to one year with depositories and in obligations of the U.S. Treasury, State of Mississippi, or any county, municipality or school district of this state. Further, the County may invest in certain repurchase agreements.

Cash includes cash on hand, demand deposits, all certificates of deposit and cash equivalents, which are short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to cash (generally three months or less).

F. Equity Classifications.

Government-wide Financial Statements:

Equity is classified as net position and displayed in two components:

Restricted net position - Consists of net position with constraints placed on the use either by external groups such as creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws and regulations of other governments; or law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Unrestricted net position - All other net position not meeting the definition of "restricted."

Net Position Flow Assumption:

When a disbursement is paid for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted (committed, assigned or unassigned) resources are available, it is the County's general policy to use restricted resources first. When disbursements are paid for purposes for which unrestricted (committed, assigned and unassigned) resources are available, and amounts in any of these unrestricted classifications could be used, it is the County's general policy to spend committed resources first, followed by assigned amounts, and then unassigned amounts.

Fund Financial Statements:

Fund balances for governmental funds are reported in classifications that comprise a hierarchy based primarily on the extent to which the government is bound to honor constraints on the specific purposes for which amounts in those funds can be spent.

Governmental fund balance is classified as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned or unassigned. The following are descriptions of fund classifications used by the County:

Restricted fund balance includes amounts that have constraints placed upon the use of the resources either by an external party or imposed by law through a constitutional provision or enabling legislation.

Assigned fund balance includes amounts that are constrained by the County's intent to be used for a specific purpose, but are neither restricted nor committed. For governmental funds, other than the General Fund, this is the residual amount within the fund that is not classified as nonspendable and is neither restricted nor committed. Assignments of fund balance are created by the Board of Supervisors pursuant to authorization established by Section 19-3-59, Miss. Code Ann. (1972).

LAWENCE COUNTY

Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended September 30, 2014

Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the General Fund. This classification represents fund balance that has not been assigned to other funds and that has not been restricted, committed or assigned to specific purposes within the General Fund. The General Fund should be the only fund that reports a positive unassigned fund balance amount. In other governmental funds if disbursements paid for specific purposes exceeded the amounts restricted, committed or assigned to those purposes, it may be necessary to report a negative unassigned fund balance.

Fund Balance Flow Assumption:

When a disbursement is paid for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted (committed, assigned or unassigned) resources are available, it is the County's general policy to use restricted resources first. When disbursements are paid for purposes for which unrestricted (committed, assigned and unassigned) resources are available, and amounts in any of these unrestricted classifications could be used, it is the County's general policy to spend committed resources first, followed by assigned amounts, and then unassigned amounts.

G. Property Tax Receipts.

Numerous statutes exist under which the Board of Supervisors may levy property taxes. The selection of authorities is made based on the objectives and responsibilities of the County. Restrictions associated with property tax levies vary with the statutory authority. The amount of increase in certain property taxes is limited by state law. Generally, this restriction provides that these tax levies shall produce no more than 110% of the amount which resulted from the assessments of the previous year.

The Board of Supervisors, each year at a meeting in September, levies property taxes for the ensuing fiscal year which begins on October 1. Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 of the current year, and personal property taxes become a lien on March 1 of the current year. Taxes on both real and personal property, however, are due on or before February 1 of the next succeeding year. Taxes on motor vehicles and mobile homes become a lien and are due in the month that coincides with the month of original purchase. All property taxes are recognized as receipts when collected.

(2) Deposits.

The carrying amount of the County's total deposits with financial institutions at September 30, 2014, was \$6,898,035, and the bank balance was \$7,015,017. The collateral for public entities' deposits in financial institutions is held in the name of the State Treasurer under a program established by the Mississippi State Legislature and is governed by Section 27-105-5, Miss. Code Ann. (1972). Under this program, the entity's funds are protected through a collateral pool administered by the State Treasurer. Financial institutions holding deposits of public funds must pledge securities as collateral against those deposits. In the event of failure of a financial institution, securities pledged by that institution would be liquidated by the State Treasurer to replace the public deposits not covered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

Custodial Credit Risk - Deposits. Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of the failure of a financial institution, the County will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The County does not have a formal policy for custodial credit risk. However, the Mississippi State Treasurer manages that risk on behalf of the County. Deposits above FDIC coverage are collateralized by the pledging financial institution's trust department or agent in the name of the Mississippi State Treasurer on behalf of the County.

LAWENCE COUNTY

Notes to Financial Statements
For the Year Ended September 30, 2014

(3) Interfund Transfers.

The following is a summary of interfund transfers at September 30, 2014:

Transfers In/Out:

<u>Transfer In</u>	<u>Transfer Out</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General Fund	Other Governmental Funds	\$ 25,000
Other Governmental Funds	General Fund	107,862
Other Governmental Funds	Other Governmental Funds	<u>384,013</u>
Total		<u>\$ 516,875</u>

The principal purpose of interfund transfers was to provide funds for grant matches, operating costs or to provide funds to pay for capital outlay. All interfund transfers were routine and consistent with the activities of the fund making the transfer.

(4) Claims and Judgments.

Risk Financing.

The County finances its exposure to risk of loss related to workers' compensation for injuries to its employees through the Mississippi Public Entity Workers' Compensation Trust, a public entity risk pool. The County pays premiums to the pool for its workers' compensation insurance coverage, and the participation agreement provides that the pool will be self-sustaining through member premiums. The retention for the pool is \$1,000,000 for each accident and completely covers statutory limits set by the Workers' Compensation Commission. Risk of loss is remote for claims exceeding the pool's retention liability. However, the pool also has catastrophic reinsurance coverage for statutory limits above the pool's retention, provided by Safety National Casualty Corporation, effective from January 1, 2014, to January 1, 2015. The pool may make an overall supplemental assessment or declare a refund depending on the loss experience of all the entities it insures.

(5) Contingencies.

Federal Grants - The County has received federal grants for specific purposes that are subject to audit by the grantor agencies. Entitlements to these resources are generally conditional upon compliance with the terms and conditions of grant agreements and applicable federal regulations, including the disbursements of resources for allowable purposes. The County may be responsible for any disallowances.

Litigation - The County is party to legal proceedings, many of which occur in the normal course of governmental operations. It is not possible at the present time to estimate ultimate outcome or liability, if any, of the County with respect to the various proceedings. However, the County's legal counsel believes that ultimate liability resulting from these lawsuits will not have a material adverse effect on the financial condition of the County.

(6) Jointly Governed Organizations.

The County participates in the following jointly governed organizations:

Copiah-Lincoln Community College operates in a district composed of the Counties of Adams, Copiah, Franklin, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lincoln and Simpson. The Lawrence County Board of Supervisors appoints two of the 27 members of the college board of trustees. The County contributed \$431,994 for maintenance and support of the college in fiscal year 2014.

LAWENCE COUNTY

Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended September 30, 2014

Southwest Mississippi Planning and Development District operates in a district composed of the Counties of Adams, Amite, Claiborne, Franklin, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lincoln, Pike, Walthall and Wilkinson. The Lawrence County Board of Supervisors appoints four of the 40 members of the board of directors. The County contributes a small percentage of the district's total revenue. The County contributed \$27,360 for support of the district in fiscal year 2014.

Southwest Mississippi Mental Health Complex operates in a district composed of the Counties of Adams, Amite, Claiborne, Franklin, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lincoln, Pike, Walthall and Wilkinson. The Lawrence County Board of Supervisors appoints one of the ten members of the board of commissioners. The County contributed \$22,500 for support in fiscal year 2014.

Southwest Mississippi Partnership operates in a district composed of the Counties of Adams, Amite, Claiborne, Franklin, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lincoln, Pike, Walthall and Wilkinson. The entity is governed by ten members appointed by each county's lead industrial foundation or chamber of commerce. If no industrial foundation or chamber of commerce is present, the member is appointed by the County's Board of Supervisors. The members provide only modest financial support of the entity.

(7) Defined Benefit Pension Plan.

Plan Description. Lawrence County, Mississippi, contributes to the Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi (PERS), a cost-sharing, multiple-employer, defined benefit pension plan. PERS provides retirement and disability benefits, annual cost-of-living adjustments and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Benefit provisions are established by state law and may be amended only by the State of Mississippi Legislature. PERS issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. That information may be obtained by writing to Public Employees' Retirement System, PERS Building, 429 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201-1005 or by calling 1-800-444-PERS.

Funding Policy. At September 30, 2014, PERS members were required to contribute 9% of their annual covered salary, and the County is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The rate at September 30, 2014 was 15.75% of annual covered payroll. The contribution requirements of PERS members are established and may be amended only by the State of Mississippi Legislature. The County's contributions (employer share only) to PERS for the years ending September 30, 2014, 2013 and 2012 were \$410,943, \$379,206 and \$329,159, respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year.

LAWRENCE COUNTY

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

LAWRENCE COUNTY
Reconciliation of Operating Costs of Solid Waste
For the Year Ended September 30, 2014

Operating Disbursements, Cash Basis:

Salaries	\$	344,341
Expendable Commodities:		
Gasoline and petroleum products		41,291
Repair parts		19,547
Maintenance		1,922
Contractual services		15,569
Supplies		363
Equipment		<u>23,777</u>
Solid Waste Operating Costs Disbursements	\$	<u><u>446,810</u></u>

LAWRENCE COUNTY

OTHER INFORMATION

LAWRENCE COUNTY

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LAWRENCE COUNTY
 Budgetary Comparison Schedule -
 Budget and Actual (Non-GAAP Basis)
 General Fund
 For the Year Ended September 30, 2014
 UNAUDITED

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual (Budgetary Basis)	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
RECEIPTS				
Property taxes	\$ 3,686,400	3,880,013	3,880,013	
Licenses, commissions and other receipts	75,000	99,110	99,110	
Fines and forfeitures	116,000	108,110	110,284	2,174
Intergovernmental receipts	529,000	632,181	632,181	
Charges for services	15,000	48,230	48,230	
Interest income	4,350	8,457	6,283	(2,174)
Miscellaneous receipts	40,000	62,208	62,208	
Total Receipts	<u>4,465,750</u>	<u>4,838,309</u>	<u>4,838,309</u>	<u>0</u>
DISBURSEMENTS				
Current:				
General government	2,282,947	2,328,611	2,328,611	
Public safety	1,420,000	1,541,233	1,541,233	
Health and welfare	268,697	295,845	295,845	
Education	270,000	255,160	255,160	
Conservation of natural resources	52,506	47,911	47,911	
Economic development and assistance	109,360	142,300	142,300	
Debt service:				
Principal	46,000	35,794	35,794	
Interest		1,697	1,697	
Total Disbursements	<u>4,449,510</u>	<u>4,648,551</u>	<u>4,648,551</u>	<u>0</u>
Excess of Receipts over (under) Disbursements	<u>16,240</u>	<u>189,758</u>	<u>189,758</u>	<u>0</u>
OTHER CASH SOURCES (USES)				
Proceeds from debt		26,852	26,852	
Transfers in	25,000	25,000	25,000	
Transfers out	(85,000)	(107,862)	(107,862)	
Total Other Cash Sources and Uses	<u>(60,000)</u>	<u>(56,010)</u>	<u>(56,010)</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Change in Fund Balance	(43,760)	133,748	133,748	
Fund Balances - Beginning	<u>2,280,990</u>	<u>2,673,371</u>	<u>2,673,371</u>	
Fund Balances - Ending	<u>\$ 2,237,230</u>	<u>2,807,119</u>	<u>2,807,119</u>	<u>0</u>

The accompanying notes to the Other Information are an integral part of this schedule.

LAWRENCE COUNTY
Schedule of Capital Assets
For the Year Ended September 30, 2014
UNAUDITED

Governmental activities:

	Balance				Balance
	Oct. 1, 2013	Additions	Deletions	Adjustments*	Sept. 30, 2014
Land	\$ 569,166				569,166
Infrastructure	99,531,246	549,816			100,081,062
Buildings	7,940,626				7,940,626
Improvements other than buildings	754,408				754,408
Mobile equipment	6,874,674	136,560	125,387	224,107	7,109,954
Furniture and equipment	996,336	39,967	5,545		1,030,758
Leased property under capital leases	742,264	296,475		(224,107)	814,632
Total capital assets	<u>\$ 117,408,720</u>	<u>1,022,818</u>	<u>130,932</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>118,300,606</u>

*Adjustments are the reclassification of paid-off capital leases from leased property under capital leases to mobile equipment.

LAWRENCE COUNTY
Schedule of Changes in Long-term Debt
For the Year Ended September 30, 2014
UNAUDITED

The following is a summary of changes in long-term liabilities and obligations for the year ended September 30, 2014:

Description and Purpose	Issue Date	Maturity Date	Interest Rate	Balance Oct. 1, 2013	Issued	Principal Payments	Balance Sept. 30, 2014
Governmental Activities:							
A. General Obligation Bonds:							
Series 2010 hospital sprinkler system bonds	09/2010	09/2025	3.25/4.50%	\$ 760,000		50,000	710,000
B. Capital Leases:							
2010 Ford F150	02/2010	02/2014	3.15%	3,563		3,563	-
(2) 2010 Dodge Chargers	07/2010	07/2014	3.15%	9,888		9,888	-
John Deere 120D excavator	12/2009	12/2014	3.38%	27,931		22,250	5,681
Superior sweeper	05/2010	01/2015	3.13%	8,701		7,743	958
Zanetis Road Hog	06/2010	06/2015	3.23%	26,858		15,162	11,696
Computer software and hardware	12/2010	12/2015	3.21%	41,486		18,069	23,417
Used 2004 Freightliner truck	01/2012	01/2014	2.49%	3,913		3,913	-
Diamond sideboom mower	03/2012	03/2015	2.39%	12,253		8,120	4,133
(2) John Deere 509E tractors	08/2012	08/2014	1.97%	20,752		20,752	-
(2) 4300 dump trucks with dump bodies	11/2012	11/2017	1.81%	126,838		29,575	97,263
Alamo mower	08/2013	08/2017	1.99%	40,986		10,163	30,823
Dump truck	10/2013	10/2018	2.11%		67,308	12,900	54,408
2013 Dodge Ram 1500	11/2013	11/2018	2.19%		26,852	4,274	22,578
District 2 - 2013 Ford F150	02/2014	02/2017	1.99%		27,000	5,124	21,876
District 4 - 2013 Ford F150	02/2014	02/2017	1.99%		24,300	4,612	19,688
District 3 - (2) John Deere tractors	09/2014	09/2019	2.05%		104,935		104,935
District 5 - John Deere tractor	09/2014	09/2018	1.97%		46,080		46,080
Subtotal				\$ 1,083,169	296,475	226,108	1,153,536

The accompanying notes to the Other Information are an integral part of this statement.

LAWRENCE COUNTY
Schedule of Changes in Long-term Debt - Cont'd
For the Year Ended September 30, 2014
UNAUDITED

The following is a summary of changes in long-term liabilities and obligations for the year ended September 30, 2014:

Description and Purpose	Issue Date	Maturity Date	Interest Rate	Balance Oct. 1, 2013	Issued	Principal Payments	Balance Sept. 30, 2014
Governmental Activities:							
C. Other Loans:							
CAP loan	05/2002	11/2017	2.00%	\$ 94,112		19,649	74,463
District 2 fire truck loans	01/2005	02/2015	3.00%	9,021		6,705	2,316
District 2 fire truck loan	12/2005	12/2015	2.00%	9,430		3,717	5,713
District 2 fire truck loans	02/2010	02/2020	3.00%	70,649		10,266	60,383
District 3 fire truck loans	03/2010	03/2020	3.00%	101,242		16,447	84,795
Road and bridge construction loan	10/2010	10/2015	3.50%	289,461		196,326	93,135
Fire hydrant improvement loan	01/2013	01/2018	2.95%	50,000		10,000	40,000
Fire hydrant improvement loan	08/2013	08/2018	3.50%	40,000		8,000	32,000
Road and bridge construction loan	08/2013	08/2018	2.12%	500,000		100,000	400,000
Subtotal				\$ 1,163,915	-	371,110	792,805
Previous page totals				\$ 1,083,169	296,475	226,108	1,153,536
Total				\$ 2,247,084	296,475	597,218	1,946,341

The accompanying notes to Other Information are an integral part of this statement.

LAWRENCE COUNTY
Schedule of Surety Bonds for County Officials
For the Year Ended September 30, 2014
UNAUDITED

Name	Position	Company	Bond
Steve Garrett	Supervisor District 1	Western Surety Company	\$100,000
Billy Joe Boutwell	Supervisor District 2	Western Surety Company	\$100,000
Jerry Wayne Smithie	Supervisor District 3	Western Surety Company	\$100,000
Glenn Grubbs	Supervisor District 4	Western Surety Company	\$100,000
Archie C. Ross	Supervisor District 5	Western Surety Company	\$100,000
Kevin Rayborn	Chancery Clerk	Western Surety Company	\$100,000
Heather Malone	Purchase Clerk	Western Surety Company	\$75,000
Kevin Rayborn	Assistant Purchase Clerk	Western Surety Company	\$50,000
Jennifer D. Fields	Receiving Clerk	Western Surety Company	\$75,000
Brian Sutton	Receiving Clerk	Western Surety Company	\$75,000
Mike Catt	Receiving Clerk	Western Surety Company	\$75,000
Kenny Ray Magee	Assistant Receiving Clerk	Western Surety Company	\$50,000
Jason Lea	Assistant Receiving Clerk	Western Surety Company	\$50,000
Alton Letchworth	Assistant Receiving Clerk	Western Surety Company	\$50,000
Kevin Rayborn	Inventory Control Clerk	Western Surety Company	\$75,000
Lessie Butler	Constable	RLI Surety	\$50,000
Royce Renfroe	Constable	Western Surety Company	\$50,000
James S. Brister	Circuit Clerk	Western Surety Company	\$100,000
Joel Thames	Sheriff	Western Surety Company	\$100,000
Albert H. Turnage	Justice Court Judge	RLI Surety	\$50,000
Donald G. Mullins	Justice Court Judge	Western Surety Company	\$50,000
Patsy Bullock	Justice Court Clerk	Western Surety Company	\$50,000
Elizabeth J. Smith	Deputy Justice Court Clerk	Western Surety Company	\$50,000
Angela Jordan	Deputy Justice Court Clerk	Western Surety Company	\$50,000
Paula Reid	Deputy Justice Court Clerk	Western Surety Company	\$50,000
Sherry Hyde Thames	Tax Assessor-Collector	Western Surety Company	\$100,000
Susan J. Smith	Deputy Tax Collector	Western Surety Company	\$50,000
Carol Labeth Stamps	Deputy Tax Collector	Western Surety Company	\$50,000
Christine Sumrall	Deputy Tax Collector	Western Surety Company	\$50,000
Angel Powell	Deputy Tax Collector	Western Surety Company	\$50,000
April Brown	Deputy Tax Collector	Western Surety Company	\$50,000
James Kelly Miller	Comptroller	Western Surety Company	\$450,000

LAWRENCE COUNTY

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LAWRENCE COUNTY

Notes to the Other Information
 For the Year Ended September 30, 2014
 UNAUDITED

(1) Budgetary Comparison Information.

A. Budgetary Information.

Statutory requirements dictate how and when the County's budget is to be prepared. Generally, in the month of August, prior to the ensuing fiscal year beginning each October 1, the Board of Supervisors of the County, using historical and anticipated fiscal data and proposed budgets submitted by the Sheriff and the Tax Assessor-Collector for his or her respective department, prepares an original budget for each of the Governmental Funds for said fiscal year. The completed budget for the fiscal year includes for each fund every source of receipt, each general item of disbursement, and the unencumbered cash and investment balances. When during the fiscal year it appears to the Board of Supervisors that budgetary estimates will not be met, it may make revisions to the budget.

The County's budget is prepared principally on the cash basis of accounting. All appropriations lapse at year end, and there are no encumbrances to budget because state law does not require that funds be available when goods or services are ordered, only when payment is made.

B. Basis of Presentation.

The Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Budget and Actual presents the original legally adopted budget, the final legally adopted budget, actual amounts on a budgetary basis and variances between the final budget and the actual amounts. The schedule is presented for the General Fund.

(2) Long-term Debt information:

A. Legal Debt Margin - The amount of debt, excluding specific exempted debt that can be incurred by the County is limited by state statute. Total outstanding debt during a year can be no greater than 15% of assessed value of the taxable property within the County, according to the then last completed assessment for taxation. However, the limitation is increased to 20% whenever a county issues bonds to repair or replace washed out or collapsed bridges on the public roads of the county. As of September 30, 2014, the amount of outstanding debt was less than one percent of the latest property assessments.

B. Subsequent Events.

Subsequent to September 30, 2014, the County issued the following debt obligations:

<u>Issue Date</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>		<u>Issue Amount</u>	<u>Type of Financing</u>	<u>Source of Financing</u>
11/17/2014	2.16%	\$	30,216	Capital lease	Ad valorem taxes
12/22/2014	2.29%		91,236	Capital lease	Ad valorem taxes
06/01/2015	2.27%		149,860	Capital lease	Ad valorem taxes
09/08/2015	1.93%		78,231	Capital lease	Ad valorem taxes
09/08/2015	2.16%		124,998	Capital lease	Ad valorem taxes

LAWRENCE COUNTY

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LAWRENCE COUNTY

SPECIAL REPORTS

LAWRENCE COUNTY

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**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR
STACEY E. PICKERING
AUDITOR**

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

Members of the Board of Supervisors
Lawrence County, Mississippi

We have audited, 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, the financial statements of the governmental activities, the major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of Lawrence County, Mississippi, (the County) as of and for the year ended September 30, 2014, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated April 1, 2016. Our report includes an adverse opinion on the aggregate discretely presented component units due to the omission of the discretely presented component units which are required by accounting principles applicable to the County's cash basis of accounting to be reported with the financial data of the County's primary government unless the County also issues financial statements for the financial reporting entity that include the financial data for its component units.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Lawrence County, Mississippi'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 Lawrence County, Mississippi's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the County'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. We did identify certain deficiencies in internal control described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses as 2014-001, 2014-002, 2014-003, 2014-004 and 2014-005 that we consider to be significant deficiencies.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Lawrence County, Mississippi'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*.

We noted certain matters that we reported to the management of Lawrence County, Mississippi, in the Independent Accountant's Report on Central Purchasing System, Inventory Control System and Purchase Clerk Schedules and the Limited Internal Control and Compliance Review Management Report dated April 1, 2016, included within this document.

Lawrence County's Responses to Findings

Lawrence County's responses to the findings identified in our audit are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses. Lawrence County's responses were not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

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. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.



JOE E. MCKNIGHT, CPA
Director, County Audit Section

April 1, 2016



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR
STACEY E. PICKERING
AUDITOR**

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON CENTRAL PURCHASING SYSTEM,
INVENTORY CONTROL SYSTEM AND PURCHASE CLERK SCHEDULES
(REQUIRED BY SECTION 31-7-115, MISS. CODE ANN. (1972))**

Members of the Board of Supervisors
Lawrence County, Mississippi

We have examined Lawrence County, Mississippi's (the County) compliance with establishing and maintaining a central purchasing system and inventory control system in accordance with Sections 31-7-101 through 31-7-127, Miss. Code Ann. (1972) and compliance with the purchasing requirements in accordance with the bid requirements of Section 31-7-13, Miss. Code Ann. (1972) during the year ended September 30, 2014. The Board of Supervisors of Lawrence County, Mississippi is responsible for the County's compliance with those requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the County's compliance based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and, accordingly, included examining, on a test basis, evidence about the County's compliance with those requirements and performing other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe our examination provides a reasonable basis for our opinion. Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the County's compliance with specified requirements. The Board of Supervisors of Lawrence County, Mississippi, has established centralized purchasing for all funds of the County and has established an inventory control system. The objective of the central purchasing system is to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that purchases are executed in accordance with state law.

Because of inherent limitations in any central purchasing system and inventory control system, errors or irregularities may occur and not be detected. Also, projection of any current evaluation of the system to future periods is subject to the risk that procedures may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the degree of compliance with the procedures may deteriorate.

The results of our audit procedures disclosed a certain instance of noncompliance with the aforementioned code sections. This instance of noncompliance was considered in forming our opinion on compliance. Our finding and recommendation and your response are disclosed below:

Board of Supervisors.

1. Sole source purchases should be authorized and documented in the Board of Supervisors' minutes.

Finding

Section 31-7-13(m), Miss. Code Ann. (1972), requires the Board of Supervisors to authorize and document purchases made noncompetitively from a sole source on its minutes. The Board of Supervisors did not document the approval of a sole source purchase on its minutes. The lack of proper approval and documentation could result in unauthorized purchases.

Recommendation

The Board of Supervisors should approve and document in its minutes all purchases made noncompetitively from a sole source and include such purchases on the appropriate schedule.

Board of Supervisors' Response

Isolated incident and simply an oversight. We will comply.

- In our opinion, except for the noncompliance referred to in the preceding paragraph, Lawrence County, Mississippi, complied, in all material respects, with state laws governing central purchasing, inventory and bid requirements for the year ended September 30, 2014.

The accompanying schedules of (1) Purchases Not Made from the Lowest Bidder, (2) Emergency Purchases and (3) Purchases Made Noncompetitively from a Sole Source are presented in accordance with Section 31-7-115, Miss. Code Ann. (1972). The information contained on these schedules has been subjected to procedures performed in connection with our aforementioned examination of the purchasing system and, in our opinion, is fairly presented when considered in relation to that examination.

Lawrence County's response to the finding included in this report was not audited, and accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

This report is intended for use in evaluating the central purchasing system and inventory control system of Lawrence County, Mississippi, and is not intended to be and should not be relied upon for any other purpose. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.



JOE E. MCKNIGHT, CPA
Director, County Audit Section

April 1, 2016

LAWRENCE COUNTY
Schedule of Purchases Not Made From the Lowest Bidder
For the Year Ended September 30, 2014

Schedule 1

Our test results did not identify any purchases from other than the lowest bidder.

LAWRENCE COUNTY
Schedule of Emergency Purchases
For the Year Ended September 30, 2014

Schedule 2

<u>Date</u>	<u>Item Purchased</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Reason for Emergency Purchase</u>
7/21/2014	Chiller for air conditioner	\$ 27,442	Wallace Heating & Air	To fix air conditioner in courthouse.

LAWRENCE COUNTY
Schedule of Purchases Made Noncompetitively From a Sole Source
For the Year Ended September 30, 2014

Schedule 3

<u>Date</u>	<u>Item Purchased</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Vendor</u>
3/17/2014	Refurbished fire hydrants	\$ 12,800	Crooked Creek Water Association

LAWRENCE COUNTY

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**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR
STACEY E. PICKERING
AUDITOR**

LIMITED INTERNAL CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE REVIEW MANAGEMENT REPORT

Members of the Board of Supervisors
Lawrence County, Mississippi

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of Lawrence County, Mississippi (the County) for the year ended September 30, 2014, we considered Lawrence County, Mississippi's internal control to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on internal control.

In addition, for areas not considered material to Lawrence County, Mississippi's financial reporting, we have performed some additional limited internal control and state legal compliance review procedures as identified in the state legal compliance audit program issued by the Office of the State Auditor. Our procedures were substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion on the County's compliance with these requirements. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. This report does not affect our report dated April 1, 2016, on the financial statements of Lawrence County, Mississippi.

Due to the reduced scope, these review procedures and compliance tests cannot and do not provide absolute assurance that all state legal requirements have been complied with. Also, our consideration of internal control would not necessarily disclose all matters within the internal control that might be weaknesses. In accordance with Section 7-7-211, Miss. Code Ann. (1972), the Office of the State Auditor, when deemed necessary, may conduct additional procedures and tests of transactions for this or other fiscal years to ensure compliance with legal requirements.

The results of our review procedures and compliance tests identified certain areas that are opportunities for strengthening internal controls and operating efficiency. Our findings, recommendations, and your responses are disclosed below:

Board of Supervisors.

1. Lawrence County needs to replace obsolete computer hardware and software.

Finding

Lawrence County is running operating systems, as well as applications, on some of its personal computers (PCs) that might not be supported by vendors. Due to the lack of support, these systems could become vulnerable to hackers and malware such as viruses.

Recommendation

We recommend that Lawrence County develop a plan to replace the operating systems, applications, and hardware where necessary that is no longer supported by vendors as soon as possible. Computers that originally included operating systems or applications that are no longer supported by vendors will have hardware that most likely cannot run the newest operating systems or applications, thereby requiring replacement of hardware, operating systems and applications in many cases.

Board of Supervisors' Response

We intend to formulate a plan to purchase the required amount of computers to be in compliance with all vendor requirements as funds become available.

2. Lawrence County should expire all individual's passwords on a periodic basis.

Finding

A review of Lawrence County's security settings reveal that some user's passwords were set to expire on a more infrequent basis than recommended in best business practices. All passwords should be set to expire in accordance with policy to be determined by Lawrence County.

Recommendation

We recommend that a policy be implemented to ensure that passwords are expired on a regular basis. In addition, Lawrence County should conduct access reviews for information assets on a periodic basis (at least annually). Documentation of these reviews should be signed by the person conducting them and retained for review by auditors.

Board of Supervisors' Response

We agree to implement a more frequent expiration of passwords as allowed by each individual software vendor. We will also implement a policy to conduct access reviews for information assets.

3. Lawrence County should strengthen passwords.

Finding

During our review, we noted that Lawrence County is using some parameters associated with password strength that do not meet industry standard best practices, thereby creating unnecessary risk for Lawrence County Information Assets.

Recommendation

We recommend that Lawrence County improve its password strength by changing password parameters to comply with password management best practices and industry standards.

Board of Supervisors' Response

We agree to implement password parameters to meet industry standards as allowed by each software vendor.

4. Lawrence County should improve its server room environment management.

Finding

Lawrence County's computer room is located in an open office in the Lawrence County courthouse in the corner of the room. The room is secure in that there are people working during business hours in and around the computer. However, the computer is in the open and has the potential of being accessed by unauthorized personnel. The room does have air conditioning, but does not have monitoring equipment for fire, heat and other conditions that can have an adverse effect on electronic equipment.

Recommendation

We recommend that Lawrence County establish an area specifically for computerized equipment that can be locked and provide it with environmental control and monitoring equipment for heat, humidity and other conditions that might affect computerized equipment. This equipment should also have the capability to notify the proper personnel when these conditions vary outside of present ranges.

Board of Supervisors' Response

We plan to move the server to a proper room that is locked and has environmental controls. The timing of this project will be accomplished as funds become available.

5. Lawrence County should perform periodic access reviews.

Finding

Best business practices call for performing access reviews at least once per year and whenever there are significant changes in the related business environment. Lawrence County currently does not perform periodic access reviews. The failure to perform such reviews can result in inappropriate access and possible loss of data.

Recommendation

We recommend that Lawrence County implement a periodic review of logical access for all individual users.

Board of Supervisors' Response

We will implement a periodic review of logical access for all users.

Chancery Clerk.

6. All bond certificates for County officials and employees should be filed and recorded in the Chancery Clerk's office.

Finding

Section 25-1-19, Miss. Code Ann. (1972), requires all bonds to be filed and recorded in the Chancery Clerk's office. As reported in the prior three years' audit reports, the Chancery Clerk's bond records do not include bond certificates for all the county officials and employees. Failure to file a copy of the bond documentation with the Chancery Clerk's office could result in the officials not being properly bonded.

Recommendation

The Chancery Clerk should make sure that all officials' and employees' bonds are filed and recorded in the office of the Chancery Clerk.

Chancery Clerk's Response

This is isolated to a particular bond company and we have had trouble getting hard copy of bond; however, the officials are covered.

Lawrence County's responses to the findings included in this report were not audited, and accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Board of Supervisors, and others within the entity and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these parties. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.



JOE E. MCKNIGHT, CPA
Director, County Audit Section

April 1, 2016

LAWRENCE COUNTY

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LAWRENCE COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

LAWRENCE COUNTY

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LAWRENCE COUNTY

Schedule of Findings and Responses
For the Year Ended September 30, 2014

Section 1: Summary of Auditor's Results

Financial Statements:

1.	Type of auditor's report issued:	
	Governmental activities	Unmodified
	Aggregate discretely presented component units	Adverse
	General Fund	Unmodified
	Aggregate remaining fund information	Unmodified
2.	Internal control over financial reporting:	
	a. Material weaknesses identified?	No
	b. Significant deficiencies identified?	Yes
3.	Noncompliance material to financial statements noted?	No

Section 2: Financial Statement Findings

Board of Supervisors.

Significant Deficiency

2014-001. Lawrence County should establish and test a disaster recovery process.

Finding

During our review of the information systems controls of Lawrence County, we noted that the County has not established a disaster recovery process. As a result, Lawrence County cannot fully ensure that the County's Information Systems can be restored in a timely manner. Disaster recovery involves defining and documenting plans to help sustain and recover critical information technology resources, information systems, and associated business functions. *Control Objectives for Information and Related Technology* (CobiT, Section DS4), as well as recognized industry best practices, require a written disaster recovery plan be developed and tested regularly to provide orderly recovery of vital functions in the event of a hardware or environmental disaster. Failure to maintain an adequate recovery plan could impede the agency's ability to regain computer operations in the event of a disaster.

There are a number of steps that an organization can take to prevent or minimize the damage to automated operations that may occur from unexpected events. One example is routinely backing up data files and programs and periodically restoring these files and programs as part of a formal, documented disaster recovery exercise. Such actions maintain the organization's ability to restore data files, which may be impossible to recreate.

Lawrence County is currently using an automated system to perform daily backups of the AS400, but is not restoring such files as part of a formal, documented disaster recovery exercise. Without proper assurance that backup files can be utilized to adequately restore all critical data in a timely manner in the event of a disaster scenario, material damage could be realized by the County and its processes should a catastrophic event occur involving the County's building and servers. Risk and probabilities of material loss escalates in relationship to the longer an exposure goes unmitigated.

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Recommendation

We recommend that Lawrence County develop, implement and test a plan to ensure that critical data and applications are recoverable in case of a disaster scenario. In order to do this it will be necessary to gain an understanding from vendors involved in the backup process of the types of backups that should be created, on what frequency these backups should be created, the processes necessary to create the various types of backups and the responsibilities of the various parties involved, including Lawrence County personnel and vendor personnel. Furthermore, these procedures and responsibilities should be documented and agreed upon by all parties involved.

We also recommend that Lawrence County develop and implement a disaster recovery plan documenting procedures to be followed during an emergency. Once the plan is completed, it should be subjected to proper testing, and employees should be made aware of their responsibilities in the event of a disaster. The plan should be stored in a safe, accessible location and updated when needed in order to maintain readiness for a disaster scenario.

Board of Supervisors' Response

We will begin to implement a plan to ensure that critical data and applications are recoverable in case of a disaster scenario. We will involve all responsible parties. We will begin studying a disaster recovery plan. We currently have off site storage.

Significant Deficiency

2014-002. Lawrence County should implement a formal Information Security Policy.

Finding

Lawrence County has not adopted a formal Information Security Policy or Enterprise Security Plan. The lack of a formal Information Security Policy can lead to a breakdown of basic security practices in the areas of application security, LAN/WAN security, management of the security application and Internet protocol.

Recommendation

A robust set of Information Technology policies should cover at least the following areas:

- Acceptable Use
- Portable Computing
- Change Management
- Encryption
- Security Incident Response
- Risk Management
- Backup and Recovery
- Business Continuity/Disaster Recovery

While full compliance with all facets of such a policy may be an economic challenge for Lawrence County, beginning steps to become compliant with a policy covering areas, such as those listed above, are necessary. We recommend that Lawrence County create a plan of compliance with industry standards to ensure progress towards a robust documented information security plan. This policy should be reviewed and approved by County supervisors. In addition, employees that utilize technology should review and accept such policies before access to computer resources is granted to employees. Proof of approval by management and acceptance by employees should be retained for review by auditors.

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Board of Supervisors' Response

We will begin formulating a formal security policy. As this policy is developed and formulated we will have all existing and new employees sign the security policy. Their signature will show that they are familiar with the policy.

Chancery Clerk.

Significant Deficiency

2014-003. Chancery Clerk should reconcile bank statements monthly to fee journal.

Finding

An effective system of internal control should include maintaining a fee journal and reconciling the bank statements to the fee journal. As reported in the prior year's audit report, the bank statements were not reconciled to the fee journal. Failure to reconcile the bank statements to the fee journal could result in the loss of public funds.

Recommendation

The Chancery Clerk should ensure that the bank statements are reconciled to the fee journal.

Chancery Clerk's Response

I will comply.

Circuit Clerk.

Significant Deficiency

2014-004. Circuit Clerk should reconcile bank statements monthly to cash journals.

Finding

An effective system of internal control should include maintaining cash journals and reconciling the bank statements to the cash journals. The Circuit Clerk's bank statements were not reconciled to the cash journals. Failure to reconcile the bank statements to the cash journals could result in the loss of public funds.

Recommendation

The Circuit Clerk should ensure that the bank statements are reconciled to the cash journals.

Circuit Clerk's Response

I will comply. I did reconcile as always. I will check with Delta to see what the problem is.

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Sheriff.

Significant Deficiency

2014-005. Sheriff should make daily bank deposits.

Finding

An effective system of internal control over cash requires that daily bank deposits be made. The Sheriff failed to make deposits on a daily basis throughout the fiscal year. The failure to make daily deposits could result in the misappropriation or loss of public funds.

Recommendation

The Sheriff should implement controls to ensure that daily bank deposits are made.

Sheriff's Response

Some days we do not collect any money. We will make an effort to deposit any funds in a timely manner.