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LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AND
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT
SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Board of Supervisors
Lowndes County, Mississippi

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Lowndes County, Mississippi ("the County"), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2016, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements 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 accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes 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.

Auditors' 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.

Board of Supervisors
Lowndes County, Mississippi

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' 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 auditors consider internal control relevant to the County'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 County'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.

Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the County as of September 30, 2016, and the respective changes in financial position, and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Management's Discussion and Analysis and Budgetary Comparison Schedule, Schedule of the County's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability - Last 10 Fiscal Years, and Schedule of County Contributions - Last 10 Fiscal Years, and corresponding notes 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. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Board of Supervisors
Lowndes County, Mississippi

Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements. The Schedule of Surety Bonds for County Officials is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. The Schedule of Surety Bonds for County Officials has 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 it.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated September 14, 2017, on our consideration of Lowndes 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 Lowndes County, Mississippi's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

J. E. Rott & Company

Columbus, Mississippi
September 14, 2017

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

The following discussion and analysis by Lowndes County (the County) is designed to provide and assist the reader with (a) an overview of the County's financial activities for the year ended September 30, 2016, (b) any significant financial issues, (c) changes in the County's financial position, and to (d) identify any significant deviations from the County's financial plan (the original budget). This discussion and analysis by management is designed to focus on the fiscal year being audited. Readers also might wish to view the financial statements and the notes to these statements to gain a better understanding of the County's financial picture.

The management discussion and analysis is a requirement of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board which issues the standards for auditing county governments. This requirement for management to write a discussion and analysis is only a part of an overall change in accounting requirements from GASB Statement No. 34. The overall intent of the changes is to make government financial statements more like business financial statements, which show economic gain and loss.

Using the Annual Report

The primary focus of local government financial statements in the past has been on fund-type information. This is no longer the case. The new focus is the County as a whole (government-wide) and the major individual funds. The following discussion is intended to explain the County's basic financial statements which are comprised of 1) Government-wide financial statements, 2) Fund financial statements and 3) Notes to the basic financial statements. Required Supplementary Information is included in addition to the basic financial statements.

Government-Wide Financial Statements - The government-wide financial statements are designed to provide readers with a business-like overview of the County's financial activities.

The focus of the Statement of Net Position is designed to be similar to the bottom line for the County and its governmental and business-type activities. It presents financial information on all the County assets and liabilities with the difference being reported as net position. Over time, readers can use the increases and decreases in net position as a possible indicator of the financial health of the County. Is it improving, staying the same or deteriorating?

Component Units are other governmental units over which the County (the Board of Supervisors, as a group) can exercise influence and/or be obligated to provide financial assistance. These units are presented as a separate column in the government-wide statements and as individual activities in the Fund Financial Statements.

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

The Statement of Activities is focused on the gross and net cost of various activities. These include activities of government, business-type and component units which are provided by the government's general tax and other revenues. This statement is intended to summarize and simplify the readers' analysis of the cost of various government services.

Governmental activities of the County include general government (basic services), public safety (sheriff, emergency management and fire protection), public works (roads and bridges), health and welfare, culture and recreation, conservation of natural resources, economic development and assistance, education, pension expense, interest on long-term debt, and debt issuance costs. Included in basic services (general government) are costs for running the government, collecting taxes, appraising property and personal taxes, building inspection, supervisors, circuit clerk, chancery clerk and running the courts.

Fund Financial Statements. The focus is on Major Funds rather than fund types. A fund is used to group related accounts for financial purposes or legal compliance. The funds of the County are divided into governmental, proprietary and fiduciary funds.

Governmental funds account for basically the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. Unlike the government-wide statements, governmental funds financial statements focus on current sources and uses. This is the manner in which the County's financial plan or budget is typically developed. Governmental funds include general, special revenue, debt service and capital project funds.

Financial information for governmental funds is presented in the Governmental Funds Balance Sheet and the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances for all major funds. All other non-major funds are combined together and presented in these reports as other governmental funds. Both of these reports are reconciled to provide a comparison between governmental funds and governmental activities.

Proprietary Funds. These are business-type funds. Enterprise funds are used to report the same functions as business-type activities in the government-wide financial statement. Examples of enterprise funds are solid waste, electric departments and water and waste systems. Internal service funds account for various internal county functions such as self-insured health plans. Lowndes County does not use an enterprise fund. It uses an internal service fund for a self-insured health plan.

Fiduciary Funds. These funds are used to account for trust responsibilities of the government. These assets are usually restricted in purpose and do not represent discretionary assets, so they are not presented as part of the government-wide financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements. Provides additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements.

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

The County follows the Mississippi County Financial Accounting Manual to set up and maintain funds. The County adopts an annual operating budget for all governmental funds. *As required supplementary information*, this discussion and analysis includes a budgetary comparison statement for each major special revenue fund that can be found in the Budgetary Comparison Schedule starting on page 62.

Government-Wide Financial Analysis

Statements of Net Position

The following statements reflect the condensed Statements of Net Position at September 30, 2016 and 2015:

Lowndes County Statements of Net Position Governmental Activities

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Non-Capital Assets	\$ 55,849,873	\$ 56,688,885
Capital Assets	<u>85,672,346</u>	<u>83,084,695</u>
Total Assets	<u>141,522,219</u>	<u>139,773,580</u>
Deferred Outflows of Resources	7,312,902	5,994,405
Current Liabilities	8,238,378	15,837,071
Long-Term Liabilities	<u>78,014,094</u>	<u>66,411,853</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>86,252,472</u>	<u>82,248,924</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources	14,915,201	14,182,000
Net Position:		
Net Investment in Capital Assets	44,304,119	49,966,043
Restricted, expendable	31,610,813	32,266,849
Restricted, nonexpendable	195,000	750,000
Unrestricted	<u>(28,442,484)</u>	<u>(33,645,831)</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 47,667,448</u>	<u>\$ 49,337,061</u>

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

Additional information on unrestricted net position:

In connection with the implementation of new standards on accounting and financial reporting for pensions, management represents the following additional information:

Total unrestricted net position (deficit)	\$(28,442,484)
Less unrestricted deficit in net position resulting from recognition of GASB 68 and 71	<u>(26,160,830)</u>
Unrestricted net position, exclusive of the net pension liability effect	<u><u>\$ (2,281,654)</u></u>

There are usually seven basic normal financial transactions that will affect the Statement of Net Position.

Net Result of Activities - This will either increase/decrease current assets and unrestricted assets. During fiscal year ("FY") 2016, change in net position decreased approximately \$1,670,000 from FY 2015.

Borrowing for Capital/Refunding - This will increase current assets and long-term debt. During 2016, the County borrowed approximately \$974,000 for capital projects. Long-term debt decreased by \$2.3 million, net of principal repayments. Also the County refunded \$10 million in debt by borrowing an additional \$10.2 million (approximate). This refunding saves the County \$71,000.

Spending Borrowed Proceeds on New Capital - This will reduce current assets and increase capital assets. This also will increase the amount invested in capital assets and related net debt which will not change the net investment in capital assets. In 2016, the County spent approximately \$974,000 of debt proceeds on capital projects.

Spending of Non-borrowed Current Assets on New Capital - This will reduce current assets, increase capital assets, reduce unrestricted assets, and increase net investment in capital assets. Lowndes spent approximately \$4.3 million of non-borrowed cash on new capital assets during 2016.

Principal Payment on Debt - This will reduce current assets, reduce long-term debt, reduce unrestricted net position, and increase net investment in capital assets. The County reduced principal on debt by approximately \$13.4 million in 2016.

Reduction of Capital Assets through Depreciation - This will reduce capital assets and net investment in capital assets. This is a non-cash expense. The County recorded depreciation of approximately \$2.6 million in FY 2016.

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

GASB 68 was implemented in fiscal year 2015.

The implementation of GASB 68 and 71 resulted in the recognition of a net pension liability in the amount of \$31,437,995 for FY 2016, an increase of approximately \$3.9 million from 2015.

Changes in Net Position

Lowndes County's total revenues for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2016, were \$41.5 million, up \$1.8 million from the fiscal year ended September 30, 2015. The total cost for services provided by the County was \$43.1 million, as compared to \$42.4 million for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2015. The County had a decrease in change in net position from current year operations of \$1,670,000.

The following table presents a summary of the changes in net position for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2016 and 2015.

	2016	2015
Revenues:		
Program Revenues		
Charges for Services	\$ 8,362,639	\$ 7,280,840
Operating Grants	1,334,022	1,739,882
Capital Grants	1,525,787	1,238,641
General Revenues		
Property Taxes	17,040,135	16,599,483
In Lieu of Taxes	5,604,009	5,690,245
Road Bridge Privilege Taxes	745,986	721,790
Other Revenues	6,843,932	6,356,010
Total Revenues	<u>41,456,510</u>	<u>39,626,891</u>
Expenses:		
General Government	10,290,551	10,010,337
Public Safety	11,275,701	11,499,306
Public Works	10,302,774	11,042,834
Economic Development	3,137,077	2,107,480
Interest on Debt	2,162,565	2,225,220
Pension Expense	3,490,432	3,279,347
Other Expenses	2,467,023	2,248,598
Total Expenses	<u>43,126,123</u>	<u>42,413,122</u>
Change in Net Position	<u>(1,669,613)</u>	<u>(2,786,231)</u>
Net position, beginning, as previously stated	49,337,061	71,514,342
Prior period adjustment	-	(19,391,050)
Net position, beginning, as restated	<u>49,337,061</u>	<u>52,123,292</u>
Net position, ending	<u>\$ 47,667,448</u>	<u>\$ 49,337,061</u>

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

Governmental Activities:

The following table presents the cost of twelve of the major services provided by the County. These are General Government, Public Safety, Public Works, Health and Welfare, Culture and Recreation, Conservation of Natural Resources, Economic Development and Assistance, Education, Interest on Long-Term Debt, Pension Expense, Investment Fees, and Debt Issuance Costs.

The table summarizes what some major services cost the taxpayers of Lowndes County during fiscal years 2016 and 2015:

	2016		
	Total Costs	Revenues	Net Costs
General Government	\$ 10,290,551	\$ 4,636,206	\$ 5,654,345
Public Safety	11,275,701	2,512,281	8,763,420
Public Works	10,302,774	3,381,205	6,921,569
Health and Welfare	400,977	12,000	388,977
Culture and Recreation	1,266,009	11,062	1,254,947
Conservation of Natural Resources	148,095	-	148,095
Economic Development and Assistance	3,137,077	669,694	2,467,383
Education	325,000	-	325,000
Interest on Long-Term Debt	2,162,565	-	2,162,565
Pension Expense	3,490,432	-	3,490,432
Investment Fees	150,442	-	150,442
Debt Issuance Costs	176,500	-	176,500

	2015		
	Total Costs	Revenues	Net Costs
General Government	\$ 10,010,337	\$ 3,850,597	\$ 6,159,740
Public Safety	11,499,306	2,400,992	9,098,314
Public Works	11,042,834	3,140,751	7,902,083
Health and Welfare	188,482	165,551	22,931
Culture and Recreation	1,700,183	-	1,700,183
Conservation of Natural Resources	198,311	-	198,311
Economic Development and Assistance	2,107,480	701,472	1,406,008
Interest on Long-Term Debt	2,225,220	-	2,225,220
Pension Expense	3,279,347	-	3,279,347
Debt Issuance Costs	161,622	-	161,622

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

Financial Analysis of the County's Funds

Governmental Funds:

As of year-end, the governmental funds reported, as audited, a fund balance of \$37.2 million. This is a decrease of approximately \$2.2 million from the prior year's fund balance of \$39.4 million.

The General Fund, the County's principal operating fund, had an ending fund balance of \$35.2 million, a \$1.3 million decrease from the prior year.

Capital Assets and Debt Administration

Capital Assets:

As of September 30, 2016, Lowndes County had a total of \$163.3 million invested in a variety of capital assets. The largest investments are in roads and bridges (infrastructure) with a total of \$88.2 million (54%). Roads and bridges and other infrastructure are included, as required by GASB 34, in the County's financial records. GASB 34 also requires depreciation, a non-cash expense, to now be recorded. Accumulated depreciation was \$77.6 million at September 30, 2016. The County's total capital assets, net of depreciation are \$85.7 million. Last year the County had \$83.1 million in net capital assets. (See capital assets discussion on page 41.)

Debt:

At the end of the year (September 30, 2016), the County had \$50.0 million in outstanding long-term debt. This includes General Obligations Bonds, loans, capital lease purchases, compensated absences and bond premium and discount. This is \$2.3 million less than the prior year. Of the outstanding debt, \$3.4 million is due within one year. (See debt discussion beginning on page 50.)

The State of Mississippi limits the amount of debt counties can issue to 15% of total assessed value. During this year, Lowndes County is at 7.9%, well below its current limit.

Long-Term Debt As of September 30, 2016

	Balance 9/30/2015	Increases	Decreases	Balance 9/30/2016
Governmental Activities:				
General Obligation Bonds	\$ 34,035,000	\$ 10,175,000	\$ (2,050,000)	\$ 42,160,000
Other Loans	17,530,417	800,974	(11,313,411)	7,017,980
Capital Leases	42,532	173,924	(49,237)	167,219
Compensated Absences	674,258	-	(18,236)	656,022
Bond Premiums	190,631	-	(23,838)	166,793
Bond Discounts	(166,014)	-	16,184	(149,830)
Total Debt Payable	\$ 52,306,824	\$ 11,149,898	\$ (13,438,538)	\$ 50,018,184

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

Budget - Original vs. Final

The following is a review of the significant changes from the original budget to the final for the major governmental funds. The County's budget is a financial plan for the various departments and their managements to follow during the year. This plan is made in the summer before the fiscal year starts in October. These estimates and projections change as the year progresses. Some changes to the budget are made by budget amendment and the remainder is amended at the end of the year to reflect actual revenues received and expenditures made.

Budget Analysis Summary

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Variance Between Original and Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual (Budgetary Basis)</u>	<u>Variance Between Final Budget and Actual</u>
General Fund					
Revenues	\$ 23,992,480	\$ 23,742,379	\$ (250,101)	\$ 23,742,379	\$ -
Expenditures	23,468,371	24,826,456	(1,358,085)	25,001,456	(175,000)
Countywide Roads Fund					
Revenues	5,650,300	5,660,091	9,791	5,660,091	-
Expenditures	5,560,814	5,432,679	128,135	5,432,679	-

General Fund revenues were consistent with budgeted expectations with revenues agreeing with the final budget. General Fund expenditures exceeded budgeted expenditures of \$24,826,456 due to the refunding of a note during the year. The County spent approximately \$612,000 for two major road projects to Lowndes County Industrial Development Authority that originally was budgeted for 2017 in the General Fund. Insurance expense increased over \$340,000 than expected. The County managed to keep expenditures under the original budget for Countywide Roads Fund.

Financial Contact

The County's financial statements and schedules are designed to present users (citizens, taxpayers, customers, investors and creditors) with a general overview of the County's finances and to demonstrate the County's accountability and fiduciary responsibilities for the funds it receives and the services it provides. If you have questions about the report or need additional financial information, contact the County's Chief Financial Officer, Lloyd Price, on the second floor of the Tax/Administration Building, 1121 Main Street, P.O. Box 1364, Columbus, Mississippi 39703.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Exhibit 1

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

	Primary Government	Component Units	
	Governmental Activities	Lowndes County Industrial Development Authority	Lowndes County Port Authority
ASSETS			
Cash	\$ 7,907,687	\$ 3,876,294	\$ 1,729,148
Investments	32,298,253	-	-
Property tax receivable	13,688,200	-	-
Fines receivable, net	735,350	-	-
Loans receivable, net	150,000	-	-
Intergovernmental receivables	467,487	-	-
Other receivables	602,896	106,519	331,971
Capital assets:			
Land and construction in progress	17,112,953	1,996,247	1,093,754
Other capital assets, net	68,559,393	24,735,064	2,934,175
Total Assets	\$ 141,522,219	\$ 30,714,124	\$ 6,089,048
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Deferred outflows related to pensions	\$ 6,504,166	\$ -	\$ -
Deferred amount on refunding	808,736	-	-
Total deferred outflows of resources	\$ 7,312,902	\$ -	\$ -
LIABILITIES			
Claims payable	\$ 2,157,213	\$ 368,830	\$ 105,145
Intergovernmental payables	1,161,227	-	-
Accrued interest payable	796,365	17,032	792
Amounts held in custody for others	527,594	-	-
Other payables	153,894	44,608	-
Long-term liabilities:			
Net pension liability	31,437,995	-	-
Due within one year:			
Capital debt	2,120,000	401,958	41,377
Non-capital debt	1,322,085	-	-
Long-term liabilities:			
Due in more than one year:			
Capital debt	40,056,963	10,958,892	11,504
Non-capital debt	6,519,136	-	-
Total Liabilities	\$ 86,252,472	\$ 11,791,320	\$ 158,818
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Deferred inflows related to pensions	\$ 1,227,001	\$ -	\$ -
Property tax for future reporting periods	13,688,200	-	-
Total deferred inflows of resources	\$ 14,915,201	\$ -	\$ -
NET POSITION			
Net investment in capital assets	\$ 44,304,119	\$ 15,370,461	\$ 3,975,048
Restricted:			
Expendable:			
General government	30,469,984	-	-
Public safety	942,143	-	-
Public works	56,206	-	-
Culture and recreation	115,426	-	-
Economic development and assistance	27,054	-	-
Nonexpendable	195,000	-	-
Unrestricted	(28,442,484)	3,552,343	1,955,182
Total Net Position	\$ 47,667,448	\$ 18,922,804	\$ 5,930,230

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

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

	Program Revenues				Net Expense and Changes in Net Position		
					Primary Government	Component Units	
	Expenses	Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities	Lowndes County Industrial Development Authority	Lowndes County Port Authority
Governmental Activities:							
General government	\$ 10,290,551	\$ 4,552,373	\$ 83,833	\$ -	\$ (5,654,345)	\$ -	\$ -
Public safety	11,275,701	1,943,786	568,495	-	(8,763,420)	-	-
Public works	10,302,774	1,866,480	-	1,514,725	(6,921,569)	-	-
Health and welfare	400,977	-	12,000	-	(388,977)	-	-
Culture and recreation	1,266,009	-	-	11,062	(1,254,947)	-	-
Conservation of natural resources	148,095	-	-	-	(148,095)	-	-
Economic development and assistance	3,137,077	-	669,694	-	(2,467,383)	-	-
Education	325,000	-	-	-	(325,000)	-	-
Interest on long-term debt	2,162,565	-	-	-	(2,162,565)	-	-
Pension expense	3,490,432	-	-	-	(3,490,432)	-	-
Investment fees	150,442	-	-	-	(150,442)	-	-
Debt issuance costs	176,500	-	-	-	(176,500)	-	-
Total Governmental Activities	43,126,123	8,362,639	1,334,022	1,525,787	(31,903,675)	-	-
Component Units:							
Lowndes County Industrial Development Authority	2,367,629	796,419	-	-	-	(1,571,210)	-
Lowndes County Port Authority	524,559	864,827	798,561	-	-	-	1,138,829
Total Component Units	2,892,188	1,661,246	798,561	-	-	(1,571,210)	1,138,829
General Revenues:							
Property taxes					17,040,135	1,022,941	-
Revenues in lieu of taxes					5,604,009	-	-
Road and bridge privilege taxes					745,986	-	-
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs					3,255,337	-	-
Unrestricted investment income					2,481,767	1,937	4,606
Gain (loss) on disposition of assets					(15,899)	-	-
Miscellaneous					1,122,727	478,827	-
Total General Revenues					30,234,062	1,503,705	4,606
Changes in Net Position					(1,669,613)	(67,505)	1,143,435
Net Position - Beginning					49,337,061	18,990,309	4,786,795
Net Position - Ending					\$ 47,667,448	\$ 18,922,804	\$ 5,930,230

Exhibit 2

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

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

Exhibit 3

<i>ASSETS</i>	General Fund	Countywide Roads	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Cash	\$ 4,394,897	\$ 665,656	\$ 2,793,106	\$ 7,853,659
Investments	32,298,253	-	-	32,298,253
Property tax receivable	10,160,100	1,942,000	1,586,100	13,688,200
Fines receivable	735,350	-	-	735,350
Loans receivable	-	-	150,000	150,000
Intergovernmental receivables	443,730	-	23,757	467,487
Other receivables	314,628	-	34,005	348,633
Advances to other funds	45,000	-	-	45,000
Due from other funds	381	93,222	25,507	119,110
Total Assets	\$ 48,392,339	\$ 2,700,878	\$ 4,612,475	\$ 55,705,692
<i>LIABILITIES</i>				
Liabilities:				
Claims payable	\$ 356,669	\$ 1,307,006	\$ 391,955	\$ 2,055,630
Intergovernmental payables	1,109,801	-	51,426	1,161,227
Advances from other funds	-	-	45,000	45,000
Due to other funds	119,110	-	-	119,110
Other payables	681,490	-	-	681,490
Total Liabilities	2,267,070	1,307,006	488,381	4,062,457
<i>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</i>				
Unavailable revenue - property taxes	10,160,100	1,942,000	1,586,100	13,688,200
Unavailable revenue - fines	735,350	-	-	735,350
	10,895,450	1,942,000	1,586,100	14,423,550
Fund balances:				
Nonspendable:				
Advances	45,000	-	-	45,000
Economic development loans	-	-	150,000	150,000
Restricted:				
General government	30,375,359	-	94,625	30,469,984
Public safety	-	-	839,331	839,331
Public works	-	(548,128)	604,334	56,206
Culture and recreation	-	-	115,426	115,426
Economic development and assistance	-	-	(90,693)	(90,693)
Assigned:				
Public safety	-	-	102,812	102,812
Economic development and assistance	-	-	27,054	27,054
Unassigned:	4,809,460	-	695,105	5,504,565
Total Fund Balances	35,229,819	(548,128)	2,537,994	37,219,685
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Fund Balances	\$ 48,392,339	\$ 2,700,878	\$ 4,612,475	\$ 55,705,692

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

RECONCILIATION OF THE BALANCE SHEET TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

	<u>Amount</u>
Total Fund Balance - Governmental Funds	\$ 37,219,685
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Net Position are different because:	
Capital assets are used in governmental activities and are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds, net of accumulated depreciation of \$77,581,419.	85,672,346
Other long-term assets, such as fines receivable, are not available to pay for current period expenditures and, therefore, are deferred in the funds.	735,350
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.	(49,850,959)
Net pension obligations are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.	(31,437,995)
Accrued interest payable is not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, is not reported in the funds.	(796,365)
Capital leases are not available to pay for current period expenditures and, therefore, are deferred in the funds.	(167,219)
Deferred amount on refunding.	808,736
Deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to pensions are applicable to future periods and, therefore, are not reported in the funds:	
Deferred outflows of resources related to pensions	6,504,166
Deferred inflows of resources related to pensions	(1,227,001)
Internal service funds are used by management to charge the costs of insurance to individual funds. The assets and liabilities of the internal service fund are included in governmental activities in the statement of net position.	<u>206,704</u>
Total Net Position - Governmental Activities	<u>\$ 47,667,448</u>

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

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Exhibit 4

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES -
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

	General Fund	Countywide Roads	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES				
Property taxes	\$ 12,546,392	\$ 2,397,784	\$ 2,017,387	\$ 16,961,563
Revenues in lieu of taxes	3,654,080	1,928,000	100,500	5,682,580
Road and bridge privilege taxes	(1,431)	745,986	-	744,555
Licenses, commissions and other revenue	1,168,982	-	17,344	1,186,326
Fines and forfeitures	808,105	-	134,428	942,533
Intergovernmental revenues	3,164,654	550,954	2,522,097	6,237,705
Charges for services	821,567	-	2,580,716	3,402,283
Interest income	188,312	-	13,838	202,150
Investment income	2,279,617	-	-	2,279,617
Miscellaneous revenues	977,348	47,476	97,904	1,122,728
Total Revenues	<u>25,607,626</u>	<u>5,670,200</u>	<u>7,484,214</u>	<u>38,762,040</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
General government	7,348,188	-	12,526	7,360,714
Public safety	9,968,369	-	3,427,906	13,396,275
Public works	173,374	6,579,784	3,714,951	10,468,109
Health and welfare	400,977	-	-	400,977
Culture and recreation	1,139,953	-	126,056	1,266,009
Conservation of natural resources	164,424	-	504,895	669,319
Economic development and assistance	1,316,540	-	1,820,537	3,137,077
Education	325,000	-	-	325,000
Debt service:				
Principal	2,815,116	42,533	555,000	3,412,649
Interest	1,358,152	188	13,838	1,372,178
Bond issue costs	175,000	-	1,500	176,500
Total Expenditures	<u>25,185,093</u>	<u>6,622,505</u>	<u>10,177,209</u>	<u>41,984,807</u>
Expenditures (over) under Revenues	<u>422,533</u>	<u>(952,305)</u>	<u>(2,692,995)</u>	<u>(3,222,767)</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Proceeds from long-term capital debt issued	-	-	800,974	800,974
Proceeds from capital lease	173,924	-	-	173,924
Proceeds from refunding bonds	10,175,000	-	-	10,175,000
Payment to refunded bond escrow agent	(10,000,000)	-	-	(10,000,000)
Proceeds from sale of capital asset	6,360	-	-	6,360
Transfers in	-	-	1,966,780	1,966,780
Transfers out	(2,078,183)	(10,441)	-	(2,088,624)
Total Other Financing Sources and Uses	<u>(1,722,899)</u>	<u>(10,441)</u>	<u>2,767,754</u>	<u>1,034,414</u>
Net change in fund balances	<u>(1,300,366)</u>	<u>(962,746)</u>	<u>74,759</u>	<u>(2,188,353)</u>
Fund Balances - Beginning	<u>36,530,185</u>	<u>414,618</u>	<u>2,463,235</u>	<u>39,408,038</u>
Fund Balances - Ending	<u>\$ 35,229,819</u>	<u>\$ (548,128)</u>	<u>\$ 2,537,994</u>	<u>\$ 37,219,685</u>

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

**RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016**

Net Changes in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds \$ (2,188,353)

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

Governmental Funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the Statement of Activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense. Thus, the change in net position differs from the change in fund balances by the amount that capital outlays of \$5,249,227 exceeded depreciation of \$2,639,316 in the current period. 2,609,911

In the Statement of Activities, only gains and losses from the sale of capital assets are reported, whereas in the Governmental Funds, proceeds from the sale of capital assets increase financial resources. Thus, the change in net position differs from the change in fund balances by the amount of the net loss of \$22,259 in the current period. (22,259)

Fine revenue recognized on the modified accrual basis in the funds during the current year is reduced because prior year recognition would have been required on the Statement of Activities using the full-accrual basis of accounting. 62,635

Debt proceeds provide current financial resources to Governmental Funds, but issuing debt increases long-term liabilities in the Statement of Net Position. Repayment of debt principal is an expenditure in the Governmental Funds, but the repayment reduces long-term liabilities in the Statement of Net Position. Thus, the change in net position differs from the change in fund balances by the amount that debt repayments of \$13,412,648 exceeded proceeds of \$11,149,898. 2,262,750

Under the modified accrual basis of accounting used in the Governmental Funds, expenditures are not recognized for transactions that are not normally paid with expendable available financial resources. However, in the Statement of Activities, which is presented on the accrual basis, expenses and liabilities are reported regardless of when financial resources are available. In addition, interest on long-term debt is recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when due, rather than as it accrues. Thus the change in net position differs from the change in fund balances by a combination of the following items:

The amount of decrease in compensated absences	18,236
The amount of decrease in accrued interest payable, net of the accretion of bond discounts and premiums	(798,041)
The accretion of bond discounts and premiums	7,654

Some items reported in the Statement of Activities relating to the implementation of GASB 68 are not reported in the governmental funds. These activities include:

Recording of pension expense for the current period	(3,917,896)
Recording of contributions made subsequent to the measurement date	427,464

An internal service fund is used by management to charge the cost of insurance to individual funds. The net revenue is reported within governmental activities. (131,714)

Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities \$ (1,669,613)

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

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**Exhibit 5****STATEMENT OF NET POSITION - PROPRIETARY FUND****SEPTEMBER 30, 2016**

	<u>Governmental Activities</u> <u>Internal Service Fund</u>
ASSETS	
Current assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 54,027
Reimbursement receivable	<u>254,261</u>
Total Assets	<u>308,288</u>
LIABILITIES	
Current liabilities:	
Claims payable	<u>101,584</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>101,584</u>
NET POSITION	
Unrestricted	<u>206,704</u>
Total Net Position	<u><u>\$ 206,704</u></u>

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

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**Exhibit 6****STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGE IN NET POSITION -
PROPRIETARY FUND****FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016**

	<u>Governmental Activities Internal Service Fund</u>
OPERATING REVENUES	
Premium income	\$ 2,645,961
Miscellaneous revenues	<u>1,774</u>
Total Operating Revenues	<u>2,647,735</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Claims payments	2,623,831
Administrative	<u>277,462</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>2,901,293</u>
Operating Loss	<u>(253,558)</u>
Capital Contributions	
Transfers in	<u>121,844</u>
Change in Net Position	(131,714)
Net Position - Beginning	<u>338,418</u>
Net Position - Ending	<u><u>\$ 206,704</u></u>

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

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**Exhibit 7****STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS - PROPRIETARY FUND****FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016**

	Governmental Activities
	<u>Internal Service Fund</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Receipts for premiums	\$ 2,647,735
Payments for claims	(2,497,319)
Payments to administrator for services	<u>(277,462)</u>
Net Cash Used in Operating Activities	<u>(127,046)</u>
Cash Flows From Noncapital Financing Activities	
Cash received from other funds:	
Operating transfers in	121,844
Cash paid to other funds:	
Operating transfers out	<u>-</u>
Net Cash Provided by Noncapital Financing Activities	<u>121,844</u>
Net Decrease in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(5,202)
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year	<u>59,229</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	<u><u>\$ 54,027</u></u>

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

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**Exhibit 8****STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****SEPTEMBER 30, 2016**

	<u>Agency Funds</u>
ASSETS	
Cash and investments	\$ 161,000
Intergovernmental receivables	<u>43,414</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>\$ 204,414</u></u>
LIABILITIES	
Amounts held in custody for others	\$ 80,823
Intergovernmental payables	<u>123,591</u>
Total Liabilities	<u><u>\$ 204,414</u></u>

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

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(1) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Financial Reporting Entity

Lowndes County, Mississippi ("the County") is a political subdivision of the State of Mississippi. The County is governed by the elected five-member Board of Supervisors. Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require the County to present these financial statements on the primary government and its component units which have significant operational or financial relationships with the County.

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
- Purchasing Clerk
- Tax Assessor-Collector
- Sheriff

(b) Individual Component Unit Disclosure – Discretely Presented Component Units

The component units' columns in the financial statements include the financial data of the following component units of the County. They are reported in separate columns to emphasize that they are legally separate from the County. A majority of the members of the governing bodies of these component units are appointed by the County's Board of Supervisors.

- Lowndes County Port Authority
- Lowndes County Industrial Development Authority

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(1) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

(c) Basis of Presentation

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

Government-wide Financial Statements:

The Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities display information concerning the County as a whole. The statements include all non-fiduciary activities of the primary government and its component units. For the most part, the effect of inter-fund activity has been removed from these statements. Governmental activities are generally financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues and other non-exchange revenues. The primary government is reported separately from certain legally separate component units for which the primary government is financially accountable.

The Statement of Net Position presents the financial condition of the governmental activities of the County and its component units at year-end. The government-wide Statement of Activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each function or program of the County's governmental activities and component units. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a service, program or department and, therefore, are clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues 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. Taxes and other revenues not classified as program revenues are presented as general revenues of the County, with certain limited exceptions. The comparison of direct expenses with program revenues identifies the extent to which each governmental function is self-financing or draws from the general revenues of the County.

Fund Financial Statements:

Fund financial statements of the County are organized into funds, each of which is considered to be a separate accounting entity. Each fund is accounted for by providing a separate set of self-balancing accounts that constitute its assets, deferred inflows of resources, liabilities, deferred outflows of resources, fund equity, revenues and expenditures. Funds are organized into governmental, proprietary and fiduciary. Major individual Governmental Funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements. Non-major funds are aggregated and presented in a single column as Other Governmental Funds.

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(1) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

(d) Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

The Government-wide and Proprietary financial statements are presented using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recorded when the liability is incurred or economic asset used, regardless of when the related cash flows take place. Property taxes are recognized as revenue in the year for which they are levied. Shared revenues are recognized when the provider government recognizes the liability to the County. Grants are recognized as revenues as soon as all eligibility requirements have been satisfied. Agency funds have no measurement focus, but use the accrual basis of accounting.

The revenues and expenses of Proprietary Funds are classified as operating or non-operating. Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services in connection with a Proprietary Fund's primary operations. All other revenues and expenses are reported as non-operating.

Governmental financial statements are presented using a current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized in the accounting period when they are both measurable and available to finance operations during the year or to liquidate liabilities existing at the end of the year. Available means collected in the current period or within sixty days after year end to liquidate liabilities existing at the end of the year. Measurable means knowing or being able to reasonably estimate the amount. Expenditures are recognized in the accounting period when the related fund liability is incurred. Debt service expenditures and expenditures related to compensated absences and claims and judgments are recognized only when payment is due. Property taxes, state appropriations and federal awards are all considered to be susceptible to accrual and have been recognized as revenues of the current fiscal period.

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(1) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

(d) Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting (Continued)

The County reports the following major governmental funds:

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

Countywide Roads Fund - This fund is used to account for revenues from specific revenue sources that are restricted for construction and maintenance of County roads.

The County reports the following major proprietary fund:

Self-Insurance Fund - This fund is used to account for premiums and claims related to employees' medical benefits. In 2016, this included premiums and claims for primary health coverage, as well as a bridge plan.

Additionally, the County reports the following fund types:

Governmental Fund Type

General Fund - The General Fund is the general operating fund of the County. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund. Its revenues are primarily derived from property and other local taxes, charges for services and interest income. Its expenditures primarily relate to the operation and maintenance of the County.

Special Revenue Funds - These funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditures for specified purposes other than debt services or capital projects. Special revenue funds account for, among others, certain federal grant programs, taxes levied with statutorily defined distributions and other resources restricted as to purpose.

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(1) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

(d) Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting (Continued)

Proprietary Fund Type

Internal Service Funds - These funds are used to account for those operations that provide services to other departments or agencies of the government, or to other governments, on a cost-reimbursement basis. The County's internal service fund reports on self-insured programs for employee medical benefits.

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.

(e) 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.

(f) Deposits and Investments

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, and 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). Investments in governmental securities are stated at fair value. Any governmental securities the County invests in will be included in those investments referenced in Note (2).

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(1) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

(g) Use of Estimates

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

(h) Receivables

Receivables are reported net of allowances for uncollectible accounts, where applicable.

(i) Inter-fund Transactions and Balances

Transactions between funds that are representative of short-term lending/borrowing arrangements and transactions that have not resulted in the actual transfer of cash at the end of the fiscal year are referred to as "due to/from other funds." Noncurrent portions of interfund receivables and payables are reported as "advances to/from other funds." Advances between funds, as reported in the fund financial statements, are offset by a fund balance reserve account in applicable governmental funds to indicate that they are not available for appropriation and are not expendable, available financial resources. Inter-fund receivables and payables between funds within governmental activities are eliminated in the statement of net position.

(j) Restricted Assets

Certain proceeds of the County's capital projects fund general obligation bonds are restricted for capital project expenditures and repayment of the bonds during the construction period. Certain assets in other funds are restricted by state law for specified uses.

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(1) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

(k) Capital Assets

Capital acquisition and construction are reflected as expenditures in Governmental Fund statements and the related assets are reported as capital assets in the governmental activities column in the government-wide financial statements. All purchased capital assets are stated at historical cost where records are available and at an estimated historical cost where no records exist. Capital assets include significant amounts of infrastructure which have been valued at estimated historical cost. The estimated historical cost was based on replacement cost multiplied by the consumer price index implicit price deflator for the year of acquisition. The extent to which capital asset costs have been estimated and the methods of estimation are not readily available. Donated capital assets are recorded at estimated fair market value at the time of donation. The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of assets or materially extend their respective lives are not capitalized; however, improvements are capitalized. Interest expenditures are not capitalized on capital assets.

Capitalization thresholds (dollar value above which asset acquisitions are added to the capital asset accounts) and estimated useful lives of capital assets are used to report capital assets in the government-wide statements. Depreciation is calculated on the straight-line basis for all depreciable assets. A full year's depreciation expense is taken for all purchases and sales of capital assets during the year. The following schedule details those thresholds and estimated useful lives:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Capitalization Thresholds</u>	<u>Estimated Useful Life</u>
Land	\$ -	N/A
Infrastructure	-	20 - 50 years
Buildings	50,000	40 years
Improvements other than buildings	25,000	20 years
Mobile equipment	5,000	5 - 10 years
Furniture and equipment	5,000	3 - 7 years
Leased property under capital leases	*	*

* Leased property capitalization policy and useful life will correspond with the amounts for the asset classification, as listed above.

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(1) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

(I) Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statement of financial 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 of resources (expense/expenditure) until then.

Deferred amount on refunding - For current refundings and advance refundings resulting in defeasance of debt reported by governmental activities, business type activities, and proprietary funds, the difference between the reacquisition price and the net carrying amount of the old debt is reported as a deferred outflow of resources or a deferred inflow of resources and recognized as a component of interest expense in a systematic and rational manner over the remaining life of the old debt or the life of the new debt, whichever is shorter.

Deferred outflows related to pensions - This amount represents the County's proportionate share of the deferred outflows of resources reported by the pension plan in which the County participates. See Note 10 for additional details.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of financial 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 (revenue) until that time.

Property tax for future reporting period/unavailable revenue - property taxes - Deferred inflows of resources should be reported when resources associated with imposed nonexchange revenue transactions are received or reported as a receivable before the period for which property taxes are levied.

Unavailable revenue fines - When an asset is recorded in the governmental fund financial statements but the revenue is not available, the government should report a deferred inflow of revenues until such time as the revenue becomes available.

Deferred inflows related to pensions - This amount represents the County's proportionate share of the deferred inflows of resources reported by the pension plan for which the County participates. See Note 10 for additional detail.

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(1) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

(m) Pensions

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources, and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension-related expenses, information about the fiduciary net position of the Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi (PERS) and additions to/deductions from PERS' fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by PERS. For this purpose, benefits payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

(n) Long-Term Liabilities

Long-term liabilities are the unmatured principal of bonds, loans, notes or other forms of non-current or long-term general obligation indebtedness. Long-term liabilities are not limited to liabilities from debt issuances, but may also include liabilities on lease-purchase agreements and other commitments.

In the government-wide financial statements, long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the governmental activities Statement of Net Position. Bond premiums and discounts are deferred and amortized over the term of the related debt using the effective interest method. Bonds payable are reported net of the applicable bond premium or discount.

In the fund financial statements, governmental fund types recognize bond premiums and discounts, as well as bond issuance costs, during the current period. The face amount of the debt issued is reported as other financing sources. Premiums received on debt issuance are reported as other financing sources while discounts on debt issuance are reported as other financing uses. Issuance costs, whether or not withheld from the actual debt proceeds received, are reported as debt service expenditures.

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(1) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

(o) Equity Classifications

Government-wide Financial Statements:

Equity is classified as Net Position and displayed in three components:

Net Investment in Capital Assets - Consists of capital assets including restricted capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, notes or other borrowings attributable to the acquisition, construction or improvements of those assets.

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" or "net investment in capital assets."

Net position flow assumption

When an expense is incurred 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 expenses are incurred 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.

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(1) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

(o) Equity Classifications (Continued)

Fund Financial Statements (Continued):

Government fund balance is classified as non-spendable, restricted, committed, assigned or unassigned. The following are descriptions of fund classifications used by the County.

Non-spendable fund balance includes amounts that cannot be spent. This includes amounts that are either not in a spendable form (inventories, prepaid amounts, long-term portion of loans/notes receivable, or property held for resale unless the proceeds from the collection of those receivables or from the sale of those properties are restricted, committed or assigned) or amounts that are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact, such as a principal balance of a permanent fund.

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 non-spendable and is neither restricted nor committed.

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 expenditures incurred 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 an expenditure is incurred 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 expenditures are incurred 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.

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(1) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

(p) Property Tax Revenues

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 that 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.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require property taxes to be recognized at the levy date if measurable and available. All property taxes are recognized as revenue in the year for which they are levied. Motor vehicle and mobile home taxes do not meet the measurability and collectibility criteria for property tax recognition because the lien and due date cannot be established until the date of original purchase occurs.

(q) Intergovernmental Revenues in Governmental Funds

Intergovernmental revenues, consisting of grants, entitlements and shared revenues, are usually recorded in Governmental Funds when measurable and available. However, the "available" criterion applies for certain federal grants and shared revenues when the expenditure is made because expenditure is the prime factor for determining eligibility. Similarly, if cost sharing or matching requirements exist, revenue recognition depends on compliance with these requirements.

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(1) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

(r) Compensated Absences

The County has adopted a policy of compensation for accumulated unpaid employee personal leave. No payment is authorized for accrued major medical leave. Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require accrual of accumulated unpaid employee benefits as long-term liabilities in the government-wide financial statements. In fund financial statements, Governmental Funds report the compensated absence liability payable only if the payable has matured, for example an employee resigns or retires.

(2) DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

The carrying amount of the County's total deposits, not including component units, with financial institutions at September 30, 2016, was \$7,907,687, and the bank balance was \$9,529,949. 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. 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 FDIC. 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.

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(2) DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (Continued)

In April 2013, Senate Bill 2702 was passed by the Mississippi Legislature authorizing the Board of Supervisors to establish a reserve and trust fund. House Bill 1508 was subsequently passed in 2014, which governs the nature and use of such investments. The proceeds received by the County as a result of the sale of hospital facilities owned by the County were allowed to be deposited into the fund to provide for the establishment of the reserve and trust fund. The proceeds were to provide for the investment of the assets of the trust fund and that the fund will be divided into a corpus component and an earning component. The corpus component is to remain inviolate except as otherwise provided in the bill. The earnings component is allowed to be transferred from the trust fund to the general fund of the County and shall be available for appropriation and spending by the Board of Supervisors of the County. The money from the corpus of the trust can be expended by the County only under certain circumstances as defined by the bill. The investment balances at September 30, 2016, are as follows:

<u>Investment Type</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Investments</u>
Cash and equivalents	\$ 25,706,295	80%
Equities	6,591,958	20%
		<u>100%</u>

For the year ended September 30, 2016, the change in the investments of the County is as follows:

Interest	\$ 164,973
Dividends	434,961
Net increase in the fair value of investments	1,887,677
Withdrawals	(73,050)
Investment fees/expenses	(150,442)
Other investment loss	<u>(43,021)</u>
	<u>\$ 2,221,098</u>

Interest Rate Risk. The County has approved an investment policy that is in accordance with that allowed by state law. Section 19-9-29, Miss. Code Ann. (1972) and House Bill 1508 define restrictions, if any, that exist with the County's current investments.

Credit Risk. State law limits investments to those authorized by Sections 19-9-29 and 91-13-8, Miss. Code Ann. (1972), except as allowed by the previously-mentioned legislation. The County does not have a formal investment policy that would further limit its investment choices or one that addresses credit risk.

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(2) DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (Continued)

Custodial Credit Risk - Investments. Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the County will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The County does not have a formal policy for custodial credit risk. Of the County's investment, \$ -0- of underlying securities were held by the investment counterparty on behalf of the County, not in the name of the County.

(3) INTER-FUND TRANSACTIONS AND BALANCES

A summary of inter-fund balances at September 30, 2016, follows:

(a) Due From/To Other Funds:

<u>Receivable Fund</u>	<u>Payable Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Other governmental funds	General fund	\$ 25,507
Countywide roads fund	General fund	93,222
General fund	General fund	<u>381</u>
		<u>\$ 119,110</u>

The receivables represent the tax revenue collected in September 2016, but not settled until October 2016. All inter-fund balances are expected to be repaid within one year from the date of the financial statements.

(b) Advances From/To Other Funds:

<u>Receivable Fund</u>	<u>Payable Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General fund	Other governmental funds	\$ 45,000

The receivable represents loans to the fire department funds to purchase fire trucks and fire stations.

(c) Transfers In/Out:

<u>Transfers In</u>	<u>Transfers Out</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Other governmental funds	Countywide roads funds	\$ 10,441
Other governmental funds	General fund	1,956,339
Self-insurance fund	General fund	<u>121,844</u>
Total		<u>\$ 2,088,624</u>

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(3) INTER-FUND TRANSACTIONS AND BALANCES

(c) Transfers In/Out (Continued):

The principal purpose of interfund transfers is to provide funds for grant matching contributions or to pay for capital and operating needs. All interfund transfers were routine and consistent with the activities of the fund making the transfer.

(4) INTERGOVERNMENTAL RECEIVABLES

Intergovernmental receivables at September 30, 2016, consisted of the following:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Primary Government:	
State legislative tax credit	\$ 364,714
Other state receivables	35,453
Receivables from local governments	<u>67,320</u>
Total intergovernmental receivables	<u>\$ 467,487</u>
Fiduciary Fund:	
Other state receivables	\$ 24,465
Other local receivables	<u>18,949</u>
Total intergovernmental fiduciary receivables	<u>\$ 43,414</u>

(5) LOANS RECEIVABLE

Loans receivable at September 30, 2016, consisted of the following:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Date of Loan</u>	<u>Interest Rate (%)</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Balance Receivable</u>
Mississippi Steel Processing	06-15-11	0.0	10-01-26	<u>\$ 150,000</u>

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(6) CAPITAL ASSETS

A summary of governmental activities capital assets activity for the year ended September 30, 2016, follows:

	Balance 10-01-2015	Additions	Deletions	Transfers *	Balance 9-30-2016
Nondepreciable capital assets:					
Land	\$ 15,041,500	\$ 70,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,111,500
Construction in progress	611,506	2,347,798	-	(957,851)	2,001,453
Total nondepreciable capital assets	15,653,006	2,417,798	-	(957,851)	17,112,953
Depreciable capital assets:					
Infrastructure	88,195,685	-	-	-	88,195,685
Buildings	32,783,944	916,439	-	957,851	34,658,234
Improvements other than buildings	4,411,965	-	-	-	4,411,965
Mobile equipment	13,536,307	1,161,052	(222,590)	-	14,474,769
Other equipment	3,127,299	580,014	-	-	3,707,313
Leased property under capital leases	518,922	173,924	-	-	692,846
Total depreciable capital assets	142,574,122	2,831,429	(222,590)	957,851	146,140,812
Less accumulated depreciation for:					
Infrastructure	52,293,265	845,502	-	-	53,138,767
Buildings	9,882,720	546,096	-	-	10,428,816
Improvements other than buildings	529,443	176,481	-	-	705,924
Mobile equipment	9,677,053	708,143	(200,331)	-	10,184,865
Other equipment	2,573,129	316,388	-	-	2,889,517
Leased property under capital leases	186,824	46,706	-	-	233,530
Total accumulated depreciation	75,142,434	2,639,316	(200,331)	-	77,581,419
Total depreciable capital assets, net	67,431,688	192,113	(22,259)	957,851	68,559,393
Net capital assets - governmental activities	\$ 83,084,694	\$ 2,609,911	\$ (22,259)	\$ -	\$ 85,672,346

* Transfers represent construction-in-progress costs placed in service due to project completion during the year ended September 30, 2016.

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(6) CAPITAL ASSETS (Continued)

Depreciation expense was charged to the following functions:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Governmental activities:	
General government	\$ 466,873
Public safety	904,104
Public works	1,267,226
Construction and natural resources	<u>1,113</u>
Total governmental activities depreciation expense	<u>\$ 2,639,316</u>

A summary of Lowndes County Port Authority's capital assets activity for the year ended September 30, 2016, follows:

	<u>Balance 10-01-15</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Retirements</u>	<u>Completed Construction</u>	<u>Balance 9-30-16</u>
<i>Nondepreciable capital assets:</i>					
Land	\$ 1,013,844	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,013,844
Construction in progress	<u>230,681</u>	<u>30,848</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(181,619)</u>	<u>79,910</u>
Total nondepreciable capital assets	1,244,525	30,848	-	(181,619)	1,093,754
<i>Depreciable capital assets:</i>					
Port facilities	7,581,007	-	-	-	7,581,007
Improvements other than buildings	2,456,600	496,714	-	181,619	3,134,933
Port equipment	<u>1,309,646</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,309,646</u>
Total depreciable capital assets	11,347,253	496,714	-	181,619	12,025,586
<i>Less accumulated depreciation for:</i>					
Port facilities	6,810,250	66,495	-	-	6,876,745
Improvements other than buildings	1,086,855	104,893	-	-	1,191,748
Port equipment	<u>901,175</u>	<u>121,743</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,022,918</u>
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>8,798,280</u>	<u>293,131</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,091,411</u>
Total depreciable capital assets, net	<u>2,548,973</u>	<u>203,583</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>181,619</u>	<u>2,934,175</u>
Governmental activities capital assets, net	<u>\$ 3,793,498</u>	<u>\$ 234,431</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$4,027,929</u>

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(6) CAPITAL ASSETS (Continued)

The following is a summary of Lowndes County Industrial Development Authority's capital assets activity for the year ended September 30, 2016:

	Balance October 1, 2015	Additions	Retirements	Completed Construction	Adjustments	Balance September 30, 2016
<i>Non-depreciable capital assets:</i>						
Land	\$ 1,442,728	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,442,728
Construction in progress	<u>-</u>	<u>553,519</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>553,519</u>
Total non- depreciable capital assets	1,442,728	553,519	-	-	-	1,996,247
<i>Depreciable capital assets:</i>						
Buildings and improvements	166,807	-	-	-	-	166,807
Water and sewer utility system	29,566,293	-	-	-	-	29,566,293
Infrastructure	1,094,849	-	-	-	-	1,094,849
Equipment	<u>9,393</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,393</u>
Total depreciable capital assets	30,837,342	-	-	-	-	30,837,342
<i>Less accumulated depreciation for:</i>						
Buildings and improvements	52,292	3,336	-	-	-	55,628
Water and sewer utility system	4,415,603	855,258	-	-	-	5,270,861
Infrastructure	742,899	23,497	-	-	-	766,396
Equipment	<u>8,947</u>	<u>446</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,393</u>
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>5,219,741</u>	<u>882,537</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,102,278</u>
Total depreciable capital assets, net	<u>25,617,601</u>	<u>(882,537)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,735,064</u>
Governmental activities capital assets, net	<u>\$ 27,060,329</u>	<u>\$ (329,018)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 26,731,311</u>

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(7) CLAIMS AND JUDGMENTS

The County is exposed to risk of loss relating to employee health coverage. Beginning in January 2014, and pursuant to Section 25-15-101, Miss. Code Ann. (1972), the County established a risk management fund (included as an Internal Service Fund) to account for and finance its uninsured risk of loss.

Under the plan, amounts payable to the risk management fund are based on actuarial estimates. The County pays the premium on a single coverage policy for its employees. Employees desiring lower and/or dependent coverage pay the additional \$2,500 annual premium through a payroll deduction. Premium payments to the risk management fund are determined on an actuarial basis. The county has minimum uninsured risk retention for the County, to the extent that actual claims submitted exceed the predetermined premium. The County has implemented the following plans to minimize this potential loss:

The County has purchased coinsurance which functions on two separate stop loss coverages: specific and aggregate. These coverages are purchased from an outside commercial carrier. For the current fiscal year, the specific coverage begins when an individual participant's claim exceeds \$125,000, and the aggregate policy covers all submitted claims in excess of \$2,758,787.

Claims expenditures and liabilities are reported when it is probable that a loss has occurred and the amount of that loss can be reasonably estimated. Liabilities include an amount for claims that have been incurred but not reported (IBNRs). At September 30, 2016, the amount of these liabilities was \$101,584. An analysis of claims activities is presented below:

	Beginning of Fiscal Year Liability	Current Year Claims and Changes in Estimates	Claim Payments	Balance at Fiscal Year End
2015	\$ 343,903	\$ 1,663,024	\$ 1,899,465	\$ 107,462
2016	107,462	2,050,913	2,056,791	101,584

The primary health insurance plan provided by the County requires each employee to meet a \$2,500 annual deductible. This policy covers the \$2,500 deductible, plus the 20% coinsurance required by the primary health insurance plan, up to an annual \$4,000 maximum. The County Board of Supervisors has extended this coverage to the employees of the following public entities:

- Lowndes County Port Authority
- Lowndes County District Attorney's Office
- Lowndes County Soil and Conservation District

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(8) CAPITAL LEASES

The County is obligated for the following capital assets acquired through capital leases as of September 30, 2016.

Mobile equipment	\$ 692,846
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(233,530)</u>
Leased property under capital leases	<u>\$ 459,316</u>

The following is a schedule by years of the total payments due as of September 30, 2016:

<u>Year Ending</u> <u>September 30</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>
2017	\$ 40,757	\$ 3,871
2018	41,831	2,797
2019	42,934	1,694
2020	<u>41,697</u>	<u>548</u>
Total	<u>\$ 167,219</u>	<u>\$ 8,910</u>

(9) OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

The County's Board of Supervisors administers the County's health insurance plan which is authorized by Sections 25-15-101 et seq., Mississippi Code Ann. (1972). The County's health insurance plan may be amended by the County's Board of Supervisors. As discussed in Note 7, the County self-insures a portion of this risk and purchases health insurance coverage from a commercial insurance company and offers health insurance benefit coverage through the County's health insurance plan ("the Plan"). Since retirees may obtain health insurance by participating in a group with active employees and consequently receive a health insurance premium rate differential, the County has a post-employment healthcare benefit reportable under GASB Statement No. 45 as a single employer defined benefit health care plan. GASB Statement No. 45 requires reporting on an accrual basis the liability associated with other post-employment benefits. However, the County has determined that the effect of recording any liability for other post-employment benefits would not be material, with only six participants, to the financial statements due to the limited number of retiree participants and has not recorded a liability for other post-employment benefits.

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(9) OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (Continued)

Funding Policy

Employees' premiums are funded by the County with additional funding provided by retired employees and by active employees for spouse and dependent medical coverage. The Plan is financed on a pay-as-you-go basis. The Board of Supervisors, acting in conjunction with the commercial insurance company, has the sole authority for setting health insurance premiums for the County's health insurance plan.

Per Section 25-15-103, Mississippi Code Ann. (1972), any retired employee electing to purchase retiree health insurance must pay the full cost of the insurance premium monthly to the County. For the year ended September 30, 2016, retiree premiums were \$493 per month.

(10) DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN

General Information about the Pension Plan

Plan Description. Lowndes 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.

Benefits Provided. Membership in PERS is a condition of employment granted upon hiring for qualifying employees and officials of the State of Mississippi, state universities, community and junior colleges, and teachers and employees of the public school districts. For those persons employed by political subdivisions and instrumentalities of the State of Mississippi, membership is contingent upon approval of the entity's participation in PERS by the PERS' Board of Trustees. If approved, membership for the entity's employees is a condition of employment and eligibility is granted to those who qualify upon hiring. Participating members who are vested and retire at or after age 60 or those who retire regardless of age with at least 30 years of creditable service (25 years of creditable service for employees who became members of PERS before July 1, 2011) are entitled, upon application, to an annual retirement allowance payable monthly for life in an amount equal to 2.0 percent of their average compensation for each year of creditable service up to and including 30 years (25 years for those who became members of PERS before July 1, 2011), plus 2.5 percent for each additional year of creditable service with an actuarial reduction in the benefit for each year of creditable service below 30 years or the number of years

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(10) DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN (Continued)

in age that the member is below 65, whichever is less. Average compensation is the average of the employee's earnings during the four highest compensated years of creditable service. Benefits vest upon completion of eight years of membership service (four years of membership service for those who became members of PERS before July 1, 2007). PERS also provides certain death and disability benefits. A Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) payment is made to eligible retirees and beneficiaries. The COLA is equal to 3.0 percent of the annual retirement allowance for each full fiscal year of retirement up to the year in which the retired member reaches age 60 (55 for those who became members of PERS before July 1, 2011), with 3.0 percent compounded for each fiscal year thereafter. Plan provisions are established and may be amended only by the State of Mississippi Legislature.

Contributions. At September 30, 2016, 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 employer's rate at September 30, 2016, was 15.75% of annual covered payroll. The contribution requirements of PERS members and employers 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, 2016, 2015 and 2014, were \$1,745,792, \$1,749,141, and \$1,706,291, respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year.

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

At September 30, 2016, the County reported a liability of \$31,437,995 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2016, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The County's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the County's long-term share of contribution to the pension plan relative to projected contributions of all participating entities, actuarially determined. At June 30, 2016, the County's proportion was 0.176 percent, which was a decrease of 0.002 from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2015.

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(10) DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN (Continued)

For the year ended September 30, 2016, the County recognized pension expense of \$3,490,432. At September 30, 2016, the County 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	\$ 881,173	\$ 809,657
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	3,691,712	-
Changes of assumptions	1,498,897	83,541
Changes in the proportion and differences between the County's contributions and proportionate share of contributions	4,920	333,803
County contributions subsequent to the measurement date	427,464	-
Total	<u>\$ 6,504,166</u>	<u>\$ 1,227,001</u>

\$427,464 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from County contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction to the net pension liability in the year ended September 30, 2017. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year Ending September 30:

2017	\$ 1,378,625
2018	2,208,391
2019	641,620
2020	621,065
2021	-
Thereafter	-

Actuarial Assumptions. The total pension liability in the June 30, 2016, actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods in the measurement:

Inflation	3.00 percent
Salary increases	3.75 - 19.00 percent, including inflation
Investment rate of return	7.75 percent, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(10) DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN (Continued)

Mortality rates were based on the RP-2014 Healthy Annuitant Blue Collar Table Projected with Scale BB to 2016, with male rates set forward one year.

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2016, valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2014. The experience report is dated May 4, 2015.

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a log-normal distribution analysis in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected nominal returns, net of pension plan investment expense and the assumed rate of inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation.

The target asset allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class as of June 30, 2016, are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
U.S. Broad	34.00%	5.20%
International Equity	19.00%	5.00%
Emerging Markets Equity	8.00%	5.45%
Fixed Income	20.00%	0.25%
Real Assets	10.00%	4.00%
Private Equity	8.00%	6.15%
Cash	<u>1.00%</u>	(0.50%)
Total	<u>100.00%</u>	

Discount Rate. The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.75 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rate (9.00%) and that employer contributions will be made at the current employer contribution rate (15.75%). Based on those assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(10) DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN (Continued)

Sensitivity to the County's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate. The following presents the County's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.75 percent, as well as what the County's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (6.75 percent) or 1- percentage-point higher (8.75 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (6.75%)	Discount Rate (7.75%)	1% Increase (8.75%)
County's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 40,310,558	\$ 31,437,995	\$ 24,076,643

Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position. Detailed information about the pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued PERS financial report.

(11) LONG-TERM DEBT

Debt outstanding as of September 30, 2016, consisted of the following:

<u>Description and Purpose</u>	<u>Amount Outstanding</u>	<u>Interest Rates (%)</u>	<u>Final Maturity Date</u>
Governmental Activities:			
(a) <u>General Obligation Debt:</u>			
2011 capital projects	\$ 6,520,000	2.00 - 5.13	12/2028
FNB Clarksdale Series 2013 refunding	6,965,000	2.75 - 4.00	7/2025
FNB Clarksdale Series 2014 refunding	8,880,000	2.50 - 2.75	7/2027
FNB Clarksdale Series 2015 refunding	6,620,000	2.00	9/2022
Trustmark Series 2015B refunding	3,000,000	1.12 - 3.07	9/2030
Trustmark Series 2016 refunding	<u>10,175,000</u>	2.64	1/2031
Total general obligation bonds	<u>\$ 42,160,000</u>		
(b) Other Loans:			
MDA Capital Improvement Loan	\$ 5,012,006	3.00	11/2034
MS Dev. Bank - Industrial Development	1,055,000	4.00 - 5.00	7/2027
MDA Rail loan	150,000	3.50	9/2026
MDA Rail loan - 2016	<u>800,974</u>	2.57	5/2031
Total other loans	<u>\$ 7,017,980</u>		
(c) Capital Lease	<u>\$ 167,219</u>	2.57	8/2020

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(11) LONG-TERM DEBT (Continued)

Annual debt service requirements to maturity for debt reported in the Statement of Net Position are as follows:

Governmental Activities:

Year Ending September 30,	General Obligation Debt		Other Loans	
	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest
2017	\$ 2,120,000	\$ 1,210,072	\$ 1,281,328	\$ 897,181
2018	3,280,000	1,156,764	1,033,729	141,474
2019	3,370,000	1,078,045	239,379	134,850
2020	3,465,000	994,089	246,203	128,026
2021	3,560,000	913,784	253,236	122,993
2022 - 2026	18,420,000	2,937,329	1,379,380	491,765
2027 - 2031	7,945,000	543,911	1,515,190	280,955
2032 - 2036	-	-	1,069,535	51,623
Total	<u>\$ 42,160,000</u>	<u>\$ 8,833,994</u>	<u>\$ 7,017,980</u>	<u>\$ 2,248,867</u>

Legal Debt Margin - The amount of debt, excluding specific exempted debt, which 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, 2016, the amount of outstanding debt was equal to 7.9% of the latest property assessments.

A summary of changes in long-term liabilities and obligations for the year ended September 30, 2016, follows:

	Balance 10/1/2015	Additions	Reductions	Adjustments	Balance 9/30/2016	Due Within One Year
Governmental Activities:						
Compensated absences	\$ 674,258	\$ -	\$ (18,236)	\$ -	\$ 656,022	\$ -
General obligation debt	34,035,000	10,175,000	(2,050,000)	-	42,160,000	2,120,000
Other loans	17,530,417	800,974	(11,313,411)	-	7,017,980	1,281,328
Capital leases	42,532	173,924	(49,237)	-	167,219	40,757
Bond premium	190,631	-	(23,838)	-	166,793	-
Bond discount	(166,014)	-	16,184	-	(149,830)	-
Total	<u>\$ 52,306,824</u>	<u>\$ 11,149,898</u>	<u>\$ (13,438,538)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 50,018,184</u>	<u>\$ 3,442,085</u>

Compensated absences will be paid from the General and Countywide Road Funds.

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(11) LONG-TERM DEBT (Continued)

Current Refunding - On January 28, 2016, the County issued \$10,175,000 in general obligation refunding bonds with an interest rate of 2.635% to refund \$10,000,000 of the following outstanding note issue:

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Average Interest Rate</u>	<u>Outstanding Amount Refunded</u>
Trustmark 2015 Series General Obligation Note	1.52%	\$10,000,000

The County refunded the above note to reduce its total debt service payments over the next 12 months by almost \$10,000,000 and to obtain an economic gain (difference between the present values of the debt service payments on the old and new debt) of \$70,938.

Prior Year Defeasance of Debt – In prior years, the County defeased certain general obligation bonds by placing the proceeds of new bonds in an irrevocable trust to provide for all future debt service payments on the old bonds. Accordingly, the trust account assets and the liability for the defeased bonds are not included in the County's financial statements. On September 30, 2016, \$7,800,000 of bonds outstanding were considered defeased.

Debt outstanding for Lowndes County Industrial Development Authority as of September 30, 2016, consisted of the following:

<u>Description and Purpose</u>	<u>Amount Outstanding</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Final Maturity Date</u>
Governmental Activities:			
A. General Obligation Bonds:			
USDA Rural Development Revenue Bond	\$ 8,256,877	2.125%	9/2043
USDA Rural Development Revenue Bond	294,772	4.000%	9/2025
USDA Rural Development Revenue Bond	<u>1,609,487</u>	2.500%	8/2041
Total General Obligation Bonds	<u>\$ 10,161,136</u>		
B. Other Loans:			
USDA Rural Development Note Payable	\$ 75,868	4.500%	7/2018
USDA Rural Development Note Payable	82,758	4.250%	2/2019
USDA Rural Development Note Payable	292,357	4.125%	6/2037
Lowndes County Farms	<u>748,731</u>	5.000%	4/2019
Total Other Loans	<u>\$ 1,199,714</u>		

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(11) LONG-TERM DEBT (Continued)

The following is a schedule by years of the total payments due on this debt:

Years Ending September 30	General Obligation Bonds		Other Loans	
	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest
2017	\$ 305,476	\$ 227,392	\$ 96,482	\$ 37,731
2018	312,720	220,148	121,583	51,531
2019	320,146	212,723	717,574	37,627
2020	327,758	205,111	10,215	10,924
2021	335,562	206,411	10,637	10,502
2022 - 2026	1,748,746	854,905	60,139	45,557
2027 - 2031	1,795,402	670,152	73,609	32,087
2032 - 2036	2,001,460	464,093	90,096	15,600
2037 - 2041	2,231,428	234,257	19,379	830
2042 - 2043	<u>782,438</u>	<u>24,974</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>\$ 10,161,136</u>	<u>\$ 3,320,166</u>	<u>\$ 1,199,714</u>	<u>\$ 242,389</u>

The following is a summary of changes in long-term liabilities and obligations for Lowndes County Industrial Development Authority for the year ended September 30, 2016:

	Balance October 1, 2015	Additions	Reductions	Adjustments	Balance September 30, 2016	Amount Due Within One Year
Governmental Activities: General obligation bonds	\$ 10,459,499	\$ -	\$ 298,363	\$ -	\$ 10,161,136	\$ 305,476
Other loans	<u>1,312,950</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>113,236</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,199,714</u>	<u>96,482</u>
	<u>\$ 11,772,449</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 411,599</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 11,360,850</u>	<u>\$ 401,958</u>

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(11) LONG-TERM DEBT (Continued)

Debt outstanding for Lowndes County Port Authority as of December 30, 2016, consisted of the following:

<u>Description and Purpose</u>	<u>Amount Outstanding</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Final Maturity Date</u>
MDA Port Revitalization Loan PL-022	\$ 27,682	3.000%	5/2017
MDA Port Revitalization Loan PL-024	25,199	3.000%	7/2018

The following is a schedule by years of the total payments due on this debt:

<u>Years Ending September 30</u>	<u>Other Bonds</u>	
	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>
2017	\$ 41,377	\$ 1,582
2018	11,504	345
Total	<u>\$ 52,881</u>	<u>\$ 1,927</u>

The following is a summary of changes in long-term liabilities and other obligations for governmental activities:

	<u>Balance October 1, 2015</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Balance September 30, 2016</u>	<u>Amount Due Within One Year</u>
MDA Port Revitalization Loan PL-022	\$ 54,479	\$ -	\$ 26,797	\$ -	\$ 27,682	\$ 27,682
MDA Port Revitalization Loan PL-024	<u>38,233</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,034</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,199</u>	<u>13,695</u>
	<u>\$ 92,712</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 39,831</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 52,881</u>	<u>\$ 41,377</u>

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(12) DEFICIT FUND BALANCES OF INDIVIDUAL FUNDS

The following funds reported accrual basis deficits in fund balances at September 30, 2016:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund Balance</u>
Special revenue funds:	
ARC Grant Fund	\$ (39,746)
Pass-through ED Loans Fund	(50,947)
Fire Department Millage	(4,192)
Law Library Fund	(850)
State Aid Road Projects Fund	(146,803)
Countywide Roads and Bridges	(548,128)

These deficits are the result of claims payable accruals or amounts due to other funds and are not cash basis deficit fund balances.

(13) 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 expenditure of resources for allowable purposes. Any disallowance resulting from a grantor audit may become a liability of the County. No provision for any liability that may result has been recognized in the County's financial statements.

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 the 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.

Revenue Bond and Note Contingencies - The County issues revenue bonds and notes to provide funds for constructing and improving capital facilities of the Lowndes County Port Authority and the Lowndes County Industrial Development Authority. Revenue bonds and notes are reported as liabilities of these entities because such debt is payable primarily from their pledged revenues. However, the County remains contingently liable for the retirement of these bonds and notes because the full faith, credit and taxing power of the County is secondarily pledged in case of default. The principal amount of such debt outstanding at September 30, 2016, consisted of the following:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Balance at September 30, 2016</u>
Lowndes County Industrial Development Authority	\$ 10,161,136
Lowndes County Port Authority	52,881

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(14) COMMITMENTS

In August 2010, the City of Columbus committed to issue \$3,000,000 in tax increment limited obligation bonds in connection with an economic development project, provided certain requirements are met by the developer. The County has pledged all of the incremental increase in its real and personal ad valorem tax revenue from this district to be used by the City to repay the bonds. Bonds in the amount of \$1,172,000 were issued in November of 2016, and payment will begin in 2017.

In December 2008, the Lowndes County Industrial Development Authority incurred \$1,034,560 in debt to finance the purchase of land. The County has committed to grant the Industrial Development Authority funds to repay the debt. In 2016, the County provided grants totaling \$82,130 to the Industrial Authority for these bonds. Future payments to be granted by the County, including interest, are as follows:

<u>Year Ending September 30,</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2017	\$ 82,130
2018	82,130
2019	<u>584,471</u>
Total	<u>\$ 748,731</u>

(15) EFFECT OF DEFERRED AMOUNTS ON NET POSITION

The governmental activities' unrestricted net position amount of \$(28,442,484) includes the effect of deferred inflows/outflows of resources related to pensions. A portion of the deferred outflow of resources related to pension in the amount of \$427,464 resulting from County contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended September 30, 2017. The \$6,076,702 remaining balance of the deferred outflow of resources related to pensions at September 30, 2016, will be recognized in pension expense over the next 2.48 - 4.00 years. The \$1,227,001 balance of the deferred inflow of resources related to pension at September 30, 2016, will be recognized in pension expense over the next 2.48 years.

The governmental activities' net investment in capital assets net position of \$44,304,119 includes the effect of deferring the recognition of expenditures resulting for an advance refunding of County debt. \$808,736 of the \$7,312,902 balance of deferred outflows of resources at September 30, 2016, will be recognized as an expense and will decrease the net investment in capital assets net position over the next 6 years.

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(16) JOINT VENTURES

The County participates in the following joint ventures:

The County is a participant with the City of Columbus in a joint venture, authorized by Section 61-3-5, Mississippi Code Ann. (1972), to operate Columbus/Lowndes Airport. The joint venture was created to provide airport facilities. The joint venture is governed by a seven-member Board of Commissioners. The County appropriated \$34,203 for airport maintenance in 2016.

The County is a participant with the City of Columbus in a joint venture, authorized by Section 55-9-27, Mississippi Code Ann. (1972), to operate the Columbus/Lowndes Recreation Authority. The joint venture was created to provide recreation facilities. The joint venture is governed by a five-member board. Each entity appoints two of the five board members, with the fifth member being appointed by both. The County's appropriation from the General Fund to the joint venture was \$774,618 in 2016. Complete financial statements for the Columbus/Lowndes Recreation Authority can be obtained from Post Office Box 2245, Columbus, Mississippi 39704.

The County is a participant with the Counties of Choctaw, Clay, Noxubee, Oktibbeha and Webster and the Cities of Ackerman, Columbus, Eupora, Louisville, Macon, Starkville and West Point in a joint venture, authorized by Section 17-17-307, Mississippi Code Ann. (1972), to operate the Golden Triangle Regional Solid Waste Management Authority. The joint venture was created to provide a regional disposal site for solid waste. The County appoints 6 of the 38 members of the board of directors. The authority is funded by user fees based on the volume of solid waste. Complete financial statements for the Golden Triangle Regional Solid Waste Management Authority can be obtained from Post Office Box DN, Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762.

The County is a participant with the City of Columbus in a joint venture, authorized by Section 39-3-8, Mississippi Code Ann. (1972), to operate the Lowndes County Library System. The joint venture was created to provide library services. Each member appoints five of the ten board members. The County's appropriation to the joint venture was \$365,878 in 2016. Complete financial statements for the Lowndes County Library System can be obtained from 314 North Seventh Street, Columbus, Mississippi 39701.

(17) JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS

The County participates in the following jointly governed organizations:

Community Counseling Services operates in a district composed of the Counties of Choctaw, Clay, Lowndes, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Webster and Winston. The County appoints one of the seven members of the Board of Commissioners. The County appropriated \$81,717 for support of the agency in 2016.

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(17) JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS (Continued)

East Mississippi Community College operates in a district composed of the counties of Clay, Kemper, Lauderdale, Lowndes, Noxubee and Oktibbeha. The County appoints two of the twelve members of the College Board of Trustees. The County appropriated \$1,095,490 for maintenance and support of the college in 2016.

Golden Triangle Planning and Development District operates in a district composed of the Counties of Choctaw, Clay, Lowndes, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Webster and Winston. The County appoints four of the 28 members of the Board of Directors. The County contributes a small percentage of the district's total revenue. The County appropriated \$90,000 to the district in 2016.

Golden Triangle Regional Airport Authority operates in a district composed of the Counties of Lowndes and Oktibbeha and the Cities of Columbus, Starkville and West Point. The County appoints one of the five members of the Board of Commissioners. The County did not provide any financial support to the Authority in 2016.

Columbus-Lowndes Convention and Visitors Bureau operates in the City of Columbus and the surrounding areas in Lowndes County. The County appoints four members of the board of the Bureau. The County did not provide any support to the Bureau in 2016.

Mississippi Regional Housing Authority IV operates in a district composed of the Counties of Carroll, Choctaw, Clay, Grenada, Lowndes, Montgomery, Oktibbeha, Webster and Winston. The County appoints one of the nine board members. The County generally provides no financial support to the organization.

(18) SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Management has evaluated subsequent events through September 14, 2017, the date the financial statements were available for distribution.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL (NON-GAAP BASIS)

GENERAL FUND

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual (Budgetary Basis)	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
REVENUES				
Property taxes	\$ 12,427,200	\$ 12,517,754	\$ 12,517,754	\$ -
Revenues in lieu of taxes	4,147,280	3,965,292	3,965,292	-
Licenses, commissions and other revenue	1,073,500	1,163,290	1,163,290	-
Fines and forfeitures	545,000	768,801	768,801	-
Intergovernmental revenues	4,288,300	3,352,459	3,352,459	-
Charges for services	425,000	912,688	912,688	-
Interest income	369,000	96,389	96,389	-
Miscellaneous revenues	717,200	965,706	965,706	-
Total revenues	<u>23,992,480</u>	<u>23,742,379</u>	<u>23,742,379</u>	<u>-</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
General government	6,884,518	7,363,120	7,363,120	-
Public safety	9,595,713	9,757,933	9,757,933	-
Public works	191,240	184,215	184,215	-
Health and welfare	380,717	401,615	401,615	-
Culture and recreation	1,168,800	1,157,951	1,157,951	-
Education	325,000	325,000	325,000	-
Conservation of natural resources	183,483	167,041	167,041	-
Economic development and assistance	515,000	1,296,315	1,296,315	-
Debt service:				
Principal	2,873,674	2,823,040	2,823,040	-
Interest	1,350,226	1,350,226	1,350,226	-
Bond issue costs	-	-	175,000	(175,000)
Total expenditures	<u>23,468,371</u>	<u>24,826,456</u>	<u>25,001,456</u>	<u>(175,000)</u>
Revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>\$ 524,109</u>	<u>\$ (1,084,077)</u>	<u>\$ (1,259,077)</u>	<u>\$ (175,000)</u>

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

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL (NON-GAAP BASIS)
GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual (Budgetary Basis)	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
Revenues over (under)				
 expenditures (brought forward)	\$ 524,109	\$ (1,084,077)	\$ (1,259,077)	\$ (175,000)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Proceeds from refunding bonds	-	-	10,175,000	10,175,000
Payments to refunded bond escrow	-	-	(10,000,000)	(10,000,000)
Proceeds from capital leases	-	-	173,924	173,924
Proceeds from sale of capital assets	-	6,360	6,360	-
Transfers in	30,000	770,884	770,884	-
Transfers out	(1,558,850)	(2,849,067)	(2,849,067)	-
 Total other financing sources and uses	<u>(1,528,850)</u>	<u>(2,071,823)</u>	<u>(1,722,899)</u>	<u>348,924</u>
Net Change in Fund Balance	(1,004,741)	(3,155,900)	(2,981,976)	173,924
Fund Balances - Beginning	<u>33,631,618</u>	<u>36,258,006</u>	<u>36,886,395</u>	<u>628,389</u>
Fund Balances - Ending	<u>\$ 32,626,877</u>	<u>\$ 33,102,106</u>	<u>\$ 33,904,419</u>	<u>\$ 802,313</u>

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

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL (NON-GAAP BASIS)

COUNTYWIDE ROADS FUND

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual (Budgetary Basis)	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
REVENUES				
Property taxes	\$ 2,402,700	\$ 2,392,359	\$ 2,392,359	\$ -
Revenues in lieu of taxes	1,928,000	1,928,000	1,928,000	-
Road and bridge privilege taxes	712,000	741,302	741,302	-
Intergovernmental revenues	592,600	550,954	550,954	-
Miscellaneous revenues	15,000	47,476	47,476	-
Total revenues	<u>5,650,300</u>	<u>5,660,091</u>	<u>5,660,091</u>	<u>-</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
General government	395,175	292,322	292,322	-
Public works	5,122,918	5,097,636	5,097,636	-
Debt service:				
Principal	42,533	42,533	42,533	-
Interest	188	188	188	-
Total Expenditures	<u>5,560,814</u>	<u>5,432,679</u>	<u>5,432,679</u>	<u>-</u>
Revenues over (under) expenditures	89,486	227,412	227,412	-
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers out	-	(10,441)	(10,441)	-
Total Other Financing Sources and uses	<u>-</u>	<u>(10,441)</u>	<u>(10,441)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Change in Fund Balance	89,486	216,971	216,971	-
Fund Balances - Beginning	<u>(236,181)</u>	<u>166,845</u>	<u>166,845</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund Balances - Ending	<u>\$ (146,695)</u>	<u>\$ 383,816</u>	<u>\$ 383,816</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

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

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

**SCHEDULE OF THE COUNTY'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE
NET PENSION LIABILITY**

LAST 10 FISCAL YEARS *

FOR THE YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016, 2015 AND 2014

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
County's proportion of the net pension liability (asset)	\$ 31,437,995	\$ 27,515,290	\$ 21,650,609
County's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset)	0.176000%	0.178000%	0.178400%
County's covered-employee payroll	\$ 11,084,394	\$ 11,105,654	\$ 10,833,591
County's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	283.623900%	247.759300%	199.847000%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	57.467700%	61.704000%	67.207700%

* The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the measurement date of June 30 of the fiscal year presented. This schedule is presented to illustrate the requirement to show information for 10 years. However, GASB Statement No. 68 was implemented for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2015, and, until a full 10-year trend is compiled, the County has only presented information for the years in which information is available.

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

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

SCHEDULE OF COUNTY CONTRIBUTIONS

LAST 10 FISCAL YEARS *

FOR THE YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016, 2015 AND 2014

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Contractually required contribution	\$ 1,745,792	\$ 1,749,141	\$ 1,706,291
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	<u>1,745,792</u>	<u>1,749,141</u>	<u>1,706,291</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
County's covered-employee payroll	\$ 11,084,394	\$ 11,105,654	\$ 10,833,591
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	15.75%	15.75%	15.75%

* This schedule is presented to illustrate the requirement to show information for 10 years. However GASB Statement No. 68 was implemented for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2015, and, until a full 10-year trend is compiled, the County has only presented information for the years in which information is available.

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

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(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 revenue, each general item of expenditure, 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 (Non-GAAP Basis) presents the original legally adopted budget, the final legally adopted budget, actual amounts on a budgetary (Non-GAAP Basis) and variances between the final budget and the actual amounts. The schedule is presented for the General Fund and each major Special Revenue Fund. The Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Budget and Actual (Non-GAAP Basis) is a part of required supplementary information.

(C) Budget/GAAP Reconciliation

The major differences between the budgetary basis and the GAAP basis are:

1. Revenues are recorded when received in cash (budgetary) as opposed to when susceptible to accrual (GAAP).
2. Expenditures are recorded when paid in cash (budgetary) as opposed to when susceptible to accrual (GAAP).

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(C) **Budget/GAAP Reconciliation** (Continued)

The following schedule reconciles the net change in fund balance on budgetary basis schedules to the GAAP basis financial statements for the General Fund and each major special revenue fund:

	<u>General</u>	<u>Countywide Roads</u>
Budget (cash basis)	\$(2,981,976)	\$ 216,971
Increase (decrease):		
Net adjustment for revenue		
accruals	1,865,247	10,109
Net adjustment for expenditure		
accruals	<u>(183,637)</u>	<u>(1,189,826)</u>
GAAP Basis	<u>\$(1,300,366)</u>	<u>\$ (962,746)</u>

(D) **Pension Schedules**

Changes of assumptions:

In 2015 and later, the expectation of retired life mortality was changed to the RP-2014 Healthy Annuitant Blue Collar Table projected to 2016 using Scale BB rather than the RP-2000 Mortality Table, which was used prior to 2015. In 2015, the expectation of disabled mortality was changed to the RP-2014 Disabled Retiree Table, rather than the RP-2000 Disabled Mortality Table, which was used prior to 2015. Withdrawal rates, pre-retirement mortality rates, disability rates and service retirement rates were also adjusted to more closely reflect actual experience. In 2015, assumed rates of salary increase were adjusted to more closely reflect actual and anticipated experience. Finally, the price inflation and investment rate of return assumptions were changed from 3.50% to 3.00% and 8.00% to 7.75%, respectively.

In 2016, the assumed rate of interest credited to employee contributions was changed from 3.50% to 2.00%.

Changes in benefit provisions:

Effective July 1, 2016, the interest rate on employee contributions shall be calculated based on the money market rate as published by the *Wall Street Journal* on December 31 of each proceeding year with a minimum of one point and a maximum rate of five percent.

OTHER INFORMATION

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

SCHEDULE OF SURETY BONDS FOR COUNTY OFFICIALS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(Unaudited)

<u>Position</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>Bond</u>
Supervisor District 1	Hopkins Insurance Company	\$ 100,000
Supervisor District 2	Hopkins Insurance Company	100,000
Supervisor District 3	Hopkins Insurance Company	100,000
Supervisor District 4	Hopkins Insurance Company	100,000
Supervisor District 5	Hopkins Insurance Company	100,000
County Administrator	Hopkins Insurance Company	100,000
Chief Financial Officer	Hopkins Insurance Company	100,000
Chancery Clerk	Hopkins Insurance Company	100,000
Deputy Chancery Clerks (each)	Hopkins Insurance Company	25,000
Purchase Clerk	Hopkins Insurance Company	75,000
Assistant Purchase Clerk	Hopkins Insurance Company	50,000
Receiving Clerk	Hopkins Insurance Company	75,000
Assistant Receiving Clerk	Hopkins Insurance Company	50,000
Road Manager	Hopkins Insurance Company	50,000
Constables (each)	Hopkins Insurance Company	50,000
Circuit Clerk	Hopkins Insurance Company	100,000
Deputy Circuit Clerks (each)	Hopkins Insurance Company	100,000
Sheriff	Hopkins Insurance Company	100,000
Sheriff's Deputies (each)	Hopkins Insurance Company	50,000
Justice Court Judges (each)	Hopkins Insurance Company	50,000
Justice Court Clerk	Hopkins Insurance Company	50,000
Deputy Justice Court Clerks (each)	Hopkins Insurance Company	50,000
Tax Collector-Assessor	Hopkins Insurance Company	100,000
Deputy Tax Collectors (each)	Hopkins Insurance Company	50,000

SPECIAL REPORTS



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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' 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
Lowndes County, Mississippi

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, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Lowndes County, Mississippi, as of and for the year ended September 30, 2016, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated September 14, 2017.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Lowndes 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 Lowndes 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 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.

Members of the Board of Supervisors
Lowndes County, Mississippi

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. 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.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Lowndes 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*.

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 result 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.

J. E. Lott & Company

Columbus, Mississippi
September 14, 2017



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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' 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
Lowndes County, Mississippi

We have examined Lowndes 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, 2016. The Board of Supervisors of the County 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 the County 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.

In our opinion, Lowndes County, Mississippi, complied, in all material respects, with state laws governing central purchasing, inventory and bid requirements for the year ended September 30, 2016.

Members of the Board of Supervisors
Lowndes County, Mississippi

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 evaluation and, in our opinion, is fairly presented in relation to that examination.

This report is intended for use in evaluating Lowndes County, Mississippi's compliance with the aforementioned requirements, 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.

J. E. Rott & Company

Columbus, Mississippi
September 14, 2017

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Schedule 1

SCHEDULE OF PURCHASES NOT MADE FROM THE LOWEST BIDDER

SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

<u>Date</u>	<u>Item Purchased</u>	<u>Bid Accepted</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Lowest Bid</u>	<u>Reasons for Accepting Other than the Lowest Bid</u>
4/18/2016	2017 Tandem 7600 SBA Dump Truck	\$ 458,894	Waters Truck & Tractor	\$ 451,900	Lowest bids did not meet specifications
4/18/2016	2017 Tandem Tractor Trailer	105,665	Waters Truck & Tractor	105,334	Lowest bids did not meet specifications

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Schedule 2

SCHEDULE OF EMERGENCY PURCHASES

SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

<u>Date</u>	<u>Item Purchased</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Reasons for Emergency Purchase</u>
-------------	---------------------------	------------------------	---------------	-------------------------------------------

Our tests did not identify any emergency purchases for fiscal year 2016.

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**Schedule 3****SCHEDULE OF PURCHASES MADE NONCOMPETITIVELY
FROM A SOLE SOURCE****SEPTEMBER 30, 2016**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Items Purchased</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
3/15/2016	Data conversion of PTS to new software Integrated	Integrated Communications, Inc.	\$ 7,500
4/05/2016	SO-UFED Ultimate Data Port	Cellebrite, USA	8,884

**LIMITED INTERNAL CONTROL AND
COMPLIANCE REVIEW MANAGEMENT REPORT**



LIMITED INTERNAL CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE REVIEW MANAGEMENT REPORT

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Members of the Board of Supervisors Lowndes County, Mississippi

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of Lowndes County, Mississippi for the year ended September 30, 2016, we considered Lowndes County, Mississippi's internal control to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on internal control.

In addition, for areas not considered material to Lowndes 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 September 14, 2017, on the financial statements of Lowndes County, Mississippi.

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Although no findings came to our attention as a result of these review procedures and compliance tests, these procedures and tests cannot and do not provide absolute assurance that all state legal requirements have been complied with. Also, our consideration of the 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.

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.

T. E. Lott & Company

Columbus, Mississippi
September 14, 2017

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES
SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

SECTION 1: SUMMARY OF AUDIT RESULTS

Financial Statements:

1. Type of auditors' report issued:
 - a. Governmental activities Unmodified
 - b. Aggregate discretely presented component units Unmodified
 - c. General fund Unmodified
 - d. Countywide roads fund Unmodified
 - e. Aggregate remaining fund information Unmodified
2. Internal control over financial reporting:
 - a. Material weaknesses identified No
 - b. Significant deficiencies identified that are not considered to be material weaknesses None reported
3. Noncompliance material to the financial statements noted No

SECTION 2: FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS

The results of our tests did not disclose any findings related to the financial statements that are required to be reported by Government Auditing Standards.