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CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**Audited Financial Statements
Year Ended September 30, 2017**

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**Audited Financial Statements
Year Ended September 30, 2017**

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CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**Audited Financial Statements
Year Ended September 30, 2017**

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Founder (1915-1997)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of Laurel, Mississippi

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Laurel, Mississippi as of and for the year ended September 30, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the City of Laurel, Mississippi'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.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

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

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

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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 business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Laurel, Mississippi as of September 30, 2017, 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, budgetary comparison information, the Schedule of the City's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability, Schedule of City Contributions, Schedule of Changes in Net Pension Liability, and the Schedule of Employer Contributions on pages 6-17 and 65-71, respectively, 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.

Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the City of Laurel, Mississippi's basic financial statements. The introductory section, combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements, and statistical section, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. The schedule of expenditures of federal awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, and is also not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements and the schedule of expenditures of federal awards are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements and the schedule of expenditures of federal awards are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated March 20, 2018 on our consideration of the City of Laurel, 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 or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering City of Laurel, Mississippi's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Holt & Associates, PLLC

Laurel, MS

March 20, 2018

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Year Ended September 30, 2017

The Discussion and Analysis of the City of Laurel's financial performance provides an overall narrative review of the City's financial activities for the year ended September 30, 2017. The intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the City's financial performance as a whole. Readers should also review the City's financial statements in conjunction with the notes to the basic financial statements to enhance their understanding of the City's financial performance.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Key financial highlights for 2017 were as follows:

- Total net position decreased by \$1,584,677 or 6% from 2016, including a prior period adjustment of (\$1,2264,839)
- Total assets increased by \$8,229,199 or 8% from 2016
- Total liabilities increased by \$4,886,397 or 5% from 2016
- In total, equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents increased \$4,492,966, or 91% from 2016
- Overall, the book value of capital assets increased by \$1,041,281 or 1% from 2016

Using this Annual Financial Report:

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements and notes to those statements. These statements are organized so the reader can understand the City of Laurel as a financial whole or as an entire operating entity. The statements then proceed to provide an increasingly detailed look at specific financial conditions.

The Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities provide information about the activities of the whole City, presenting both an aggregate view of the City's finances and a longer-term view of those assets. Major fund financial statements provide the next level of detail. For governmental funds, these statements tell how services were financed in the short-term as well as what dollars remain for future spending. The fund financial statements also look at the City's most significant funds with all other non-major funds presented in total in one column.

Reporting the City of Laurel as a Whole:

Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities

While this document contains information about the funds used by the City to provide services to our citizens, the view of the City as a whole looks at all financial transactions and asks the question, "How did we do financially during 2017?" The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities answer this question.

These statements include all assets and liabilities using the accrual basis of accounting similar to the accounting used by private sector companies. This basis of accounting take into account all of the current year's revenues and expenses regardless of when the cash is received or paid.

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS Year Ended September 30, 2017

These two statements report the City's net position and the changes in those assets. This change in assets is important because it tells the reader whether, for the City as a whole, the financial position has improved or diminished. However, in evaluating the overall position of the City, non-financial information such as changes in the City's tax base and the condition of City capital assets will also need to be evaluated.

In the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities, all of the City's activities are reported as Governmental Activities, which include all of the City's services including police, fire, administration, and all other departments. The City of Laurel, Mississippi has no component units.

Reporting the City of Laurel's Most Significant Funds:

Fund Financial Statements

The analysis of the City's major funds begins on page 20. Fund financial reports provide detailed information about the City's major funds. Based on restrictions on the use of monies, the City has established many funds, which account for the multitude of services provided to the City's residents. However, these fund financial statements focus on the City's most significant funds. In the case of the City of Laurel, Mississippi, the City's major funds are the General Fund, Recreation Fund, Bond and Interest Retirement Fund, Tourism Bond 1996 Fund, Tourism Bond 1998 Fund, Capital Improvements Fund, Street Improvement Fund, Recreation Improvement Fund, SRF Capital Project, Public Utility Fund, and Solid Waste Fund.

Governmental Funds

All of the City's activities are reported in the governmental funds, which focus on how money flows into and out of those funds and the balances left at year-end available for spending in future periods. These funds are reported using an accounting method called modified accrual accounting, which measures cash and all other financial assets that can readily be converted to cash. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed short-term view of the City's general government operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps you determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future on services provided to the City's residents. The relationship or differences between governmental activities reported in the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities and governmental funds is reconciled in the financial statements.

Fiduciary funds

Fiduciary funds are used to account for resources held for the benefit of parties outside the City. Fiduciary funds are not reflected in the government-wide financial statements because resources of those funds are not available to support the City's own programs. The accrual basis of accounting is used for fiduciary funds. The City is responsible for ensuring that the assets reported in these funds are used for their intended purpose. The City's fiduciary activities are presented in the Statement of Fiduciary Net Position and Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position on pages 26 and 27.

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
Year Ended September 30, 2017

Proprietary Funds

The City of Laurel maintains one type of proprietary fund, an enterprise fund that is used to report business-type activities in the government-wide financial statements. The City uses enterprise fund accounting in order to account for the water and sewer system operations, solid waste disposal, and capital projects contained to them.

Proprietary funds provide the same type of information as the government-wide financial statements, only in more detail. The basic proprietary fund financial statements can be found on pages 28-30. Operating revenues of the water and sewer system are utilized to fund operations and maintenance expenses and debt service.

The City of Laurel, Mississippi as a Whole

Recall that the Statement of Net Position looks at the City as a whole. Table 1 provides a summary of the City's net position for 2017 compared to 2016.

Table 2 shows the Changes in Net Position for the year ended September 30, 2017.

(See Next Pages for Table 1 and Table 2)

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
Year Ended September 30, 2017**

Table 1

Net Position

	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Totals	
	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016
ASSETS						
Current and other assets	\$ 25,611,689	\$ 23,036,311	\$ 17,518,132	\$ 12,905,592	\$ 43,129,821	\$ 35,941,903
Capital assets, net	49,527,726	47,690,703	25,255,175	26,050,917	74,782,901	73,741,620
Total assets	<u>\$ 75,139,415</u>	<u>\$ 70,727,014</u>	<u>\$ 42,773,307</u>	<u>\$ 38,956,509</u>	<u>\$ 117,912,722</u>	<u>\$ 109,683,523</u>
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS	<u>\$ 1,294,777</u>	<u>\$ 5,717,315</u>	<u>\$ 77,162</u>	<u>\$ 263,542</u>	<u>\$ 1,371,939</u>	<u>\$ 5,980,857</u>
LIABILITIES						
Current and other liabilities	6,937,205	3,846,816	2,264,618	1,960,711	9,201,823	5,807,527
Long-term liabilities, outstanding:						
Due within one year	2,599,950	2,463,883	1,534,992	1,381,092	4,134,942	3,844,975
Payable after one year	29,189,478	28,314,506	22,249,791	19,784,637	51,439,269	48,099,143
Net pension liability	28,870,806	30,902,745	1,238,114	1,344,167	30,108,920	32,246,912
Total liabilities	<u>\$ 67,597,439</u>	<u>\$ 65,527,950</u>	<u>\$ 27,287,515</u>	<u>\$ 24,470,607</u>	<u>\$ 94,884,954</u>	<u>\$ 89,998,557</u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS	<u>\$ 549,459</u>	<u>\$ 248,920</u>	<u>\$ 33,264</u>	<u>\$ 15,242</u>	<u>\$ 582,723</u>	<u>\$ 264,162</u>
NET POSITION						
Net investment in capital assets	17,995,932	17,165,527	1,492,411	4,907,207	19,488,343	22,072,734
Restricted	14,537,246	10,723,814	-	-	14,537,246	10,723,814
Unrestricted	(24,245,884)	(17,221,882)	14,037,279	9,826,995	(10,208,605)	(7,394,887)
Total net position	<u>\$ 8,287,294</u>	<u>\$ 10,667,459</u>	<u>\$ 15,529,690</u>	<u>\$ 14,734,202</u>	<u>\$ 23,816,984</u>	<u>\$ 25,401,661</u>

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
Year Ended September 30, 2017**

Table 2

Change in Net Position

	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Totals	
	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016
REVENUES:						
Program Revenues:						
Charges for services	\$ 1,988,997	\$ 2,136,696	\$ 11,673,559	\$ 12,179,814	\$ 13,662,556	\$ 14,316,510
Capital grants and contributions	1,000,170	2,386,650	-	-	1,000,170	2,386,650
Total program revenues	2,989,167	4,523,346	11,673,559	12,179,814	14,662,726	16,703,160
General Revenues:						
Property taxes	5,195,180	5,382,473	-	-	5,195,180	5,382,473
Other taxes	10,219,299	10,903,776	-	-	10,219,299	10,903,776
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs	1,684,977	1,620,204	-	-	1,684,977	1,620,204
Other general revenues	1,561,743	1,275,208	405,091	360,555	1,966,834	1,635,763
Total general revenues	18,661,199	19,181,661	405,091	360,555	19,066,290	19,542,216
Total revenues	21,650,366	23,705,007	12,078,650	12,540,369	33,729,016	36,245,376
PROGRAM EXPENSES						
General government	5,396,657	4,839,005	-	-	5,396,657	4,839,005
Public safety	10,688,122	11,165,246	-	-	10,688,122	11,165,246
Public works	2,577,844	2,347,378	-	-	2,577,844	2,347,378
Health and welfare	397,032	420,624	-	-	397,032	420,624
Culture and recreation	2,137,531	2,557,422	-	-	2,137,531	2,557,422
Economic development	841,266	827,309	-	-	841,266	827,309
Water and sewer	-	-	11,152,719	11,466,851	11,152,719	11,466,851
Interest and fiscal charges	857,683	926,995	-	-	857,683	926,995
Total program expenses	22,896,135	23,083,979	11,152,719	11,466,851	34,048,854	34,550,830
Increase in net position before transfers	(1,245,769)	621,028	925,931	1,073,518	(319,838)	1,694,546
Transfers	115,000	50,000	(115,000)	(50,000)	-	-
Increase in net position after transfers	(1,130,769)	671,028	810,931	1,023,518	(319,838)	1,694,546
Net Position - Beginning	10,667,459	10,116,499	14,734,202	13,423,274	25,401,661	23,539,773
Prior Period Adjustment	(1,249,396)	(120,068)	(15,443)	287,410	(1,264,839)	167,342
Net Position - Beginning, as Restated	9,418,063	9,996,431	14,718,759	13,710,684	24,136,822	23,707,115
Net Position - Ending	\$ 8,287,294	\$ 10,667,459	\$ 15,529,690	\$ 14,734,202	\$ 23,816,984	\$ 25,401,661

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
Year Ended September 30, 2017

The City's financial position is a product of several financial transactions including the net result of activities, the acquisition and payment of debt, the acquisition and disposal of capital assets and the depreciation of capital assets. The net position of the City's governmental activities increased by \$550,960, including the effects of prior period adjustment of \$(120,068) and the unrestricted net position of the City increased by \$2,323,772. By far the largest portion of the City's net position (87% for 2017 and 134% for 2016) reflects its investment in capital assets (e.g., land, infrastructure, buildings, mobile equipment, furniture and equipment, leased property under capital leases and construction in progress, less any related debt used to acquire those assets that are still outstanding). The City uses these capital assets to provide services to its citizens; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending.

Additional information on unrestricted net position:

In connection with the application of standards on accounting and financial reporting for pensions, management presents the following additional information:

Total unrestricted net position (deficit)	\$ (10,208,605)
Less unrestricted deficit in net position resulting from recognition of the net pension liability, including the deferred outflows and deferred inflows related to pensions	29,319,704
Unrestricted net position, exclusive of the net pension liability effect	<u>\$ 19,111,099</u>

Governmental Activities

Several revenue sources fund our Governmental Activities. Under the accrual basis of accounting, the City received \$8,751,501 in sales tax collections from the State of Mississippi, or 46% of general revenues; revenues from the collection of property taxes accounted for \$5,382,473, or 28% of general revenues. Franchise taxes collected from various entities located within the City accounted for \$1,829,407, or 10% of general revenues. Revenues received from charges for services and grants amounted to \$4,523,346, or 24% of general revenues.

Major expense activities, under the accrual basis of accounting, included Public Safety expenses accounting for \$11,165,246, or 48% of total program expenses. Public works accounted for \$2,347,378, or 10% of total program expenses. The City is committed to providing the basic services that our residents expect.

Business-Type Activities

Business type activities increased the City of Laurel's net position by \$795,488 including the effect of a prior period adjustment of \$(15,443) in 2017. The substantial increase in 2017 was mainly due to decrease in spending.

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
Year Ended September 30, 2017

The City's Funds

Information about the City's major governmental funds begins on page 20. These funds are accounted for using the modified accrual basis of accounting. All governmental funds had total revenues of \$21,910,537 and expenditures of \$25,886,174.

The fund balances of the general fund decreased by \$242,671 while expenditures exceeded revenues by \$20,233. Much of the excess was transferred to other funds. These funds used the transfers for street maintenance, recreation programs, and construction projects.

General Fund Budgeting Highlights

The City's budget is prepared according to Mississippi law and is based on accounting for certain transactions on a basis of cash receipts, disbursements, and encumbrances. The most significant budgeted fund is the General Fund.

During the course of 2017, the City amended its General Fund budget. All recommendations for a budget change come from the City Finance Director to the City Council for review and ordinance enactment on the change. The City does not allow budget changes that modify line items within departments without Council approval. With the General Fund supporting many of our major activities such as our police and fire departments, as well as most legislative and executive activities, the General Fund is monitored closely looking for possible revenue shortfalls or over spending by individual departments.

Over the course of the year, the City revised the annual operating budget. A schedule showing the original and final budget amounts compared to the City's actual financial activity for the General Fund is provided in this report as required supplementary information.

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
Year Ended September 30, 2017

Capital Assets and General Long-Term Obligations

Capital Assets

Table 3a represents a summary of major classes of capital assets net of depreciation for the governmental activities of the City of Laurel at September 30, 2017 and 2016.

Table 3a
Capital Assets (Net of Depreciation)
Governmental Activities

	2017	2016
Land	\$ 887,520	\$ 887,520
Buildings and infrastructure	44,501,529	41,491,020
Furniture and equipment	2,723,185	2,977,825
Construction in progress	1,415,492	2,334,338
Total	<u>\$ 49,527,726</u>	<u>\$ 47,690,703</u>

Table 3b represents a summary of major classes of capital assets net of depreciation for the business-type activities of the City of Laurel at September 30, 2017 and 2016.

Table 3b
Capital Assets (Net of Depreciation)
Business-Type Activities

	2017	2016
Buildings and infrastructure	\$ 23,388,584	\$ 19,255,365
Furniture and equipment	1,416,583	1,575,770
Construction in progress	450,008	5,219,782
Total	<u>\$ 25,255,175</u>	<u>\$ 26,050,917</u>

The primary decrease in capital assets is due to depreciation.

Additional information of the City's capital assets can be found in Note 6 on pages 46-48 of this report.

General Long-Term Obligations

At September 30, 2017, the City of Laurel, Mississippi had \$55,574,211 in outstanding general obligation bonds payable and notes payable. The City's long-term debt at September 30, 2016 was \$51,944,118. Table 4 indicates the total outstanding long-term obligations of the City.

(See next page for Table 4)

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS Year Ended September 30, 2017

	2017	2016
General Bonded Debt		
General Obligation Bonds	\$ 19,770,000	\$ 21,215,000
CAP Loans Payable	4,391,333	4,628,566
MS Development Bank Bonded Debt	2,315,000	2,745,000
Notes payable	1,537,405	1,443,676
Capital leases	710,369	492,934
Energy efficiency lease	2,807,687	-
Subtotal General Bonded Debt	31,531,794	30,525,176
Revenue Bonds		
Water and Sewer General Obligation Bonds	5,880,000	2,120,000
Water and Sewer Revenue Bonds	2,805,000	2,950,000
CAP Loans Payable	150,740	178,935
General Obligation Notes - State Revolving Loan Fund	14,868,762	15,826,936
Notes payable	58,262	63,339
Capital leases	-	4,500
Subtotal Revenue Bonds	23,762,764	21,143,710
Compensated Absences	279,653	275,232
Total Long-Term Obligations	<u>\$ 55,574,211</u>	<u>\$ 51,944,118</u>

Additional information of the City's long-term debt can be found in Note 7 on pages 49-53 of this report.

Current Issues

In Fiscal Year 2017, the City of Laurel had several projects underway, including street improvements, water and sewer projects, new construction, and recreation improvements. The City of Laurel also received and administered several grant programs. These projects were accomplished without raising the city's ad valorem taxes in Fiscal Year 2017. Laurel has always encouraged our business community and has developed a strong support network for new businesses. Applications for one hundred twenty-five new business licenses were completed in FY 2017 (up from one hundred eight in FY 2016).

Street Improvements

In February, 2013, the City of Laurel issued a \$3 million General Obligation bond to finance street projects within the city limits. As a result of this bond issue, the number of tax mills levied increased by 1.35 mills within the Debt Service Fund, beginning in October 2013. Three major projects were funded with the bond proceeds; the Seventh Avenue Project and Grandview Drive Project have been completed.

Leontyne Price Corridor – Plans for Leontyne Price Boulevard include completely reconstructing the street, improving existing sidewalks, and placing the power lines underground. This exit is a major business corridor, connecting Interstate 59 to downtown Laurel and Sawmill Square Mall. The City hopes that this investment of \$3.6 million of federal money with our match of \$1 million will help revitalize this business corridor. Our engineering firm is in the design phase of this project and securing necessary right-of-way.

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS Year Ended September 30, 2017

In December of 2015, the City of Laurel issued a GO bond in the amount of \$10 million for street repair and reconstruction. The citizens of Laurel recognized the need for good streets within our city and not a single objection was raised at the required public hearings. This bond was especially designated for commercial and residential streets within the city. The first contract for street repair was started in FY 2016.

MDOT awarded the City another grant in the amount of \$705,000 which will include the realignment of the flagpole roundabout and drainage improvements along Central Avenue, which is the major street in our downtown area.

The City entered into a loan agreement with the South Mississippi Planning and Development District in the amount of \$182,000 for the purpose of installing a traffic signal at MS Hwy 15 and 12th Street. This is a very busy intersection because of two high schools located on 12th Street.

Public Utility (Water/Sewer) Projects

Our water and wastewater contractor is Suez Water Environmental Services, Inc. By agreement, Suez has 48 employees on staff. Their annual base contract is \$3,925,029.00. There were 2,788,479,000 gallons of wastewater treated at Massey and Smiley lagoons, while we produced 2,957,647,430 gallons of water.

Mainly because of the high amount of water/sewer projects completed this past year within this fund, the water and sewer rates were increased by 3% beginning in March, 2017. Two hundred thirty-three (233) corrective work orders were completed and 1657 preventative work orders were done. The City had no sanitary sewer overflows (SSO's) due to pump or lift station failures. The only SSO's occurred because of weather or heavy flows.

Drainage Improvements

The City of Laurel is located between two creeks that eventually join south of the City. Because of this, Laurel has a never-ending battle with drainage. The City partners with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Pat Harrison Waterway to improve our drainage ditches and our creeks. During FY 2016 we began a NRCS drainage project along E. Elmo, Oak Park Blvd. and Mason Park at a total cost of \$252,500; our local match was \$63,000.00. This project was completed in FY 2017.

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS Year Ended September 30, 2017

Police Department

The City received and administered a grant called the Victims Advocate Grant from the Department of Justice. The purpose of this grant is to hire an advocate for the victims in our municipal court cases. The City also received a Healthy Heroes grant from Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Mississippi in the amount of \$189,000. The grant's purpose is to promote health and exercise among police officers. Plans are underway for a walking track and exercise equipment.

In 2017, the Laurel Police Department (LPD) participated in several inter-governmental activities within the community. These included:

- 1) Conducted Healthy Heroes program at 11 locations with over 650 children participating.
- 2) Collected over 250 pounds of unwanted and outdated prescription drugs during April and October.
- 3) Conducted Night Out Against Crime
- 4) Participated in the Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
- 5) Sponsored two children from the Salvation Army Angel Tree Program for Christmas for the sixth year in a row.
- 6) Rang the bell for the Salvation Army at Walmart raising \$628.
- 7) Sponsored the third annual Stuff-A-Truck for the Good Samaritan Center.
- 8) Sponsored their annual Shop with a Cop for fifteen children and teamed up with the Fraternal Order of Police, Walmart and Laurel Ford to provide one-hundred new bikes to children.

Fire Department

Last year the fire department answered 854 calls, with 114 of those being for fires and 132 being for rescue and emergency medical. They recorded an estimated total of \$1,378,170 in property and content losses.

The Laurel Fire Department received a \$98,000 grant from FEMA which was used to train firefighters in hazardous materials training (haz/mat) and also to purchase related haz/mat equipment. Another purpose of the grant was for overtime for the firefighters who have to fill in for those firefighters who were attending haz/mat training.

Recreation Department

During the year the Parks Division removed 29 diseased, dead or dangerous trees throughout the city, kept up the flowerbeds throughout the city and edged curbs and sidewalks.

At the Sportsplex they hosted the Dixie Youth Baseball 5-12-year-old spring league with 400 participants and approximately 40,000 in attendance between March and June. Parks and Rec hosted Dixie Youth Baseball 5-12-year-old fall league with 200 participants and approximately 15,000 in attendance between September and November. They also hosted the Dixie Youth Baseball 5-6-year-old district tournament in June. Throughout the year, they hosted 6 USSSA Select Baseball Tournaments.

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS Year Ended September 30, 2017

At Boots Smith Fields, the Parks and Recreation Department hosted Laurel High School Fastpitch Softball practice and home games, renovated a storage building into a new locker room, upgraded dugouts with storage areas, and painted.

At the West Drive facilities, Parks and Rec hosted Dixie Pre-Majors baseball 15-16-year-old state tournament in July, hosted Dixie Majors Baseball 17-19-year-old in July, and hosted Laurel Christian School home baseball games. At Wooten Legion Field, they hosted Urban Professional Baseball League sign-ups and tryouts.

At Gardiner Park they installed electrical supply for the north end of the park to facilitate events. They also hosted the American Heart Walk, one 5K run, two fun walks, several weddings and birthday parties. At Mason Park, a new pedestrian bridge was constructed.

In 1996 and 1998, the City of Laurel issued two General Obligation Bonds to build a sportsplex and a natatorium for our citizens to use and also to attract tourists to our city. These two bonds are repaid through a specially levied two-cent sales tax on restaurants and hotels within our city. Over the years both bonds have been refinanced and the first one was paid off in March 2016. The one cent sales tax was used to finance another \$4.4 million bond issue and engineering design plans are underway to build eight more softball fields to the complex.

In FY 2017, the City applied for and was awarded a grant from Americorp in the amount of \$174,000. The purpose of this grant is to hire individuals to work within the recreation department which will provide job-related skills and also an education stipend to these individuals.

Brownfields Grant

In October 2014, the City was awarded a Brownfields grant (from the EPA) in the amount of \$400,000. The purpose of this grant was to clean up dilapidated pieces of property so that they could become useful pieces of property again and be restored to the city's tax rolls. This project was successfully completed and closed out in September 2017.

Conclusion

The City of Laurel is a vibrant and growing city with many projects currently underway or in the planning and design stage. Maintaining and improving new and existing infra-structure are the two top priorities for this Mayor and City Council. The Administration will continue to be involved in the day-to-day management of our City in order for our City to meet the challenges we will face in the future.

Contacting the City's City Clerk:

The financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, creditors, and investors with a general overview of the City's finances and to show the City's accountability for the money it receives. Copies of this report will be on file at City Hall as well as the Laurel-Jones County Library Systems, Inc. If you have any questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact Mary Ann Hess, City Finance Director at 601-428-6404.

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

Statement of Net Position
September 30, 2017

EXHIBIT A

PRIMARY GOVERNMENT

	Governmental Activities	Business-type Activities	Total
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 4,855,658	\$ 4,572,686	\$ 9,428,344
Short-term investments	16,097,637	8,628,822	24,726,459
Accrued interest receivable	55,024	27,138	82,162
Accounts receivable	20,817,481	2,638,299	23,455,780
Allowance for uncollectibles	(18,340,115)	(1,303,663)	(19,643,778)
Due from other funds	-	2,952,089	2,952,089
Due from other governments	2,007,542	-	2,007,542
Inventory	17,156	-	17,156
Prepaid assets	52,400	2,761	55,161
Deferred charges	48,906	-	48,906
Capital assets, net	49,527,726	25,255,175	74,782,901
Total Assets	\$ 75,139,415	\$ 42,773,307	\$ 117,912,722
DEFERED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Deferred outflows related to pensions	\$ 1,294,777	\$ 77,162	\$ 1,371,939
LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 1,117,775	\$ 764,266	\$ 1,882,041
Restricted assets	2,778,949	-	2,778,949
Customer deposits	1,000	658,009	659,009
Due to other funds	819,666	842,343	1,662,009
Due to other governments	2,219,815	-	2,219,815
Long-term liabilities (Due within one year)			
Capital related liabilities	2,599,950	1,534,992	4,134,942
Long-term liabilities (Due beyond one year)			
Capital related liabilities	28,931,844	22,227,772	51,159,616
Non-capital related liabilities	257,634	22,019	279,653
Net pension liability	28,870,806	1,238,114	30,108,920
Total Liabilities	67,597,439	27,287,515	94,884,954
DEFERED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Deferred inflows related to pensions	\$ 549,459	\$ 33,264	\$ 582,723
NET POSITION			
Investment in capital assets (net of related debt)	17,995,932	1,492,411	19,488,343
Restricted for:			
Capital improvements	10,882,535	-	10,882,535
Debt service	3,570,355	-	3,570,355
Unemployment benefits	84,356	-	84,356
Unrestricted	(24,245,884)	14,037,279	(10,208,605)
Total Net Position	\$ 8,287,294	\$ 15,529,690	\$ 23,816,984

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

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**Statement of Activities
Year Ended September 30, 2017**

EXHIBIT B

Activities	Expenses	Program Revenues			Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Assets		
		Fees, Fines and Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities	Business-type Activities	Total
GOVERNMENTAL:							
General government	\$ 5,396,657	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 140,461	\$ (5,256,196)	\$ -	\$ (5,256,196)
Public safety	10,688,122	1,514,559	-	248,281	(8,925,282)	-	(8,925,282)
Public works	2,577,844	208,009	-	502,479	(1,867,356)	-	(1,867,356)
Health & welfare	397,032	-	-	-	(397,032)	-	(397,032)
Culture & recreation	2,137,531	266,429	-	108,949	(1,762,153)	-	(1,762,153)
Economic development	841,266	-	-	-	(841,266)	-	(841,266)
Interest	857,683	-	-	-	(857,683)	-	(857,683)
Total governmental activities	22,896,135	1,988,997	-	1,000,170	(19,906,968)	-	(19,906,968)
BUSINESS-TYPE:							
Water & sewer	11,152,719	11,673,559	-	-	-	520,840	520,840
Total business-type activities	11,152,719	11,673,559	-	-	-	520,840	520,840
Total primary government	\$ 34,048,854	\$ 13,662,556	\$ -	\$ 1,000,170	(19,906,968)	520,840	(19,386,128)
GENERAL REVENUES:							
Taxes:							
					3,527,227	-	3,527,227
					1,667,953	-	1,667,953
					8,145,247	-	8,145,247
					1,764,486	-	1,764,486
					231,951	-	231,951
					14,985	-	14,985
					62,630	-	62,630
					1,684,977	-	1,684,977
					218,973	119,673	338,646
					(116,376)	(88,144)	(204,520)
					800,910	372,759	1,173,669
					117,486	-	117,486
					(11,044)	803	(10,241)
					551,794	-	551,794
					115,000	(115,000)	-
					18,776,199	290,091	19,066,290
CHANGE IN NET POSITION							
					(1,130,769)	810,931	(319,838)
NET POSITION - BEGINNING							
					10,667,459	14,734,202	25,401,661
					(1,249,396)	(15,443)	(1,264,839)
NET POSITION - BEGINNING, AS RESTATED							
					9,418,063	14,718,759	24,136,822
NET POSITION - ENDING							
					\$ 8,287,294	\$ 15,529,690	\$ 23,816,984

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

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**Balance Sheet
Governmental Funds
September 30, 2017**

	General Fund	Recreation Fund	Bond and Interest Retirement Fund	Tourism Bond 1996 Fund	Tourism Bond 1998 Fund
ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 24,987	\$ 132,073	\$ 3,299,141	\$ 80,708	\$ 5,075
Investments	1,688,288	-	254,068	-	-
Accounts receivable	20,817,481	-	-	-	-
Allowance for uncollectibles	(18,340,115)	-	-	-	-
Accrued interest receivable	6,894	-	450	-	-
Due from other funds	319,225	-	82,122	19,908	-
Due from other governments	1,328,085	7,584	20,147	121,780	121,780
Inventory	17,156	-	-	-	-
Prepaid items	47,338	5,062	-	-	-
Total assets	\$ 5,909,339	\$ 144,719	\$ 3,655,928	\$ 222,396	\$ 126,855
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES					
Liabilities:					
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 479,431	\$ 88,766	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 120,673
Due to other funds	1,026,962	-	135,351	2,500	19,908
Due to other governments	819,666	-	-	-	-
Customer deposits	1,000	-	-	-	-
Total Liabilities	2,327,059	88,766	135,351	2,500	140,581
Fund Balances:					
Nonspendable:					
Inventory	17,156	-	-	-	-
Prepaid items	47,338	5,062	-	-	-
Restricted:					
Debt service	-	-	3,520,577	219,896	(13,726)
Capital projects	-	-	-	-	-
Unemployment benefits	-	-	-	-	-
Assigned:					
Recreational purposes	-	50,891	-	-	-
Public safety and awareness	-	-	-	-	-
Unassigned:					
	3,517,786	-	-	-	-
Total Fund Balance	3,582,280	55,953	3,520,577	219,896	(13,726)
Total liabilities & fund balance	\$ 5,909,339	\$ 144,719	\$ 3,655,928	\$ 222,396	\$ 126,855

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

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

Balance Sheet
Governmental Funds
September 30, 2017

EXHIBIT C

	Capital I Improvements Fund	Street Improvement Fund	Recreation Improvement Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total
ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38,917	\$ 1,274,757	\$ 4,855,658
Investments	1,438,046	8,634,936	4,082,299	-	16,097,637
Accounts receivable	-	-	-	-	20,817,481
Allowance for uncollectibles	-	-	-	-	(18,340,115)
Accrued interest receivable	2,647	36,560	8,473	-	55,024
Due from other funds	80,263	158	2,500	192,896	697,072
Due from other governments	151,992	-	-	256,173	2,007,541
Inventory	-	-	-	-	17,156
Prepaid items	-	-	-	-	52,400
Total assets	\$ 1,672,948	\$ 8,671,654	\$ 4,132,189	\$ 1,723,826	\$ 26,259,854
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES					
Liabilities:					
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 139,602	\$ 2,519,362	\$ 39,185	\$ 353,314	\$ 3,740,333
Due to other funds	1,220,697	-	-	511,469	2,916,887
Due to other governments	-	-	-	-	819,666
Customer deposits	-	-	-	-	1,000
Total Liabilities	1,360,299	2,519,362	39,185	864,783	7,477,886
Fund Balances:					
Nonspendable:					
Inventory	-	-	-	-	17,156
Prepaid items	-	-	-	-	52,400
Restricted:					
Debt service	-	-	-	-	3,726,747
Capital projects	312,649	6,152,292	4,093,004	324,590	10,882,535
Unemployment benefits	-	-	-	84,356	84,356
Assigned:					
Recreational purposes	-	-	-	-	50,891
Public safety and awareness	-	-	-	450,099	450,099
Unassigned:					
	-	-	-	-	3,517,786
Total Fund Balance	312,649	6,152,292	4,093,004	859,045	18,781,970
Total liabilities & fund balance	\$ 1,672,948	\$ 8,671,654	\$ 4,132,189	\$ 1,723,828	\$ 26,259,856

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

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**Reconciliation of the Governmental Funds Balance Sheet
To the Statement of Net Position
September 30, 2017**

EXHIBIT C-1

Total fund balances for governmental funds (Exhibit C)		\$ 18,781,970
Total position reported for the governmental activities in the statement of net position is different because:		
1. Capital assets are used in governmental activities and are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds		
Land	887,520	
Construction in progress	1,415,492	
Buildings and infrastructure	68,102,737	
Furniture and mobile equipment	8,536,676	
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(29,414,699)</u>	49,527,726
2. Long-term liabilities and related accrued interest are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds:		
General obligation bonds	(19,770,000)	
Notes payable	(11,761,795)	
Compensated Absences	(257,634)	
Accrued interest payable	<u>(156,391)</u>	(31,945,820)
3. Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current-period expenditures and therefore are deferred in the funds.		
Deferred Charges	<u>48,906</u>	48,906
4. Some liabilities, including net position obligations are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds		
Net pension liability	<u>(28,870,806)</u>	(28,870,806)
5. Deferred outflows and inflows related to pensions are applicable to future period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds:		
Deferred outflows of resources related to pension	1,294,777	
Deferred inflows of resources related to pensions	<u>(549,459)</u>	<u>745,318</u>
Total net position of governmental activities (Exhibit A)		<u><u>\$ 8,287,294</u></u>

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

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
Year Ended September 30, 2017**

	General Fund	Recreation Fund	Bond and Interest Retirement Fund	Tourism Bond 1996 Fund	Tourism Bond 1998 Fund
REVENUES					
General property taxes:					
Current	\$ 2,723,508	\$ 773,398	\$ 1,653,234	\$ -	\$ -
Delinquent	4,731	508	1,347	-	-
Penalties and interest on delinquent taxes	19,555	5,527	13,372	-	-
Homestead exemption	116,619	32,993	82,339	-	-
Licenses and permits	208,009	-	-	-	-
Franchise taxes on utilities	1,764,486	-	-	-	-
Intergovernmental revenue	62,630	-	-	-	-
Gas & oil severance tax	14,985	-	-	-	-
State shared revenues	57,758	-	-	761,706	761,706
Federal grants	10,818	-	-	-	-
State grants	-	-	10,046	-	-
Local revenues	800,910	-	-	-	-
General sales taxes	8,145,247	-	-	-	-
Charges for services	26,601	239,828	-	-	-
Fines and forfeitures	1,384,187	-	-	-	-
Interest	17,451	-	3,722	-	-
Rents	117,486	-	-	-	-
Other revenues	1,315	321	666,909	-	-
Total revenues	<u>15,476,296</u>	<u>1,052,575</u>	<u>2,430,969</u>	<u>761,706</u>	<u>761,706</u>
EXPENDITURES					
General government	3,550,209	429,962	-	-	-
Public safety	9,072,425	-	-	-	-
Public works	1,689,966	-	-	-	-
Health & welfare	361,388	-	-	-	-
Culture & recreation	-	1,627,758	-	-	-
Economic Development and Assistance	720,593	-	-	-	120,673
Capital outlay	-	-	-	-	-
Debt service:					
Principal	68,751	-	1,777,501	165,000	350,000
Interest and fiscal charges	33,197	-	764,701	101,179	40,886
Total expenditures	<u>15,496,529</u>	<u>2,057,720</u>	<u>2,542,202</u>	<u>266,179</u>	<u>511,559</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	<u>(20,233)</u>	<u>(1,005,145)</u>	<u>(111,233)</u>	<u>495,527</u>	<u>250,147</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(40,508)	-	(2,030)	-	-
Legal settlements	17,249	-	-	-	-
Loan proceeds	264,672	-	2,807,687	-	-
Sale of property	1,142	-	-	-	-
Operating transfers in	50,000	1,063,750	109,335	-	-
Operating transfers out	(514,993)	(58,092)	-	(425,000)	(245,000)
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>(222,438)</u>	<u>1,005,658</u>	<u>2,914,992</u>	<u>(425,000)</u>	<u>(245,000)</u>
Net change in fund balances	<u>(242,671)</u>	<u>513</u>	<u>2,803,759</u>	<u>70,527</u>	<u>5,147</u>
Fund balances					
Fund balances - beginning	<u>3,824,951</u>	<u>55,440</u>	<u>716,818</u>	<u>149,369</u>	<u>(18,873)</u>
Fund balances - ending	<u>\$ 3,582,280</u>	<u>\$ 55,953</u>	<u>\$ 3,520,577</u>	<u>\$ 219,896</u>	<u>\$ (13,726)</u>

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

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
Year Ended September 30, 2017

EXHIBIT D

	Capital Improvements Fund	Street Improvement Fund	Recreation Improvement Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES					
General property taxes:					
Current	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,150,140
Delinquent	-	-	-	-	6,586
Penalties and interest on delinquent taxes	-	-	-	-	38,454
Homestead exemption	-	-	-	-	231,951
Licenses and permits	-	-	-	-	208,009
Franchise taxes on utilities	-	-	-	-	1,764,486
Intergovernmental revenue	-	-	-	-	62,630
Gas & oil severance tax	-	-	-	-	14,985
State shared revenues	-	-	-	103,807	1,684,977
Federal grants	-	-	-	812,570	823,388
State grants	166,736	-	-	-	176,782
Local revenues	-	-	-	-	800,910
General sales taxes	-	-	-	-	8,145,247
Charges for services	-	-	-	-	266,429
Fines and forfeitures	-	-	-	130,372	1,514,559
Interest	32,162	107,323	58,315	-	218,973
Rents	-	-	-	-	117,486
Other revenues	-	-	-	16,000	684,545
Total revenues	<u>198,898</u>	<u>107,323</u>	<u>58,315</u>	<u>1,062,749</u>	<u>21,910,537</u>
EXPENDITURES					
General government	-	-	-	1,198	3,981,369
Public safety	-	-	-	-	9,072,425
Public works	-	-	-	361,737	2,051,703
Health & welfare	-	-	-	-	361,388
Culture & recreation	-	-	-	90,414	1,718,172
Economic Development and Assistance	-	-	-	-	841,266
Capital outlay	310,383	3,488,210	188,800	427,782	4,415,175
Debt service:					
Principal	-	-	-	122,152	2,520,741
Interest and fiscal charges	-	-	-	21,309	923,935
Total expenditures	<u>310,383</u>	<u>3,488,210</u>	<u>188,800</u>	<u>1,024,592</u>	<u>25,886,174</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	<u>(111,485)</u>	<u>(3,380,887)</u>	<u>(130,485)</u>	<u>38,157</u>	<u>(3,975,637)</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(37,240)	(21,495)	(15,103)	-	(116,376)
Legal settlements	-	-	-	-	17,249
Loan proceeds	-	-	-	305,000	3,377,359
Sale of property	-	-	-	-	1,142
Operating transfers in	-	-	-	135,000	1,358,085
Operating transfers out	-	-	-	-	(1,243,085)
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>(37,240)</u>	<u>(21,495)</u>	<u>(15,103)</u>	<u>440,000</u>	<u>3,394,374</u>
Net change in fund balances	<u>(148,725)</u>	<u>(3,402,382)</u>	<u>(145,588)</u>	<u>478,157</u>	<u>(581,263)</u>
Fund balances					
Fund balances - beginning	<u>461,374</u>	<u>9,554,674</u>	<u>4,238,592</u>	<u>380,888</u>	<u>19,363,233</u>
Fund balances - ending	<u>\$ 312,649</u>	<u>\$ 6,152,292</u>	<u>\$ 4,093,004</u>	<u>\$ 859,045</u>	<u>\$ 18,781,970</u>

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

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**Reconciliation of the Governmental Funds Statement of Revenues, Expenditures,
and Changes in Fund Balances to the Statement of Activities
Year Ended September 30, 2017**

EXHIBIT D-1

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds (Exhibit D) \$ (581,263)

The change in net assets reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities is different because:

1. Governmental funds report capital outlay as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of capital assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation expense. In the current period, these amounts are:

Capital outlay	4,679,852	
Net disposals	(12,186)	
Depreciation expense	<u>(2,389,585)</u>	2,278,081

2. The issuance of long-term debt provides current financial resources to governmental funds, while the repayment of the principal of long-term debt consumes the current financial resources of governmental funds. Neither transaction, however, has any effect on net assets. Also, governmental funds report the effect of issuance costs, premiums, discounts, and the difference between the carrying value of refunded debt and the acquisitions cost of refunded debt when debt is first issued. These amounts are deferred and amortized in the statement of activities.

Proceeds from loans	(3,377,359)	
Payments of debt principal	2,370,741	
Accrued interest payable	81,985	
Change in issuance costs	<u>(15,733)</u>	(940,366)

3. Expenses in the Statement of Activities not normally paid with expendable available financial resources are not reported as expenditures in the governmental funds:

Change in compensated absences	<u>(4,421)</u>	(4,421)
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4. The statement of activities uses the economic resources measurement focus and accrual basis of accounting, and therefore requires that pension expense and deferred outflows/inflows of resources related to pensions be recognized.

Change in net pension liability	<u>(1,882,800)</u>	<u>(1,882,800)</u>
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Change in net position of governmental activities (Exhibit B)	<u><u>\$ (1,130,769)</u></u>
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CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**Statement of Fiduciary Net Position
September 30, 2017**

EXHIBIT E

	State Assessment Agency Fund	Police & Fire Retirement Trust Fund	Self-Insurance Trust Fund
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 36,222	\$ 19,370	\$ -
Investments	-	-	509,038
Due from other governments	9,220	7,018	-
Due from other funds		110,069	
Prepaid items	-	-	-
Total assets	<u>\$ 45,442</u>	<u>\$ 136,457</u>	<u>\$ 509,038</u>
LIABILITIES			
Bank Overdraft	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 269,438
Hospitalization insurance	-	-	239,600
Other liabilities	45,443	136,457	-
Due to other funds	-	-	-
Total liabilities	<u>\$ 45,443</u>	<u>\$ 136,457</u>	<u>\$ 509,038</u>

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

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position
Year Ended September 30, 2017

EXHIBIT F

	Police & Fire Retirement Trust Fund
ADDITIONS	
General property taxes: current	\$ 843,112
General property taxes: delinquent	45,691
Penalties & interest	5,443
Homestead exemption reimbursement	30,526
Total additions	<u>924,772</u>
DEDUCTIONS	
General government	
Transfers to PERS	924,772
Total deductions	<u>924,772</u>
CHANGES IN NET POSITION	<u>-</u>
NET POSITION - BEGINNING	-
NET POSITION - ENDING	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>

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

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**Statement of Net Position
Proprietary Funds
September 30, 2017**

EXHIBIT G

	SRF Capital Project	Public Utility	Solid Waste	Other Proprietary Funds	Total
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 630,907	\$ 1,337,234	\$ 182,449	\$ 2,422,096	\$ 4,572,686
Investments	-	5,131,854	-	3,496,968	8,628,822
Accrued interest receivable	-	27,138	-	-	27,138
Accounts receivable	-	2,249,403	349,873	39,023	2,638,299
Allowance for doubtful accounts	-	(1,073,110)	(230,553)	-	(1,303,663)
Due from other funds	50,408	1,162,170	499,421	1,240,090	2,952,089
Due from other governments	-	-	-	-	-
Prepaid assets	-	-	2,761	-	2,761
Total current assets	681,315	8,834,689	803,951	7,198,177	17,518,132
NON-CURRENT ASSETS					
Capital assets:					
Buildings & infrastructure	-	78,155,455	-	-	78,155,455
Equipment	-	2,869,359	1,338,792	-	4,208,151
Construction in Progress	-	-	-	450,008	450,008
Less accumulated depreciation	-	(56,459,790)	(1,098,649)	-	(57,558,439)
Net non-current assets	-	24,565,024	240,143	450,008	25,255,175
Total assets	\$ 681,315	\$ 33,399,713	\$ 1,044,094	\$ 7,648,185	\$ 42,773,307
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES					
Deferred outflows related to pensions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 252,949	\$ -	\$ 252,949
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ -	\$ 326,949	\$ 23,831	\$ 413,486	\$ 764,266
Customer deposits	-	658,009	-	-	658,009
Due to other funds	667,857	24,811	21,242	128,433	842,343
G. O. bonds payable	-	245,000	-	130,000	375,000
Revenue bonds payable	-	150,000	-	-	150,000
Notes payable	-	1,009,992	-	-	1,009,992
Total current liabilities	667,857	2,414,761	45,073	671,919	3,799,610
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Compensated absences payable	-	-	22,019	-	22,019
G. O. bonds payable	-	1,635,000	-	3,870,000	5,505,000
Revenue bonds payable	-	2,655,000	-	-	2,655,000
Notes payable (net of current portion)	-	14,067,772	-	-	14,067,772
Pension liability	-	-	1,238,114	-	1,238,114
Total non-current liabilities	-	18,357,772	1,260,133	3,870,000	23,487,905
Total liabilities	\$ 667,857	\$ 20,772,533	\$ 1,305,206	\$ 4,541,919	\$ 27,287,515
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES					
Deferred inflows related to pensions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 209,051	\$ -	\$ 209,051
NET POSITION					
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	-	7,607,260	240,143	450,008	8,297,411
Unrestricted	13,458	5,019,920	(457,357)	2,656,258	7,232,279
Total net position	13,458	12,627,180	(217,214)	3,106,266	15,529,690
Total liabilities and net position	\$ 681,315	\$ 33,399,713	\$ 1,297,043	\$ 7,648,185	\$ 43,026,256

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

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Fund Net Position
Proprietary Funds
Year Ended September 30, 2017**

EXHIBIT H

	SRF Capital Project	Public Utility	Solid Waste	Other Proprietary Funds	Total
OPERATING REVENUES					
Water sales	\$ -	\$ 4,396,163	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,396,163
Sewer fees and surcharges	-	5,630,817	-	-	5,630,817
Water and sewer connections	-	38,783	-	-	38,783
Sanitation charges	-	-	1,556,096	-	1,556,096
Other charges	-	51,700	-	-	51,700
Total operating revenues	-	10,117,463	1,556,096	-	11,673,559
OPERATING EXPENSES					
Contract Services:					
Supplies	-	998,892	-	-	998,892
Services and charges	-	4,594,499	-	-	4,594,499
Depreciation	-	1,646,287	-	-	1,646,287
Total contracting services	-	7,239,678	-	-	7,239,678
Finance:					
Personnel services	-	333,704	-	-	333,704
Supplies	-	133,663	-	-	133,663
Services and charges	-	932,108	-	-	932,108
Total finance	-	1,399,475	-	-	1,399,475
Public Works:					
Personnel services	-	-	895,576	-	895,576
Supplies	-	-	191,504	478,757	670,261
Services and charges	-	-	343,194	-	343,194
Depreciation	-	-	87,638	-	87,638
Total public works	-	-	1,517,912	478,757	1,996,669
Total operating expenses	-	8,639,153	1,517,912	478,757	10,635,822
Operating income	-	1,478,310	38,184	(478,757)	1,037,737
NON-OPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)					
Interest revenue	-	119,318	-	355	119,673
Other non-operating revenues	-	111,983	-	260,776	372,759
Transfers in	-	5,589,372	-	1,050,000	6,639,372
Transfers out	(4,579,901)	(1,165,000)	-	(1,009,471)	(6,754,372)
Gain/loss on disposal of asset	-	803	-	-	803
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	-	(94,548)	-	6,404	(88,144)
Interest and fiscal charges	-	(415,724)	-	(101,173)	(516,897)
Total non-operating revenues (expenses)	(4,579,901)	4,146,204	-	206,891	(226,806)
Change in net position	(4,579,901)	5,624,514	38,184	(271,866)	810,931
Total net position - beginning	4,593,359	7,002,666	(239,955)	3,378,132	14,734,202
Prior period adjustment	-	-	(15,443)	-	(15,443)
Total net position- beginning, as restated	4,593,359	7,002,666	(255,398)	3,378,132	14,718,759
Total net position - ending	\$ 13,458	\$ 12,627,180	\$ (217,214)	\$ 3,106,266	\$ 15,529,690

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

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**Statement of Cash Flows
Proprietary Funds
Year Ended September 30, 2017**

EXHIBIT I

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

Cash received from customers	\$ 11,860,080
Cash paid to suppliers	(7,329,423)
Cash paid to employees	(1,193,839)
Net cash flows from operating activities	<u>3,336,818</u>

CASH FLOWS FROM NONCAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES:

Transfers from other funds	6,639,372
Transfers to other funds	(6,754,372)
Short-term interfund loans	(141,323)
Cash received from United Water contract	160,776
Other non operating revenue(expenses)	211,983
Net cash provided by noncapital financing activities	<u>116,436</u>

CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES:

Principal payments on long-term debt	(1,380,946)
Proceeds from issuance of long-term debt	4,000,000
Purchase of fixed assets	(938,182)
Interest paid on long-term debt	(540,947)
Net cash used by capital and related financing activities	<u>1,139,925</u>

CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:

Interest received	140,818
Proceeds from the sale of investments	3,880,082
Purchases of investments	(7,500,000)
Net cash used by investing activities	<u>(3,479,100)</u>

NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

1,114,079

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - OCTOBER 1, 2016

3,458,607

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

\$ 4,572,686

**RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING INCOME TO NET CASH PROVIDED
BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES:**

OPERATING INCOME

\$ 1,037,737

ADJUSTMENTS TO RECONCILE OPERATING INCOME TO NET

CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

Depreciation expense	1,733,925
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivables, net of allowances	164,409
(Increase) decrease in prepaid assets	(190)
(Increase) decrease in interest receivable	(516)
(Gain) loss on disposal of fixed assets	(803)
Deferred outflows related to pensions	186,380
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and other accrued liabilities	281,795
Increase (decrease) in customer deposits	22,112
Change in net pension liability	(106,053)
Deferred inflows related to pensions	<u>18,022</u>

NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES

\$ 3,336,818

NON CASH TRANSACTIONS

Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	<u>\$ (88,144)</u>
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The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2017

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The accompanying financial statements of the City have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). GASB is the accepted standard-setting body for governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The most significant of the City's accounting policies are described below.

A. Financial Reporting Entity

In evaluating how to define the City for financial reporting purposes, management has considered all potential component units. The decision to include a potential component unit in the reporting entity was made by applying the criteria set forth by GAAP. The basic--but not the only--criterion for including a potential component unit within the reporting entity is the governing body's ability to exercise oversight responsibility. The most significant manifestation of this ability is financial interdependency. Other manifestations of the ability to exercise oversight responsibility include, but are not limited to, the selection of governing authority, the designation of management, the ability to significantly influence operations and accountability for fiscal matters. The other criterion used to evaluate potential component units for inclusion or exclusion from the reporting entity is the existence of special financing relationships, regardless of whether the City is able to exercise oversight responsibilities. Based upon the application of these criteria, the City had no potential component units.

B. Basis of Presentation

Government-wide and fund financial statements

The Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities report information on all of the nonfiduciary activities of the City. For the most part, the effect of interfund activity has been removed from these statements. Governmental activities, which normally are supported by tax and intergovernmental revenues, are reported separately from business type activities, which rely to a significant extent on fees and charges for support.

The Statement of Net Position presents the City's nonfiduciary assets and liabilities, with the difference reported as net position. Net position is reported in three categories:

- Net investment in capital assets consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by outstanding balances for bonds, notes, and other debt attributable to the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets.
- Restricted net position results when constraints placed on net position use are either externally imposed or imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
- Unrestricted net position consists of net position not meeting the definition of the two preceding categories. Unrestricted net position often has constraints on resources imposed by management which can be removed or modified.

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2017

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Cont.)

The Statement of Activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or segment are offset by program revenues. *Direct expenses* are those clearly identifiable to a specific function. *Program revenues* include (1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function and (2) grants, contributions, and interest restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function. Property tax and other items not properly included among program revenues are reported instead as *general revenues*.

Separate financial statements are provided for governmental and fiduciary funds, even though the latter are excluded from the government-wide financial statements. Major individual governmental funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements. All remaining governmental funds are aggregated and reported as other governmental funds.

The City reports the following major governmental funds:

- General Fund - This is the City's primary operating fund. All general tax revenues and other revenues not allocated by law or contractual agreement to some other fund are accounted for in this fund. The general operating expenditures, including instructional, support and other costs are paid from the general fund.
- Recreation Fund – This fund is used to account for all recreational activities and related expenses.
- Bond and Interest Retirement Fund – This fund is used to account for the retirement of long-term debt in the governmental funds.
- Tourism Bond 1996 Fund – This fund is used to account for the retirement of long-term debt in the governmental funds.
- Tourism Bond 1998 Fund – This fund is used to account for the retirement of long-term debt in the governmental funds.
- Capital Improvements Fund – This fund is used to account for financial resources to be used for the acquisition or construction of major capital facilities.
- Street Improvements Fund- This fund is used to account for financial resources to be used for the acquisition or construction of major capital infrastructure.
- Recreation Improvement Fund – This fund is used to account for financial resources to be used for the acquisition or construction of major capital facilities.

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2017

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Cont.)

The City reports the following major proprietary funds:

- Public Utility Projects Fund – This fund is used to account for the long-term debt related to public utility expansion through the state revolving loan fund.
- Public Utility Fund – This fund accounts for the business activities of the water and sewer sector of the City.
- Solid Waste Fund – This fund accounts for the business activities of the solid waste operations of the City.

All other governmental and proprietary funds not meeting the criteria established for major funds are presented in the other governmental/proprietary column of the fund financial statements.

Additionally, the city reports the following fund types:

GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES:

Special Revenue Funds - Special Revenue Funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources (other than major capital projects) that are legally restricted for specific expenditure purposes.

Capital Projects Funds - Capital Projects Funds are used to account for financial resources to be used for the acquisition or construction of major capital facilities.

Debt Service Funds - Debt Service Funds are used to account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of, general long-term debt principal, interest and related costs.

PROPRIETARY FUND TYPES:

Enterprise Funds – Enterprise Funds are used to account for operations (a) that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises – where the intent of the governing body is that the costs (expenses, including depreciation) of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges; or (b) where the governing body has decided that periodic determination of revenues earned, expenses incurred, and/or net income is appropriate for capital maintenance, public policy, management control accountability, or other purposes.

FIDUCIARY FUNDS TYPES:

Agency Funds - Agency funds are used to report resources held by the City in a purely custodial capacity (assets equal liabilities) and do not involve measurement of results of operations.

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2017

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Cont.)

C. Measurement focus, basis of accounting, and financial statement presentation

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the *economic resources measurement focus* and the *accrual basis of accounting* as are the proprietary fund and fiduciary fund financial statements. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when the liability is incurred or economic asset used, regardless of the timing of the related cash flows.

Ad valorem property taxes are levied by the governing body of the city. Since the taxes are not collected by the city, the revenues to be generated by the annual levies are not recognized until the taxes are actually collected by the tax levying authority. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

Governmental funds are reported using the *current financial resources measurement focus* and the *modified accrual basis of accounting*. Revenues are recognized when “*measurable and available*”. Measurable means knowing or being able to reasonably estimate the amount. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the government considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 30 days after year end. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures as well as expenditures related to compensated absences and judgments, are recorded only when the payment is due.

Property taxes, franchise taxes, licenses, intergovernmental revenues (shared revenues, grants and reimbursements from other governments) and interest associated with the current fiscal period are all considered to be susceptible to accrual and therefore have been recognized as revenues of the current fiscal period. Only the portion of special assessments receivable due within the current fiscal period is considered to be measurable and available only when cash is received by the City.

Private-sector standards of accounting and financial reporting issued prior to December 1, 1989, generally are followed in both the government-wide and proprietary fund financial statements to the extent that those standards do not conflict with or contradict guidance of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. Governments also have the option of following subsequent private-sector guidance for their business-type activities and enterprise funds, subject to the same limitation. The government has elected not to follow subsequent private-sector guidance.

As a general rule, the effect of Interfund activity has been eliminated from the government-wide financial statements. Exceptions to this general rule are payments-in-lieu of taxes and other charges between the government’s public utility and solid waste functions and various other functions of the government. Elimination of these charges would distort costs and program revenues reported for the various functions concerned.

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2017

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Cont.)

Federal grants and assistance awards made on the basis of entitlement periods are recorded as receivables and revenues when entitlement occurs. Federal reimbursement type grants are recorded as revenues when the related expenditures are recognized. Use of grant resources is conditioned upon compliance with terms of the grant agreements and applicable federal regulations, which include subjecting grants to financial and compliance audits.

Under the terms of grant agreements, the City funds certain programs by a combination of specific cost-reimbursement grants and general revenues.

Thus, when program expenses are incurred, there are both restricted and unrestricted net position available to finance the program. It is the City's policy to first apply cost-reimbursement grant resources to such programs and then general revenues.

Capital asset acquisitions are reported as expenditures in governmental funds. Proceeds of general long-term debt and acquisitions under capital leases are reported as other financing sources.

Amounts reported as *program revenues* include 1) charges to customers or applicants for goods, services, or privileges provided, 2) operating grants and contributions, and 3) capital grants and contributions, including special assessments. Internally dedicated resources are reported as general revenues rather than as program revenues. Likewise, general revenues include all taxes collected.

The proprietary fund distinguishes *operating* revenues and expenses from *non-operating* items. Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services and producing and delivering goods in connection with a proprietary fund's principal ongoing operations. The principal operating revenues of the public utility enterprise fund and the solid waste enterprise fund are charges to customers for sales and services. The public utility fund also recognizes as operating revenue the portion of tap fees intended to recover the cost of connecting new customers to the system. Operating expenses for enterprise funds include the cost of sales and services, administrative expenses, and depreciation on capital assets. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating revenues and expenses.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the government's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

D. Account Classifications.

The account classifications used in the financial statements conform to the broad classifications recommended in the Financial Accounting Manual for Mississippi Municipalities issued in 2010 by the Office of the State Auditor.

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2017

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Cont.)

E. Encumbrances.

An encumbrance system is maintained to account for commitments resulting from purchase orders, work orders, and contracts during the fiscal year. However, the City attempts to liquidate all encumbrances at year-end. Encumbrances outstanding at year-end are not reported as reservations of fund balance since they do not constitute expenditures or liabilities.

F. Assets, Liabilities, and Net position

Cash and cash equivalents

For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, the City considered all highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less when purchased to be cash equivalents. All cash and investments of the proprietary fund types are pooled with the City's pooled cash and investments.

The City can invest its excess funds, as permitted by Section 27-105-1, Miss. Code Ann. (1972), in interest-bearing deposits or other obligations of the types described in Section 27-105-33, Miss. Code Ann. (1972), or in any other type investment in which any other agency, instrumentality or subdivision of the State of Mississippi may invest, except that 100% of said funds are authorized to be so invested.

For accounting purposes, certificates of deposit are classified as investments if they have an original maturity greater than three months when acquired. Investments for the City are reported at fair market value.

Receivables and payables

The allowance method for valuing accounts receivables is used by the City. At the end of each fiscal year, an amount necessary to bring the balance to the estimated amount of allowance for doubtful accounts is credited to a valuation account. As a specific account is deemed to be uncollectible, the amount of the account is taken from both the receivable and the allowance accounts. At the end of the subsequent fiscal year, bad debt expense is charged with the amount necessary to bring the allowance account to the estimated total. The valuation allowance for the Enterprise Fund receivables and General Fund police fines is based on the City's estimation of amounts that will prove uncollectible.

Activities between funds that are representative of lending/borrowing arrangements outstanding at the end of the fiscal year are referred to either "due to/from other funds" (i.e. the current portion of inter-fund loans) or "advances to/from other funds (i.e., the non-current portion of interfund loans).

All trade, sales, and property taxes receivables are considered collectible; therefore, no reduction has been made for allowance for uncollectible accounts.

All taxes are collected and remitted to the City by the Jones County Tax Assessor and are due annually on January 1st.

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2017

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Cont.)

Property taxes are levied annually as of October 1st on property values assessed as of the same date. Delinquent tax payments, received throughout the year, are recognized as revenue in the year received.

Due from other Governments

Due from other governments represents amounts due from the State of Mississippi and various local governments.

Inventories and prepaid items

Inventory is valued at actual cost. The inventory in the General Fund consists of expendable supplies held for consumption. Inventory of governmental funds are recorded as expenditures when consumed rather than when purchased.

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid items in both government-wide and fund financial statements.

Capital assets

Capital assets, which include property, equipment, and infrastructure assets (e.g. roads, bridges, street lights, sewer and water lines, and similar items), are reported in the applicable governmental or business type activities columns in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the government as assets with an initial, individual cost of at least \$5,000 (see table below for detailed thresholds) and are reported at historical cost or estimated historical cost based on appraisals or deflated current replacement cost. Donated capital assets are reported at estimated fair market value at the date of donation. The cost of normal maintenance and repair that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend asset lives are not capitalized.

Major outlays for capital assets and improvements are capitalized as projects are constructed. Interest incurred during the construction phase of capital assets of business-type activities is included as part of the capitalized value of the assets constructed.

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended September 30, 2017**

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Cont.)

Capital assets of the primary government are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

<u>Assets</u>	<u>Capitalization Policy</u>	<u>Estimated Useful Life</u>
Land	\$ -	-
Buildings	50,000	40 years
Building improvements	25,000	20 years
Improvements other than buildings	25,000	20 years
Mobile equipment	5,000	5 - 10 years
Furniture and fixtures	5,000	3 - 7 years
Leased property under capital lease	*	*

Compensated absences

Employees of the city accumulate sick leave at a minimum amount as required by state law. A greater amount provided by city's policy provided that it does not exceed the provisions in Sections 25-3-93 and 25-3-95. Some employees are allowed personal leave and/or vacation leave in accordance with the city's policy. The city pays for unused leave for employees as required by Section 37-7-307(5), Miss. Code Ann. (1972). The liability for these compensated absences is recorded as long-term liabilities in the government-wide statements. The current portion of this liability is estimated based on historical trends. In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report the compensated absence liability payable from expendable available financial resources only if the payable has matured, for example, an employee retires.

Long-term obligations

In the government-wide financial statements and the proprietary fund type in the fund financial statements, long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the applicable governmental activities, business-type activities, or proprietary fund type statement of net position. Bond issue cost, bond discounts or premiums, and the difference between acquisition price and the net carrying value of refunded debt are capitalized and amortized over the terms of the respective bonds using a method that approximates the effective interest method. The governmental fund financial statements recognize the proceeds of debt and premiums as other financing sources of the current period. Issuance costs are reported as expenditures.

Fund equity

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report reservations of fund balance for amounts that are not available for appropriation or are legally restricted by outside parties for use for a specific purpose. Designations of fund balance represent tentative management plans that are subject to change.

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2017

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Cont.)

In March 2009, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) approved Statement No. 54, Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions (Statement). Fund balances for each of the City's governmental funds (General Fund, special revenue funds, capital projects funds, and debt service funds) will be displayed in the following classifications depicting the relative strength of the spending constraints placed on the purposes for which resources can be used:

Nonspendable fund balance – amounts that cannot be spent because they are either not in a spendable form (such as inventories and prepaid items) or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

Restricted fund balance – amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes because of constraints imposed by external providers (such as grantors, bondholders, and higher levels of government), or imposed by constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Committed fund balance – amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes determined by a formal action of the government's highest level of decision-making authority.

Assigned fund balance – amounts the government intends to use for specific purposes that do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed.

Unassigned fund balance – amounts that are available for any purpose; these amounts can be reported only in the City's General Fund.

Ad Valorem Taxes

The City levies a tax on real and personal property based on the assessed value of property as compiled by the County tax assessor from information extracted from the assessment tax rolls. Assessed values are computed as a percentage of true value. Single family owner-occupied residences are assessed at 10%; commercial real estate and personal property at 15%, and public service property at 30%. The taxes on real property attach as an enforceable lien on the property as of January 1 and on personal property as of March 1. Taxes on real and personal property are levied by the City Council at the first regular meeting in September. The City adopts the part of the county assessment roll containing the property located within the Municipality as provided in Sections 21-33-9 and 27-35-167. Taxes are billed and collected by the County and forwarded to the City.

Section 35-5-1 et seq., Mississippi Code 1972, requires that the City levy and collect all taxes for and on behalf of the municipal separate school district. As detailed below, for the reported fiscal year the ad valorem tax levies for and on behalf of the Laurel School District were made in accordance with the applicable statutory requirements and authorizations.

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2017

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Cont.)

In accordance with the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, the City Council may levy taxes in any amount for general revenue purposes and general improvements. However, taxes collected for any one year may not exceed ten percent (10%) of the taxes collected for the prior assessment year. For purposes of the computation, taxes collected in the current year resulting from property added to the tax assessment roll are excluded from the computation.

The tax rate of the City of Laurel is expressed in terms of mills (ten mills equal one cent). For the year ended September 30, 2017, the City's combined tax rate for general governmental services and other municipal purposes was 104.82 mills or \$104.82 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation expressed as follows:

General Fund	17.04
Special Revenue Fund (Recreation)	4.82
Debt Service Fund	12.03
Firemen and Police Disability and Relief Fund	4.46
Laurel Municipal Separate School District	66.47
Total Mills	<u>104.82</u>

Included in tax revenues are taxes collected for automobile tags and public utility taxes. Taxes collected by the County, less a collection fee, are remitted to the City on a monthly basis. Taxes on public utility properties are assessed by a separate governmental entity and collected by the City.

Budgets and Budgetary Accounting

The procedures used by the City in establishing the budgetary data recorded in the general purpose financial statements are as follows:

- The Finance Division of the Department of Administration prepares budget estimates of available revenue.
- Department directors submit proposed expenditure budgets to the Finance Division by June 1 each year.
- The Finance Division reviews expenditure budgets and necessary revisions are made.
- Budgeted revenues and expenditures are balanced, and a summary budget is prepared and presented to the Mayor.
- The Mayor submits the proposed budget to the City Council by August 1.
- Public hearings are conducted to obtain taxpayer comments.
- The final budget is approved by September 15 and must be published in a local newspaper on or before September 30.
- The budget is formally amended in July each year, if necessary. However, budget revisions are made throughout the year (prior to July), as reallocations of funds are necessary, a budget deficit is indicated, or circumstances change which dictate the need for a budget amendment.

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2017

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Cont.)

- Formal budgetary integration is employed as a management control device for all governmental and proprietary fund types. The legal level of control for all budgets adopted is at the fund level with the exception of the General Fund, which is appropriated at the department level. Administrative control for all budgets is maintained through the establishment of more detailed line-item budgets. The Finance Division of the Department of Administration exercises budgetary monitoring throughout the fiscal year. An adopted budget may not exceed its appropriated level without City Council approval. However, department heads may make transfers of appropriations within a department. Budgetary controls are incorporated into the City's purchasing system. Purchase requisitions entered into the computer system that will cause a line item to exceed its budget will automatically be disallowed. The department head will then be required to make an inter-department budget transfer or request a budget amendment.

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. This will affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the current period. Accordingly, actual results may differ from those estimates.

Note 2 – Cash and Cash Equivalents, Cash with Fiscal Agents, and Investments

The City follows the practice of aggregating the cash assets of various funds to maximize cash management efficiency and returns. Restrictions on deposits are imposed by statutes as follows:

Deposits - The City Council must advertise and accept bids for depositories no less than once every two years as required by Section 27-105-1, Miss. Code Ann. (1972). The collateral pledged for the City's 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.

Investments - Section 21-33-323, Miss. Code Ann. (1972), authorizes the City to invest surplus funds in the types of investments authorized by Section 27-105-33(d) and (e), Miss. Code Ann. (1972). This section permits the following types of investments: (a) certificates of deposits and interest bearing accounts with qualified state depositories; (b) direct United States Treasury obligations; (c) United States Government agency, United States Government instrumentality or United States Government sponsored enterprise obligations, the principal and interest of which are fully guaranteed by the government or enumerated agency of the United States;

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended September 30, 2017**

Note 2 – Cash and Cash Equivalents, Cash with Fiscal Agents, and Investments (Cont.)

(d) direct security repurchase agreements and reverse direct security repurchase agreements of any federal book entry of only those securities enumerated in (b) and (c) above; (e) direct obligations issued by the United States of America that are deemed to include securities of, or interest in, and open-end or closed-end any management type investment company or investment trust approved by the State Treasurer and the Executive Director of the Department of Finance and Administration. Investment income on bond funds (Capital Projects) and bond sinking funds (Debt Service Funds) must be credited to those funds. Investment income of \$100 or more of any fund must be credited to that fund. Any amounts less than \$100 can be credited to the General Fund.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The carrying amount of the city's deposits with financial institutions reported in the governmental funds, fiduciary funds, and enterprise funds was \$3,863,579. The bank balance was \$4,152,822.

Custodial Credit Risk – Deposits - Custodial credit risk is defined as the risk that, in the event of the failure of a financial institution, the City will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The City does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk. However, the Mississippi State Treasurer manages that risk on behalf of the City. Deposits above FDIC coverage are collateralized by the pledging financial institutions trust department or agent in the name of the Mississippi State Treasurer on behalf of the City. As of September 30, 2017, none of the City's bank balance of \$4,152,822 was exposed to custodial credit risk.

Cash with Fiscal Agents

The carrying amount of the city's cash with fiscal agents reported in the governmental funds was \$2,778,949.

Investments

As of September 30, 2017, the City had the following investments and maturities:

<u>Investment Type</u>	<u>Maturities</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>
Asset Backed Securities	More than 10 years	\$ 8,808,348
Mortgage Backed Securities	More than 10 years	1,373,142
Municipal Obligations	More than 6 years	1,915,174
United States Government Obligations	Less than 1 year	12,440,171
Short Term	Less than 1 year	698,662
Total		<u>\$ 25,235,497</u>

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended September 30, 2017**

Note 2 – Cash and Cash Equivalents, Cash with Fiscal Agents, and Investments (Cont.)

The city categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by generally accepted accounting principles. The hierarchy is based on the valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of the asset. Level 1 inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets; Level 2 inputs are significant other observable inputs; Level 3 inputs are significant unobservable inputs.

Interest Rate Risk - The City's investment policy for interest rate risk follows that of the State which states that the rate of interest shall not be less than a simple interest rate numerically equal to the average bank discount rate on United States Treasury bills of comparable maturity. The rate of interest established shall be the minimum rate of interest and there shall be no maximum rate of interest.

Credit Risk - State law limits investments in commercial paper and corporate bonds to the top two ratings issued by nationally recognized statistical rating organizations (NRSROs). It is the City's policy to limit its investments in these investment types to the top rating issued by NRSROs. As of September 30, 2017, the City's investments in commercial paper were rated AAA by Standard & Poor's. The City's investments in U.S. Government Obligations, Collateralized Mortgage Obligations, and Municipal Obligations were rated AAA by Standard & Poor's.

Custodial Credit Risk – Investments - For an investment, custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the City will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. However, since the City's investments are fully guaranteed by the government of the United States and the State of Mississippi, custodial credit risk is zero.

Concentration of Credit Risk - A disclosure of investments by amount and issuer for any issuer that represents five percent or more of total investments is required. This requirement does not apply to investments issued or explicitly guaranteed by the U.S. government, investments in mutual funds and external investment pools, and other pooled investments. The following table details the collective makeup of the City's investments at September 30, 2017.

<u>Investment Type</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>% of Total Investment</u>	<u>Fair Value Hierarchy</u>
Asset Backed Securities	\$ 8,808,348	34.90%	Level 1
Mortgage Backed Securities	1,373,142	5.44%	Level 1
Municipal Obligations	1,915,174	7.59%	Level 1
United States Government Obligations	12,440,171	49.30%	Level 1
Short Term	698,662	2.77%	Level 1
Total	<u>\$ 25,235,497</u>	<u>100.00%</u>	

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended September 30, 2017**

Note 3 – Accounts Receivable

The balance in the accounts receivable is computed as follows:

<u>Governmental Funds</u>	<u>Receivable</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Net</u>
General Fund			
Police fines	\$ 20,377,905	\$ 18,340,115	\$ 2,037,790
Cemetery	16,035	-	16,035
Other	423,541	-	423,541
Total	<u>\$ 20,817,481</u>	<u>\$ 18,340,115</u>	<u>\$ 2,477,366</u>
Proprietary Funds			
Water and Sewer	\$ 2,249,403	\$ 1,073,110	\$ 1,176,293
Solid Waste	349,873	230,553	119,320
Other	39,023	-	39,023
Total	<u>\$ 2,638,299</u>	<u>\$ 1,303,663</u>	<u>\$ 1,334,636</u>

Note 4 – Interfund Receivables, Payables, and Transfers.

The following is a summary of interfund transactions and balances:

<u>Receivable Fund</u>	<u>Payable Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General Fund	Other Governmental Funds	\$ 319,225
Bond and Interest Retirement Fund	General Fund	82,122
Tourism Bond 1996 Fund	Tourism Bond 1998 Fund	19,908
Capital Improvements Fund	General Fund	80,263
Street Improvement Fund	Other Governmental Funds	158
Recreation Improvement Fund	Tourism Bond 1996 Fund	2,500
Other Governmental Funds	General Fund	6,827
	Capital Improvements Fund	44,391
	Other Governmental Funds	141,678
SRF Capital Project	Other Governmental Funds	50,408
Public Utility	General Fund	319,357
	Bond and Interest Retirement Fund	25,281
	SRF Capital Project	667,857
	Other Proprietary Fund	128,433
	Solid Waste Fund	21,242
Solid Waste	General Fund	474,609
	Public Utility Fund	24,811
Other Proprietary Funds	General Fund	63,784
	Capital Improvements Fund	1,176,306
Fiduciary Fund	Bond and Interest Retirement Fund	110,069
		<u>\$ 3,759,229</u>

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended September 30, 2017**

Note 4 – Interfund Receivables, Payables, and Transfers (Cont.)

Interfund loans primarily represent amounts advanced or received for timing differences between revenues and expenditures and cash balances.

Transfers Out	Transfers In	Amount
General Fund	Recreation Fund	\$ 393,750
	Bond and Interest Retirement Fund	51,243
	Other Governmental Funds	70,000
Recreation Fund	Bond and Interest Retirement Fund	58,092
Tourism Bond 1996 Fund	Recreation Fund	425,000
Tourism Bond 1998 Fund	Recreation Fund	245,000
Public Utility Fund	General Fund	50,000
	Other Governmental Funds	65,000
	Other Proprietary Funds	1,050,000
SRF Capital Project Fund	Public Utility Fund	4,579,901
Other Proprietary Funds	Public Utility Fund	1,009,471
Total		<u>\$ 7,997,457</u>

The transfers represent council approved operating transfers for operations and planning purposes.

Note 5 – Restricted Assets

The restricted assets represent the cash with fiscal agents of \$2,778,949 of the Bond and Interest Retirement Fund.

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended September 30, 2017**

Note 6 – Capital Assets

Capital asset activity in the governmental funds for the year ended September 30, 2017 was as follows:

Governmental activities:

	Balance 10/1/2016	Additions	Retirements	Completed Construction	Prior Period Adjustments	Balance 9/30/2017
<u>Non-depreciable capital assets:</u>						
Land	\$ 887,520	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 887,520
Construction in progress	2,334,338	4,415,175	-	(5,220,349)	(113,672)	1,415,492
Total non-depreciable capital assets	<u>3,221,858</u>	<u>4,415,175</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(5,220,349)</u>	<u>(113,672)</u>	<u>2,303,012</u>
<u>Depreciable capital assets:</u>						
Buildings and Infrastructure	63,208,196	-	-	5,220,349	(325,808)	68,102,737
Furniture and mobile equipment	8,397,979	264,672	(110,190)	-	(15,785)	8,536,676
Total depreciable capital assets	<u>71,606,175</u>	<u>264,672</u>	<u>(110,190)</u>	<u>5,220,349</u>	<u>(341,593)</u>	<u>76,639,413</u>
<u>Less accumulated depreciation for:</u>						
Buildings and Infrastructure	21,717,170	1,884,038	-	-	-	23,601,208
Furniture and mobile equipment	5,420,155	505,547	(98,004)	-	(14,207)	5,813,491
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>27,137,325</u>	<u>2,389,585</u>	<u>(98,004)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(14,207)</u>	<u>29,414,699</u>
Total depreciable capital assets, net	<u>44,468,850</u>	<u>(2,124,913)</u>	<u>(12,186)</u>	<u>5,220,349</u>	<u>(327,386)</u>	<u>47,224,714</u>
Governmental activities capital assets, net	<u>\$ 47,690,708</u>	<u>\$ 2,290,262</u>	<u>\$ (12,186)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (441,058)</u>	<u>\$ 49,527,726</u>

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended September 30, 2017**

Note 6 – Capital Assets (Cont.)

Capital asset activity in the proprietary funds for the year ended September 30, 2017 was as follows:

	<u>Balance 10/1/2016</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Retirements</u>	<u>Completed Construction</u>	<u>Prior Period Adjustments</u>	<u>Balance 9/30/2017</u>
<u>Non-depreciable capital assets:</u>						
Construction in progress	\$ 5,219,782	\$ 433,208	\$ -	\$ (5,202,982)	\$ -	\$ 450,008
<u>Depreciable capital assets:</u>						
Buildings and Infrastructure	72,535,667	416,806	-	5,202,982	-	78,155,455
Furniture and mobile equipment	4,119,983	88,168	-	-	-	4,208,151
Total depreciable capital assets	76,655,650	504,974	-	5,202,982	-	82,363,606
<u>Less accumulated depreciation for:</u>						
Buildings and Infrastructure	53,280,301	1,486,570	-	-	-	54,766,871
Furniture and mobile equipment	2,544,214	247,354	-	-	-	2,791,568
Total accumulated depreciation	55,824,515	1,733,924	-	-	-	57,558,439
Total depreciable capital assets, net	20,831,135	(1,228,950)	-	5,202,982	-	24,805,167
Proprietary activities capital assets, net	\$ 26,050,917	\$ (795,742)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,255,175

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended September 30, 2017**

Note 6 – Capital Assets (Cont.)

Depreciation expense was charged to the following governmental functions:

General Government	\$ 1,223,717
Public Safety	220,075
Public Works	650,678
Health and Welfare	5,357
Culture and Recreation	289,758
	<u>\$ 2,389,585</u>

Depreciation expense charged to the Public Utility and Solid Waste Funds amounted to \$1,733,925 for the year ended September 30, 2017. Commitments under construction contracts at September 30, 2017 are summarized as follows:

<u>Projects Under Contract</u>	<u>Amount Spent to Date</u>	<u>Required Future Financing</u>
<u>Governmental</u>		
Beacon Corridor	\$ 157,846	\$ 4,469,855
Sportsplex Expansion	298,403	-
Traffic Signal	136,050	77,511
2017 Overlay Project	778,114	329,286
5th Avenue Roundabout	45,080	222,650
	<u>\$ 1,415,493</u>	<u>\$ 5,099,302</u>
<u>Proprietary</u>		
Utility Improvement	\$ 240,000	\$ 5,076,800
W 10th Street Utility	210,008	186,112
Total	<u>\$ 450,008</u>	<u>\$ 5,262,912</u>

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2017

Note 7 – Long-term Liabilities

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

Debt Type	Balance 10-1-2016	Additions	Reductions	Balance 9-30-2017	Amounts Due Within One Year
General Obligation Bonds	\$ 21,215,000	\$ -	\$ 1,445,000	\$ 19,770,000	\$ 1,415,000
Notes Payable	8,817,242	305,000	878,504	8,243,738	1,024,241
Obligations under Capital Lease	492,934	264,672	47,237	710,369	95,690
Obligations under Energy Efficiency Lease	-	2,807,687	-	2,807,687	65,019
Compensated Absences	253,213	4,421	-	257,634	-
Total	<u>\$ 30,778,389</u>	<u>\$ 3,381,780</u>	<u>\$ 2,370,741</u>	<u>\$ 31,789,428</u>	<u>\$ 2,599,950</u>

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

Debt Type	Balance 10-1-2016	Additions	Reductions	Balance 9-30-2017	Amounts Due Within One Year
General Obligation Bonds	\$ 2,120,000	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 240,000	\$ 5,880,000	\$ 375,000
Revenue Bonds	2,950,000	-	145,000	2,805,000	150,000
Notes Payable	16,069,210	-	991,446	15,077,764	1,009,992
Capital leases payable	4,500	-	4,500	-	-
Compensated Absences	22,019	-	-	22,019	-
Total	<u>\$ 21,165,729</u>	<u>\$ 4,000,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,380,946</u>	<u>\$ 23,784,783</u>	<u>\$ 1,534,992</u>

The annual requirements to amortize bond, note principal, and capital leases outstanding for all funds as of September 30, 2017, are as follows:

Year Ended September 30	GO/Revenue Bonds	Interest	Notes Payable	Interest	Capital Leases	Interest	Energy Efficiency Lease	Interest
2018	\$ 1,940,000	\$ 691,093	\$ 2,034,233	\$ 503,018	\$ 95,690	\$ 8,939	\$ 65,019	\$ 101,077
2019	2,090,000	651,263	2,080,278	453,936	97,864	7,912	70,709	98,736
2020	1,810,000	594,713	1,792,945	393,166	218,954	6,862	76,704	96,191
2021	1,685,000	547,095	1,805,777	363,537	297,861	5,790	83,019	93,429
2022	2,115,000	504,734	1,727,450	323,682	-	-	89,669	90,440
2023-2027	9,580,000	1,827,093	7,866,500	1,044,502	-	-	560,865	398,542
2028-2032	7,690,000	703,892	4,472,262	330,926	-	-	786,726	282,127
2033-2037	1,545,000	139,940	1,542,057	42,998	-	-	1,074,975	120,761
	<u>\$28,455,000</u>	<u>\$ 5,659,823</u>	<u>\$ 23,321,502</u>	<u>\$ 3,455,765</u>	<u>\$ 710,369</u>	<u>\$ 29,503</u>	<u>\$ 2,807,686</u>	<u>\$ 1,281,303</u>

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended September 30, 2017**

Note 7 – Long-term Liabilities (Cont.)

A. General Obligation Bonds Payable

General obligations bonds are direct obligations and pledge the full faith and credit of the government. General obligation bonds currently outstanding are:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Interest Rates</u>	<u>Amounts Outstanding</u>
General government	1.0 - 5.25%	\$ 19,770,000
Proprietary	1.0-3.0%	5,880,000
Total General Obligation Bonds		<u>\$25,650,000</u>

This note does not include non-committal debt paid by debt service of \$150,000 (see Note 8).

B. Notes Payable in Governmental Funds

The City has several notes through the Mississippi Development Authority and various lenders in which the proceeds were used to make capital asset acquisitions. Details of these notes are as follows:

	CAP Loan	CAP Loan	CAP Loan	CAP Loan	CAP Loan	CAP Loan
Date of Note	9/30/2008	9/30/2008	6/1/2011	9/30/2011	8/1/2013	11/1/2013
Original Amount	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 250,477	\$ 972,675	\$ 259,306	\$ 250,000
Unpaid Principal	\$ 1,240,789	\$ 1,860,765	\$ 87,632	\$ 767,173	\$ 157,844	\$ 158,170
Interest Rate	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	2.00%	2.00%
						Jones County Public Safety Communication Equipment
	CAP Loan	MBIA Loan	Consolidated Loan	SMPDD	Community Bank	
Date of Note	6/1/2017	2/1/2008	6/1/2009	3/9/2016	10/6/2015	10/1/2015
Original Amount	\$ 120,000	\$ 2,600,000	\$ 2,790,000	\$ 175,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 923,986
Unpaid Principal	\$ 118,960	\$ 640,000	\$ 1,675,000	\$ 159,910	\$ 410,879	\$ 789,046
Interest Rate	3.00%	3.00%	3.50%	3.25%	1.45%	3.87%
	SMPDD					
Date of Note	3/1/2017					
Original Amount	\$ 185,000					
Unpaid Principal	\$ 177,570					
Interest Rate	3.50%					

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended September 30, 2017**

Note 7 – Long-term Liabilities (Cont.)

The annual requirements of the notes payable on note principal outstanding for governmental funds as of September 30, 2017, are as follows:

<u>Year Ended September 30</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2018	\$ 1,024,241	\$ 235,702	\$ 1,259,943
2019	1,051,534	205,364	1,256,898
2020	745,095	163,691	908,786
2021	738,454	153,517	891,971
2022	645,163	133,477	778,640
2023-2027	3,195,641	374,770	3,570,411
2028-2032	798,908	31,211	830,119
2033-2037	44,702	1,931	46,633
Total	<u>\$ 8,243,738</u>	<u>\$ 1,299,663</u>	<u>\$ 9,543,401</u>

C. Notes Payable in Proprietary Fund

The City has a series of notes owed to the State of Mississippi under the Water Pollution Abatement Loan Programs. The loans with the State are 20-year repayment agreements. The State currently withholds payments from sales tax proceeds to apply to these notes.

	<u>State of Mississippi</u>					
Date of Note	9/19/2003	5/1/2004	7/1/2011	5/1/2012	11/1/2013	11/15/2015
Original Amount	\$ 2,129,452	\$ 4,309,018	\$ 870,373	\$ 4,036,493	\$ 4,958,126	\$ 3,916,079
Unpaid Principal	\$ 874,376	\$ 1,970,571	\$ 644,200	\$ 3,075,184	\$ 4,707,901	\$ 3,596,530
Monthly Installment	\$ 11,067	\$ 21,594	\$ 4,551	\$ 20,228	24,935.00	20,642.00
Interest Rate	1.75%	1.75%	3.00%	3.00%	1.75%	1.95%

The City is currently repaying a CAP Loan through the Mississippi Development Authority for capital asset acquisitions and a note payable to Jones County for public safety communication equipment. The Loan is as follows:

	<u>CAP Loan</u>		<u>Jones County Public Safety Communication Equipment</u>
Date of Note	9/2/2002	Date of Note	10/1/2015
Original Amount	\$ 500,000	Original Amount	\$ 68,226
Unpaid Principal	\$ 150,740	Unpaid Principal	\$ 58,262
Monthly Installment	\$ 2,773	Yearly Installment	\$ 13,388
Interest Rate	1.75%	Interest Rate	3.87%

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended September 30, 2017**

Note 7 – Long-term Liabilities (Cont.)

The annual requirements of the notes payable on note principal outstanding for the proprietary funds as of September 30, 2017, are as follows:

<u>Year Ended September 30</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2018	\$ 1,009,992	\$ 267,315	\$ 1,277,307
2019	1,028,744	248,572	1,277,316
2020	1,047,850	229,474	1,277,324
2021	1,067,323	210,014	1,277,337
2022	1,082,287	190,206	1,272,493
2023-2027	4,670,859	669,732	5,340,591
2028-2032	3,673,354	299,715	3,973,069
2033-2036	1,497,356	41,415	1,538,771
Total	<u>\$ 15,077,765</u>	<u>\$ 2,156,443</u>	<u>\$ 17,234,208</u>

D. Obligations Under Capital Leases- Governmental

Debt current outstanding in the Governmental Funds is as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Amount Issued</u>	<u>Amount Outstanding</u>
2016 Saber Chassis Fire Truck	2.11%	9/30/2016	9/30/2021	\$ 492,934	\$ 445,697
2017 Elgin Street Sweeper	2.39%	6/23/2017	7/31/2020	264,672	264,672
Total				<u>\$ 757,606</u>	<u>\$ 710,369</u>

<u>Year ended September 30</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2018	\$ 95,690	\$ 15,335	\$ 111,025
2019	97,864	13,161	111,025
2020	218,954	11,173	230,127
2021	297,861	5,790	303,651
Total	<u>\$ 710,369</u>	<u>\$ 45,459</u>	<u>\$ 755,828</u>

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended September 30, 2017**

Note 7 – Long-term Liabilities (Cont.)

E. Obligations Under Energy Efficiency Lease- Governmental

Description	Interest Rate	Issue Date	Maturity Date	Amount Issued	Amount Outstanding
1. Energy Conservation	3.60%	8/30/2017	8/30/2037	\$ 2,807,687	\$ 2,807,687
Total				<u>\$ 2,807,687</u>	<u>\$ 2,807,687</u>

Year ended September 30	Principal	Interest	Total
2018	\$ 65,019	\$ 101,077	\$ 166,096
2019	70,709	98,736	169,445
2020	76,704	96,191	172,895
2021	83,019	93,429	176,448
2022	89,669	90,440	180,109
2023-2027	560,865	398,542	959,407
2028-2032	786,726	282,127	1,068,853
2033-2037	1,074,975	120,761	1,195,736
Total	<u>\$ 2,807,686</u>	<u>\$ 1,281,303</u>	<u>\$ 4,088,989</u>

An energy efficiency lease agreement dated March 29, 2017, was executed by and between the district, the lessee, and Schneider Electric Buildings Americas, Inc., the lessor.

The agreement authorized the borrowing of \$3,000,000 for the purchase of energy efficiency equipment, machinery, supplies, building modifications and other energy saving items. Payments of the lease shall be made from the Bond and Interest Retirement Fund and not exceed twenty (20) years.

The City entered into this energy efficiency lease agreement under the authority of Section 31-7-14, Miss. Code Ann. (1972).

Upon written notice to the lessor, the lessee has the option of repaying the total amount due as set forth by the agreement.

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2017

Note 8 – Non-Committal Debt

The state legislature allows the City to provide certain private and public entities with a low-cost source of capital financing deemed to be in the public interest. This debt is secured solely by the credit of the private and public entities and is administered by trustees independent of the City. The City has no obligation for this debt. Accordingly, these bonds are not reported in the accompanying financial statements.

Entity	Date Issued	Balance 10-1-2016	Additions	Reductions	Balance 9-30-2017
Howard Industries, Inc.	12/1/1998	\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000

Note 9 – Defined Benefit Pension Plan

The City participates in two retirement systems administered by the Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi (PERS). Both Systems are defined benefit plans and include a multi-employer; cost-sharing pension plan and an agent multi-employer pension plan as described below:

General Information about the Pension Plans

Plan Description - The City of Laurel 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. The City also participates in the Mississippi Municipal Retirement System (MMRS) which covers certain retired police and firemen. For fiscal year 2017, the City collected 4.46 mills of tax to fund their portion of the plan. The City's contribution to MMRS for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2017, 2016 and 2015 were \$924,772, \$719,601 and \$1,107,949 respectively. PERS issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. That report may be obtained by writing to Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi, PERS Building, 429 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201 or by calling (601) 359-3589 or 1-800-444-PERS.

Funding Policy – At September 30, 2017, PERS members are required to contribute 9.0% of their annual covered salary, and the City of Laurel is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The rate for fiscal year ended September 30, 2017, 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 City's contributions to PERS for the fiscal years ending September 30, 2017, 2016 and 2015 were \$1,446,082, \$1,443,559 and \$1,459,604, respectively, which equaled 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, 2017, the City reported a liability of \$30,108,920 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2017, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date.

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended September 30, 2017**

Note 9 - Defined Benefit Pension Plan (Cont.)

The City's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the City's long-term share of contribution to the pension plan relative to projected contributions of all participating entities, actuarially determined. At June 30, 2017, The City's proportion was .1434660 percent.

For the year ended September 30, 2017, the City recognized pension expense of \$3,491,637.

At September 30, 2017, the City reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources			
	PERS		MMRS	Total
	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Governmental Activities	
Difference between expected and actual experience	\$ 352,265	\$ 21,293	\$ -	\$ 373,558
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	-	-	68,440	68,440
Changes in assumptions	512,789	33,868	-	546,657
City's contributions subsequent to the measurement date	361,283	22,001	-	383,284
Total	<u>\$ 1,226,337</u>	<u>\$ 77,162</u>	<u>\$ 68,440</u>	<u>\$ 1,371,939</u>

	Deferred Inflows of Resources			
	PERS		MMRS	Total
	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Governmental Activities	
Difference between expected and actual experience	\$ 164,099	\$ 9,919	\$ -	\$ 174,018
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	283,568	17,140	-	300,708
Changes in assumptions	42,571	2,573	-	45,144
Changes in proportion and difference between contributions	59,270	3,583	-	62,853
Total	<u>\$ 549,508</u>	<u>\$ 33,215</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 582,723</u>

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended September 30, 2017**

Note 9 - Defined Benefit Pension Plan (Cont.)

\$383,284 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from City 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 ended September 30:

	<u>PERS</u>	<u>MMRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
2016	\$ 388,504	\$ 52,358	\$ 440,862
2017	395,617	52,358	447,975
2018	14,045	12,720	26,765
2019	(460,674)	(48,996)	(509,670)
Total	<u>\$ 337,492</u>	<u>\$ 68,440</u>	<u>\$ 405,932</u>

Actuarial assumptions. The total pension liability in the June 30, 2017 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	3.0 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

Mortality rates were based on the RP-2014 Healthy Annuitant Blue Collar Table projected with Scale BB to 2017, with male rates set forward one year.

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2017 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2016. The experience report is dated April 18, 2017.

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.

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended September 30, 2017**

Note 9 - Defined Benefit Pension Plan (Cont.)

The target asset allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class 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	27.00%	4.60%
International Equity	18.00%	4.50%
Emerging Markets Equity	4.00%	4.75%
Global	12.00%	4.75%
Fixed Income	18.00%	0.75%
Real Estate	10.00%	3.50%
Private Equity	8.00%	5.10%
Emerging Debt	2.00%	2.25%
Cash	<u>1.00%</u>	0.00%
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 and that Employer contributions will be made at rates equal to the difference between actuarially determined contribution rates and the member rate. 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. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

Sensitivity of the City's proportionate share of the net pension liability to changes in the discount rate. The following presents the City's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.75 percent, as well as what the City'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:

	<u>1% Decrease (6.75%)</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate (7.75%)</u>	<u>1% Increase (8.75%)</u>
City's proportionate share of the net pension liability - PERS	\$ 31,279,449	\$ 23,848,918	\$ 17,679,964
City's proportionate share of the net pension liability – MMRS	\$ 7,112,311	\$ 6,260,002	\$ 5,522,301

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

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2017

Note 10 – Litigation and Contingent Liabilities

The City currently participates in a state-wide cooperative that provides liability insurance to cities that otherwise could not obtain liability coverage. Liability insurance includes general, automobile and workmen's compensation. The premiums are based on city population and payroll figures. Should the claims paid exceed the premiums paid in, each participant would share in the deficiency. At present, premiums paid into the system exceed any claims paid.

The City is partially self-insured for hospitalization insurance. The City pays the first \$35,000 in claims per insured. The third party provider bills the City for Claims on a 10-day cycle.

The City is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters.

Except as described in the following paragraph, the City carries commercial insurance for these risks. Settled claims resulting from these insured risks have not exceeded commercial insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

Participation in Public Entity Risk Pool:

The City participates in the Mississippi Municipal Liability Plan (MMLP), an insurance-purchasing pool. The City, along with other municipalities as a group, purchased insurance to insure against losses related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; and natural disasters. Settled claims resulting from these insured risks have not exceeded the City's insurance coverage since it joined the pool.

The City is a member of the Mississippi Municipal Workers Compensation Group (MMWCG). The group is a risk-sharing pool; such a pool is frequently referred to as a self-insurance pool. MMWCG covers risks of loss arising from injuries to the City's employees.

The Mississippi Workers' Compensation Commission requires that an indemnity agreement be executed by each member in a workers' compensation self-insurance pool for the purpose of jointly and severally binding the pool and each of the employers comprising the group to meet the workers' compensation obligations of each member. Each member of the MMWCG contributes quarterly to a fund held in trust. The funds in the trust account are used to pay any claim up to \$250,000. For a claim exceeding \$250,000, MMWCG has insurance which will pay the excess up to the statutory limit. If total claims during a year were to deplete the trust account, then the pool members would be required to pay for the deficiencies.

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended September 30, 2017**

Note 11 – Other Commitments

Operating leases:

The City has an operating agreement for copiers and various equipment. Lease expenditures for the year ended September 30, 2017 amounts to \$284,169. The lease is on a yearly basis.

Commitments under construction contracts are described in Note 6.

Note 12 – Legal Debt Limit

The following is a schedule of limitations on the indebtedness of the City, at September 30, 2017.

	<u>15 Percent</u>	<u>20 Percent</u>
Authorized Debt Limit:		
Assessed valuation for fiscal year end September 30, 2017 (\$173,892,273)	\$ 26,083,841	\$ 34,778,455
Present debt subject to debt limits	<u>(19,770,000)</u>	<u>(31,531,795)</u>
Margin for further indebtedness	<u>\$ 6,313,841</u>	<u>\$ 3,246,660</u>

Limitation of Indebtedness

No municipality shall hereafter issue bonds for the purposes authorized by law in an amount which, when added to the then outstanding bonded indebtedness of such municipality, shall exceed 15 percent of the assessed value of the taxable property within such municipality, according to the last completed assessment for taxation. In computing general obligation bonded indebtedness, there may be deducted all bonds or other evidences of indebtedness issued for school, water and sewer systems, gas and light and power purposes and for the construction of special improvements primarily chargeable to the property benefited, or for the purpose of paying the municipality's proportion of any betterment program, a portion of which is primarily chargeable to the property benefited. However, in no case shall any municipality contract any indebtedness payable in whole or in part from proceeds of ad valorem taxes which, when added to all of the outstanding general obligation indebtedness, both bonded and floating, exceeds twenty percent of the assessed value of all taxable property within such municipality.

Note 13 – Employment Security Fund

The City has elected to maintain an unemployment fund and pay all base unemployment claims out of such fund - Mississippi State Code (1972) Sec. 71-5-359 allows a municipality the option of maintaining such a fund in lieu of paying state unemployment insurance. The fund shall be maintained at 2% of the covered wages paid during the prior calendar year. The present balance in the fund was sufficient to meet these funding requirements.

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2017

Note 14 – Municipal Compliance Questionnaire

The Municipal Compliance Questionnaire was completed and entered in the minutes as prescribed by law. A review of the questionnaire revealed that all items were answered yes or not applicable.

Note 15 – Joint Ventures

The City participates in the following joint ventures:

The City of Laurel is a participant with Jones County and the Cities of Ellisville and Sandersville in a joint venture, authorized by Section 39-3-9, Miss. Code Ann. (1972), to operate the Laurel – Jones County Library. The joint venture was created to provide free public library service to all the people of Jones County and is governed by a twelve-member board. Five members are appointed by the city, five members are appointed by the county and one member is appointed by each of the cities of Ellisville and Sandersville. By contractual agreement the City's appropriation to the joint venture amounted to \$100,000. Complete financial statements for the Laurel – Jones County Library can be obtained from the Laurel – Jones County Library, 530 Commerce Street, Laurel, MS 39440.

The City of Laurel is a participant with the Cities of Hattiesburg and Petal and the Counties of Covington, Jones and Perry in a joint venture, authorized by Section 17-17-307 Miss. Code Ann. (1972), to operate the Pine Belt Regional Solid Waste Authority. The joint venture was to dispose of solid waste in the participating jurisdictions. The City of Laurel appoints 2 of the twelve 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 Pine Belt Regional Solid Waste can be obtained from P.O. Box 1898, Hattiesburg, MS 39403.

The City of Laurel is a participant with Jones County and the Cities of Ellisville, Soso, and Sandersville in a joint venture, authorized by Section 19-9-11, Miss. Code Ann. (1972), to operate the Jones County Economic Development Authority. The joint venture was created to foster, encourage and facilitate economic development in the County and is governed by a board of trustees composed of twelve members appointed as follows: Jones County Board of Supervisors, six; City of Laurel, three; City of Ellisville, three. The City's appropriation from the General Fund to the joint venture amounts to \$50,000. Complete financial statements for the Jones County Economic Development Authority can be obtained from the Jones County Economic Development Authority, P.O. Box 527, Laurel, MS 39441-0527.

The City of Laurel is a participant with Jones County, Forrest County, and the City of Hattiesburg in a joint venture, authorized by Section 61-3-5, Miss. Code Ann. (1972), to operate Hattiesburg/Laurel Regional Airport Authority. The joint venture was created to operate a regional airport and is governed by a five-member board, one each appointed by the four member governments and one by the Governor for the State of Mississippi. The City does not currently contribute any funds for the support of the Airport. Complete financial statements for the Hattiesburg/Laurel Regional Airport Authority can be obtained from Hattiesburg/Laurel Regional Airport Authority, 1002 Terminal, Moselle, MS 39459.

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended September 30, 2017

Note 15 – Joint Ventures (Cont.)

The City of Laurel entered into an interlocal agreement with Jones County, Mississippi and the City of Ellisville, Mississippi to operate the Jones County Emergency Operations Center which operates the 911 system and coordinates other civil defense matters. The board consists of the Mayor, Police Chief and Council President from the City of Laurel, Mississippi, four officials from Jones County, Mississippi and the Mayor of Ellisville, Mississippi. The City of Laurel, Mississippi appropriated \$481,731 to the joint venture in 2017. The financial statements of the Jones County Emergency Operations Center are included in the Jones County financial statements.

Note 16 – Jointly Governed Organizations

The South Mississippi Fair operates in Jones County and the City of Laurel. The Commissioners are appointed as follows: five by the Mayor with Council approval, and five by the Jones County Board of Supervisors. The property of the Commission reverts to the City upon dissolution of the Commission. The City appropriates excess funds from Tourism Tax receipts and shares with the South Mississippi Fair Commission. For 2017 and 2016, the City shared \$120,673 and \$111,946, respectively with this organization from tourism tax receipts.

Note 17 – Reconciliation of Budgetary Basis to Accrual

Mississippi law requires that all municipalities budget on a modified-cash basis. Claims that have been incurred prior to the end of the year and that are paid within 30 days are recorded under the accrual basis. Prior year claims that are paid after 30 days revert to the cash basis. All budgeted amounts lapse at year end. The required budgetary basis is therefore not considered a generally accepted accounting principle. The following schedule reconciles the fund balances on the budgetary basis to the GAAP basis for the General Fund:

Fund balance (budgetary basis)	\$ 3,704,167
Adjustment to GAAP basis:	
Accrued revenues	622,364
Accrued expenses	<u>(744,251)</u>
Fund balance (GAAP basis), Sept. 30:	<u>\$ 3,582,280</u>

Note 18 – Tax Abatements

The City enters into property tax abatement agreements with local businesses under the state 1989 Economic Development Reform Act. Under the Act, localities may grant property tax abatements of certain properties, except for school district taxes, finished goods and rolling stock, for the purpose of attracting or retaining businesses within their jurisdiction. The minimum fee allowable cannot be less than one-third (1/3) of the property tax levy, including ad valorem taxes for school district purposes. The maximum exemption period that can be sought is ten (10) years. The abatements may be granted to specific enterprises located within or promising to relocate to the City. Existing industries may seek ad valorem tax exemptions for any improvements or expansions made to their facilities. For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2017, the City abated property taxes totaling \$931,034 under this program for four separate manufacturing enterprises.

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended September 30, 2017**

Note 19 – Deficit Fund Balances

The City had the following deficit fund balances at September 30, 2017. The deficits will be financed through future revenues or transfers.

	<u>Fund Balance</u>
Victim's Advocate Grant Fund	\$ (3,491)
Tourism Bond 1998 Fund	(13,726)
P/F Bldg/Grounds Improvement Fund	(96,998)
NRCS/PH Drainage Project Fund	(53,068)
CDBG Capital Project Fund	(8,894)
LFD Federal Grant Fund	(217,215)
	<u>\$ (393,392)</u>

Note 20 – Subsequent Events

Events that occur after the Statement of Net Position date but before the financial statements are available to be issued must be evaluated for recognition and disclosure. The effects of subsequent events that provide evidence about conditions that existed at the Statement of Net Position date are recognized in the accompanying financial statements. Subsequent events which provide evidence about conditions that existed after the Statement of Net Position date require disclosure in the accompanying notes. Management of the City of Laurel evaluated the activity of the city through March 20, 2018, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

Note 21 – Prior Period Adjustments

A prior period adjustment was necessary to correct beginning balances as follows:

	9/30/2016 <u>Fund Balance</u>	<u>PPA</u>	9/30/2016 <u>Adjusted Fund Balance</u>
Governmental Activities			
Total net position	<u>\$ 10,667,459</u>	<u>\$ (1,249,396)</u>	<u>\$ 9,418,063</u>
Business-Type Activities			
Total net position	<u>\$ 14,734,202</u>	<u>\$ (15,443)</u>	<u>\$ 14,718,759</u>

Governmental Activities

The Government-Wide financial statements were adjusted in the prior period to correct disposal of capital for \$(441,058). The net position was also adjusted for the correction of the prior year deferred outflows related to pensions of \$(990,821) and deferred inflows related to pensions of \$182,483. The total adjustments decreased the net position by \$(1,249,396).

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended September 30, 2017**

Note 21 – Prior Period Adjustments (cont'd)

Business-Type Activities

The Solid Waste fund was adjusted for the correction of the prior year deferred outflows/inflows related to pensions of \$(15,433). The total adjustment decreased the Business-type activities net position by \$(15,433).

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**Budgetary Comparison Schedule
General Fund
Year Ended September 30, 2017**

Schedule 1a

				Variances	
	Original	Final	Actual	Positive (Negative)	
	Budget	Budget	Budgetary	Original	Final
			Basis	to Final	to Actual
REVENUES					
General property taxes:					
Current	\$ 2,716,831	\$ 2,716,831	\$ 2,719,908	\$ -	\$ 3,077
Delinquent	-	-	4,731	-	4,731
Penalties and interest on delinquent taxes	10,000	10,000	19,555	-	9,555
Homestead exemption	-	-	116,619	-	116,619
Licenses and permits	198,100	198,100	208,009	-	9,909
Franchise taxes on utilities	1,930,600	1,935,600	1,764,486	5,000	(171,114)
Intergovernmental revenue	50,000	50,000	62,630	-	12,630
Gas & oil severance tax	16,500	16,500	12,120	-	(4,380)
State shared revenues	39,246	39,246	57,758	-	18,512
Federal grants	-	-	10,818	-	10,818
Local revenues	500,000	700,000	795,409	200,000	95,409
General sales taxes	8,751,000	8,751,000	8,382,059	-	(368,941)
Charges for services	29,900	29,900	26,601	-	(3,299)
Fines and forfeitures	625,000	625,000	536,977	-	(88,023)
Interest	35,000	35,000	17,451	-	(17,549)
Rents	113,000	113,000	117,486	-	4,486
Other revenues	10,000	10,000	1,315	-	(8,685)
Total revenues	<u>15,025,177</u>	<u>15,230,177</u>	<u>14,853,932</u>	<u>205,000</u>	<u>(376,245)</u>
EXPENDITURES					
General government	3,729,335	3,922,974	3,596,683	(193,639)	326,291
Public safety	8,605,732	8,607,731	8,254,076	(1,999)	353,655
Public works	1,609,692	1,619,872	1,692,590	(10,180)	(72,718)
Health & welfare	-	-	361,388	-	(361,388)
Economic Development	689,899	702,355	745,593	(12,456)	(43,238)
Capital outlay			-	-	-
Debt service		-	101,948	-	(101,948)
Total expenditures	<u>14,634,658</u>	<u>14,852,932</u>	<u>14,752,278</u>	<u>(218,274)</u>	<u>100,654</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	<u>390,519</u>	<u>377,245</u>	<u>101,654</u>	<u>(13,274)</u>	<u>(275,591)</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
Insurance/Legal settlements	-	-	17,249	-	17,249
Unrealized Gain/Loss Investment	-	-	(40,508)	-	(40,508)
Loan proceeds	-	-	264,672	-	264,672
Sale of property	-	-	1,142	-	1,142
Operating transfers in	50,000	50,000	50,000	-	-
Operating transfers out	(646,243)	(646,243)	(514,993)	-	131,250
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>(596,243)</u>	<u>(596,243)</u>	<u>(222,438)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>373,805</u>
	<u>(205,724)</u>	<u>(218,998)</u>	<u>(120,784)</u>	<u>(13,274)</u>	<u>98,214</u>
Fund balances - beginning (Non-GAAP Budgetary Basis)			2,421,584		
Prior period adjustment			1,403,367		
Fund balances - beginning (Non-GAAP Budgetary Basis), as restated			<u>3,824,951</u>		
Fund balances - ending (Non-GAAP Budgetary Basis)			\$ 3,704,167		

The notes to the required supplementary information is an integral part of this schedule.

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**Budgetary Comparison Schedule
Recreation Fund
Year Ended September 30, 2017**

Schedule 1b

				Variances	
	Original	Final	Actual	Positive (Negative)	
	Budget	Budget	Budgetary	Original	Final
			Basis	to Final	to Actual
REVENUES					
General property taxes:					
Current	\$ 768,494	\$ 768,494	\$ 773,522	\$ -	\$ 5,028
Delinquent	-	-	508	-	508
Penalties and interest on delinquent taxes	-	-	5,539	-	5,539
Homestead exemption	-	-	32,993	-	32,993
Local revenues	-	-	-	-	-
Charges for services	255,800	255,800	239,828	-	(15,972)
Other revenues	-	2,000	321	2,000	(1,679)
Total revenues	<u>1,024,294</u>	<u>1,026,294</u>	<u>1,052,711</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>26,417</u>
EXPENDITURES					
General government	490,557	503,536	429,614	(12,979)	73,922
Culture & recreation	1,720,460	1,743,916	1,627,758	(23,456)	116,158
Capital outlay	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditures	<u>2,211,017</u>	<u>2,247,452</u>	<u>2,057,372</u>	<u>(36,435)</u>	<u>190,080</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	<u>(1,186,723)</u>	<u>(1,221,158)</u>	<u>(1,004,661)</u>	<u>(34,435)</u>	<u>216,497</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
Operating transfers in	1,195,000	1,195,000	1,063,750	-	(131,250)
Operating transfers out	(58,092)	(58,092)	(58,092)	-	-
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>1,136,908</u>	<u>1,136,908</u>	<u>1,005,658</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(131,250)</u>
	<u>(49,815)</u>	<u>(84,250)</u>	<u>997</u>	<u>(34,435)</u>	<u>85,247</u>
Fund balances - beginning (Non-GAAP Budgetary Basis)			<u>38,773</u>		
Fund balances - ending (Non-GAAP Budgetary Basis)			<u>\$ 39,770</u>		

The notes to the required supplementary information is an integral part of this schedule.

City of Laurel, Mississippi

Schedule of the City's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability

PERS

Last 10 Fiscal Years

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
City's proportion of the net pension liability (asset)	0.143466%	0.143930%	0.148172%
City's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset)	\$ 23,848,918	\$ 25,709,492	\$ 23,187,042
City's covered-employee payroll	\$ 9,165,454	\$ 9,267,327	\$ 9,110,089
City's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	260.20%	277.42%	254.52%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	61.49%	57.47%	61.70%

* The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the measurement date of 9/30 of the year prior to the fiscal year presented.

This schedule is presented to illustrate the requirement to show information for 10 years. However, GASB 68 was implemented in FYE 9/30/2015, and, until a full 10-year trend is compiled, the City has only presented information for the years in which information is available.

The notes to the required supplementary information is an integral part of this schedule.

City of Laurel, Mississippi
Schedule of City Contributions
PERS
Last 10 Fiscal Years

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Contractually required contribution	\$ 1,446,082	\$ 1,443,559	\$ 1,107,949
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	<u>\$ 1,446,082</u>	<u>\$ 1,443,559</u>	<u>\$ 1,107,949</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
City's covered-employee payroll	9,181,473	9,165,454	7,034,597
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 68 was implemented in FYE 9/30/2015, and, until a full 10-year trend is compiled, the City has only presented information for the years in which information is available.

The notes to the required supplementary information is an integral part of this schedule.

City of Laurel, Mississippi

Schedule of Changes in Net Pension Liability

MRS

Last 10 Fiscal Years

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Total pension liability			
Interest	\$ 788,851	\$ 833,652	\$ 855,096
Differences between expected and actual experience	25,729	(313,107)	21,309
Changes of assumptions	35,157	-	324,098
Benefit payments, including refunds of employee contributions	(1,084,891)	(1,112,353)	(1,152,454)
Net change in total pension liability	(235,154)	(591,808)	48,049
Total pension liability - beginning	10,721,163	11,312,971	11,264,922
Total pension liability - ending (a)	<u>\$ 10,486,009</u>	<u>\$ 10,721,163</u>	<u>\$ 11,312,971</u>
Plan fiduciary net position			
Contributions- employer	\$ 597,342	\$ 994,419	\$ 1,068,848
Contributions- member	-	-	-
Net investment income	549,865	16,591	136,278
Benefit payments, including refunds of employee contributions	(1,084,891)	(1,112,353)	(1,152,454)
Administrative expense	(11,947)	(19,888)	(21,377)
Other	(8,105)	40,358	-
Net change in plan fiduciary net position	42,264	(80,873)	31,295
Plan net position - beginning	4,183,743	4,264,616	4,233,324
Plan net position - ending (b)	<u>\$ 4,226,007</u>	<u>\$ 4,183,743</u>	<u>\$ 4,264,619</u>
Net pension liability (asset) - ending (a) - (b)	\$ 6,260,002	\$ 6,537,420	\$ 7,048,352
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	40.30%	39.02%	37.70%
Covered payroll*	N/A	N/A	N/A
Net pension liability (asset) as a percentage of covered payroll*	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Payroll-related information not provided because plan is closed to new entrants and there are very few remaining active members and many municipalities have no remaining active members.

This schedule is presented to illustrate the requirement to show information for 10 years. However, GASB 68 was implemented in FYE 9/30/2015, and, until a full 10-year trend is compiled, the City has only presented information for the years in which information is available.

The notes to the required supplementary information is an integral part of this schedule.

City of Laurel, Mississippi
Schedule of Employer Contributions
MRS
Last 10 Fiscal Years

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Contractually required contribution	\$ 924,772	\$ 1,068,848	\$ 994,419
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	<u>924,772</u>	<u>1,068,848</u>	<u>994,419</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Covered payroll **	N/A	N/A	N/A
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll**	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Payroll-related information not provided because plan is closed to new entrants and there are very few remaining active members and many municipalities have no remaining active members.

This schedule is presented to illustrate the requirement to show information for 10 years. However, GASB 68 was implemented in FYE 9/30/2015, and, until a full 10-year trend is compiled, the City has only presented information for the years in which information is available.

The notes to the required supplementary information is an integral part of this schedule.

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

Notes to Required Supplemental Information Year Ended September 30, 2017

Budgetary Comparison Schedules

(1) 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 supplemental information.

(2) Budget Amendments and Revisions

The budget is adopted by the City Council through passage of an ordinance. All recommendations for a budget change come from the City Finance Director to the City Council for review and approval.

Pension Schedules

(1) Changes of benefit terms

(2) Changes of assumptions

- 2017
 - The expectation of retired life mortality was changed to the RP-2014 Healthy Annuitant Blue Collar Mortality Table projected with Scale BB to 2022.
 - The wage inflation assumption was reduced from 3.75% to 3.25%.
 - Pre-retirement mortality, withdrawal and disability retirement rates were also adjusted to more closely reflect actual experience.
 - Assumed rates of salary increase were adjusted to more closely reflect actual and anticipated experience.
- 2016
 - The assumed rate of interest credited to employee contributions was changed from 3.50% to 2.00%.
- 2015
 - 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 RP2000 Mortality Table, which was used prior to 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.
 - Assumed rates of salary increase were adjusted to more closely reflect actual and anticipated experience.
 - The price inflation and investment rate of return assumptions were changed from 3.50% to 3.00% and 8.00% to 7.75%, respectively

(3) Changes in benefit provisions.

- 2016
 - 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 preceding year with a minimum rate of one percent and a maximum rate of five percent.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

CITY OF LAUREL
Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards By Grant
For the Year Ended September 30, 2017

<i>Federal Grantor/Program or Cluster Title</i>	<i>Federal CFDA Number</i>	<i>Federal Expenditures(\$)</i>
Other Programs		
Department of Homeland Security		
Disaster Grants - Public Assistance (Presidentially Declared Disasters)		
Disaster Grants - Public Assistance (Presidentially Declared Disasters)	97.036	116,288
Total Disaster Grants - Public Assistance (Presidentially Declared Disasters)		116,288
Assistance to Firefighters Grant		
Assistance to Firefighters Grant	97.044	21,044
Total Assistance to Firefighters Grant		21,044
<i>Total Department of Homeland Security</i>		137,332
Department of the Interior		
Outdoor Recreation_Acquisition, Development and Planning		
Outdoor Recreation_Acquisition, Development and Planning	15.916	129,642
Total Outdoor Recreation_Acquisition, Development and Planning		129,642
<i>Total Department of the Interior</i>		129,642
United States Department of Justice		
Violence Against Women Formula Grants	16.588	38,223
Total Violence Against Women Formula Grants		38,223
<i>Total United States Department of Justice</i>		38,223
Department of Transportation		
Highway Planning and Construction		
Highway Planning and Construction	20.205	460,829
Total Highway Planning and Construction		460,829
<i>Total Department of Transportation</i>		460,829
United States Environmental Protection Agency		
Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup Cooperative Agreements		
Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup Cooperative Agreements	66.818	99,503
Total Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup Cooperative Agreements		99,503
Department of Housing and Urban Development		
Community Development Block Grants/State's program and Non-Entitlement Grants in Hawaii		
Community Development Block Grants/State's program and Non-Entitlement Grants in Hawaii	14.228	32,092
Total Community Development Block Grants/State's program and Non-Entitlement Grants in Hawaii		32,092
<i>Total Department of Housing and Urban Development</i>		32,092
Total Other Programs		897,621
Total Expenditures of Federal Awards		\$ 897,621

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

REPORTS ON INTERNAL CONTROLS AND COMPLIANCE



HOLT & ASSOCIATES, PLLC

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

W. David Dill, CPA
Julie M. Uher, CPA
Kari M. Blackledge, CPA

H. I. Holt, CPA
Founder (1915-1997)

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

Members of the City Council
City of Laurel, 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 business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of City of Laurel, Mississippi as of and for the year ended September 30, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise City of Laurel, Mississippi's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated March 20, 2018.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the City of Laurel, 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 the City of Laurel, Mississippi's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the City of Laurel, Mississippi's internal control.

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

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or, significant deficiencies. 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.

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Compliance and Other Matters

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

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Holt & Associates, PLLC

Laurel, MS

March 20, 2018



W. David Dill, CPA
Julie M. Uher, CPA
Kari M. Blackledge, CPA

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR EACH MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM AND
REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE

To the City Council
City of Laurel, Mississippi

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

We have audited City of Laurel, Mississippi's compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of City of Laurel's major federal programs for the year ended September 30, 2017. The City's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

Management's Responsibility

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants applicable to its federal programs.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on compliance for each of the City of Laurel, Mississippi's major federal programs based on our audit of the types of compliance requirements referred to above. We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Those standards and the Uniform Guidance require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether noncompliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program occurred. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence about the City of Laurel, Mississippi's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. However, our audit does not provide a legal determination of the City of Laurel, Mississippi's compliance.

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

In our opinion, the City of Laurel, Mississippi complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended September 30, 2017.

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Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

Management of the City of Laurel, Mississippi is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over compliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above. In planning and performing our audit of compliance, we considered the City of Laurel, Mississippi's internal control over compliance with the types of requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each major federal program to determine the auditing procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing an opinion on compliance for each major federal program and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the City's internal control over compliance.

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

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Holt & Associates, PLLC

Laurel, Mississippi

March 20, 2018

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH
STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS**



HOLT & ASSOCIATES, PLLC
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH
STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
City of Laurel, Mississippi

We have audited the basic financial statements of the City of Laurel, Mississippi as of and for the year ended September 30, 2017, and have issued our report thereon dated March 20, 2018. 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.

As required by the state legal compliance audit program prescribed by the Office of the State Auditor, we have also performed procedures to test compliance with certain other state laws and regulations. However, providing an opinion on compliance with all state laws and regulations was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

The results of those procedures performed to test compliance with certain other state laws and regulations and our audit of the financial statements disclosed the following immaterial instance of noncompliance with other state laws and regulations. Our finding and recommendation and your response are as follows:

Finding #1

Condition: The City's expenditures exceeded amounts budgeted. According to Section 21-35-15, Miss. Code Ann. (1972), expenditures shall not exceed budget estimates, measured at the lowest level adopted in the budget, except for capital outlay, election expenses and payment of emergency warrants.

Recommendation: We recommend the City take greater care in reviewing operations and amending the budget as circumstances require.

Response: During non-election years, the Administration will usually recommend budget amendments to cover budget expenditure overruns. However, since FY 2017 was an election year, the City was limited to its last budget amendment in August and was therefore unable to make its usual end-of-the-year budget amendments in September. The City will closely monitor and amend the city's budget as necessary.

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Finding #2

Condition: According to Miss Code Ann (1972) Section 21-33-46, municipalities are authorized to levy ad valorem taxes for specified purpose. During our audit, we determined that the City of Laurel, Mississippi had approved a levy to fund the Firemen and Police Disability and Relief Fund but revenues had not been properly allocated for the approved purpose.

Recommendation: We recommend the City to allocate the specified levies as approved by the City Council.

Response: During the year, the Finance Department discovered that the distribution formula allocating the tax money from the County was incorrect. Since this time, the Finance Department has taken action to correct this distribution formula.

Finding #3

Condition: The City have various funds that retained a negative fund balance at the end of the fiscal year.

Recommendation: We recommend the City to closely monitor funds to determine if negative fund balances exist and that proper transfer are made to eliminate negative fund balances.

Response: During September, the Administration will review all negative fund balances with the appropriate department. After this review, any necessary budget transfers will be recommended to the Council and amended to cover the negative fund balances.

The instances of noncompliance of the prior year have been corrected by management unless it is specifically stated otherwise in the findings and recommendations noted above.

The Office of the State Auditor or a public accounting firm will review, on a subsequent year's audit engagement, the findings in this report to ensure that corrective action has been taken.

Holt & Associates, PLLC

Laurel, Mississippi

March 20, 2018

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
Year Ended September 30, 2017**

Section 1: Summary of Auditor's Results

Financial Statements:

- | | | |
|----|--|----------------|
| 1. | Type of auditor's report issued on the financial statements: | Unqualified |
| 2. | Internal control over financial reporting: | |
| a. | Material weakness(es) identified? | No |
| b. | Significant deficiency(ies) identified? | No |
| 3. | Noncompliance material to the financial statements noted? | None reported. |

Federal Awards:

- | | | |
|----|---|----------------|
| 4. | Internal control over major programs: | |
| a. | Material weakness(es) identified? | No |
| b. | Significant deficiency(ies) identified that are not considered to be material weaknesses? | No |
| 5. | Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for major federal programs: | Unqualified |
| 6. | Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with OMB Uniform Guidance | None reported. |
| 7. | Federal program identified as major programs: | |
| | -Highway Planning and Construction
CFDA #20.205 | |
| 8. | The dollar threshold used to distinguish between type A and type B programs: | \$750,000 |
| 9. | Auditee qualified as a low-risk auditee? | 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 under the *Government Auditing Standards*.

Section 3: Federal Award Findings and Questioned Costs

The results of our tests did not disclose any findings and questioned costs related to federal awards.

CITY OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

**Schedule of Surety Bonds for Municipal Officials
Year Ended September 30, 2017**

Position	Insurance Company	Coverage
Council Members	Travelers'	\$ 100,000
Mayor (Blanket Bond)	Travelers'	100,000
Chief of Police	Travelers'	50,000
City Clerk/Financial Director	Travelers'	50,000
Deputy City Clerks	Travelers'	50,000
City Accountant	Travelers'	50,000
Clerks and Bookkeepers including Water Dept.	Travelers'	50,000
Notary Bonds	Travelers'	5,000
Employee Blanket Bond	Travelers'	25,000