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Audited Financial Statements And Special Reports For the Year Ended September 30, 2020

> Fortenberry & Ballard, PC Certified Public Accountants

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FINANCIAL REPORT



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Members of the Board of Supervisors Benton County, Mississippi

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying cash basis financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Benton County, Mississippi, (the County) as of and for the year ended September 30, 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the cash basis of accounting, as described in Note 1. This includes determining that the cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

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

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

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

1048 GLUCKSTADT ROAD, SUITE B MADISON, MISSISSIPPI 39110 TELEPHONE 601-992-5292 FAX 601-992-2033

Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective cash basis financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Benton County, Mississippi, as of September 30, 2020, and the respective changes in cash basis financial position thereof for the year then ended, in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

Basis of Accounting

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

Other Matters

Other Information

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

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated January 27, 2023 on our consideration of Benton County, Mississippi's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of Benton County, Mississippi's 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 Benton County, Mississippi's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

FORTENBERRY & BALLARD, PC

Fortenberry and Ballard, PC January 27, 2023

Certified Public Accountants

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Exhibit 1

Statement of Net Position - Cash Basis September 30, 2020

		Governmental Activities
ASSETS		_
Cash	\$	6,774,518
Total Assets	<u> </u>	6,774,518
NET POSITION		
Restricted:		
Expendable:		
General government		158,561
Public safety		332,015
Public works		3,017,048
Unrestricted		3,266,894
Total Net Position	\$	6,774,518

Statement of Activities - Cash Basis For the Year Ended September 30, 2020

For the Year Ended September 30, 2020			Pr	ogram Cash Recei	pts		Net (Disbursements) Receipts and Changes in Net Position
				Operating	Capital	_	Primary Government
Francisco a /Dras arragas		Cash	Charges for	Grants and Contributions	Grants and Contributions		Governmental Activities
Functions/Programs		<u>Disbursements</u>	Services	Contributions	Contributions		Activities
Primary government:							
Governmental activities:							
General government	\$	3,278,906	196,843	320,476			(2,761,587)
Public safety		1,413,185	86,827	88,533			(1,237,825)
Public works		3,527,956	176,732	727,004	33,160		(2,591,060)
Health and welfare		33,456	ŕ	14,195	ŕ		(19,261)
Culture and recreation		172,459		•			(172,459)
Education		1,589,035					(1,589,035)
Conservation of natural resources		64,535					(64,535)
Economic development and assistance		7,000					(7,000)
Debt service:		,					() ,
Principal		194,707					(194,707)
Interest		139,567					(139,567)
Total Governmental Activities		10,420,806	460,402	1,150,208	33,160	-	(8,777,036)
	C	General receipts:					
		Property taxes				\$	2,920,257
		Road & bridge pr	ivilege taxes				119,091
		Grants and contri	butions not restric	eted to specific pro	grams		237,188
		In-lieu taxes - TV	'A				3,761,298
		Unrestricted inter	est income				32,652
		Miscellaneous					176,511
	P	roceeds from deb	t issuance				223,591
	S	ale of county proj	perty				40,959
	C	Compensation for	loss on county pro	operty			68,731
		Total General R	_	7,580,278			
	C	Changes in Net Po	sition			_	(1,196,758)
	N	Vet Position - Begi	inning			_	7,971,276
	N	let Position - End	ing			\$_	6,774,518

Exhibit 3

BENTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Statement of Cash Basis Assets and Fund Balances Governmental Funds September 30, 2020

	_	Major	Funds		
ASSETS	_	General Fund	Road & Bridge Maintenance	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Cash	\$	3,266,894 \$	2,533,379	974.245 \$	6,774,518
Total Assets	\$ =	3,266,894 \$	2,533,379	974,245	
FUND BALANCES					
Restricted for:					
General government	\$	\$		158,561 \$	158,561
Public safety				332,015	332,015
Public works			2,533,379	483,669	3,017,048
Committed to:					
Economic development and assistance		2,587,526			2,587,526
Unassigned		679,368			679,368
Total Fund Balances	\$ _	3,266,894 \$	2,533,379	974,245 \$	6,774,518

Statement of Cash Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Basis Fund Balances - Governmental Funds

For the Year Ended September 30, 2020

		Major Funds						
RECEIPTS	_	General Fund		Road & Bridge Maintenance	_	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds	
Property taxes	\$	2,152,075	¢	348,755	P	419,427 \$	2,920,257	
Road and bridge privilege taxes	Φ	2,132,073	Φ	119,091	Φ	419,42/ \$	119,091	
Licenses, commissions and other receipts		128,758		119,091		2,086	130,844	
Fines and forfeitures		77,954				5,690	83,644	
In-lieu taxes - TVA		3,761,298				3,090	3,761,298	
Intergovernmental receipts		615,948		760,164		44,444	1,420,556	
Charges for services		640		700,104		245,274	245,914	
Interest income		17,922		9,268		5,462	32,652	
Miscellaneous receipts		53,460		1,091		121,960	176,511	
Total Receipts	_	6,808,055		1,238,369	-	844,343	8,890,767	
Total Receipts	_	0,808,033		1,238,309	-	644,343	8,890,707	
DISBURSEMENTS								
General government		3,180,720				98,186	3,278,906	
Public safety		1,294,597				118,588	1,413,185	
Public works				1,659,480		1,868,476	3,527,956	
Health and welfare		33,456					33,456	
Culture and recreation		172,459					172,459	
Education		1,589,035					1,589,035	
Conservation of natural resources		64,535					64,535	
Economic development and assistance		7,000					7,000	
Debt service:		ŕ					ŕ	
Principal				165,769		28,938	194,707	
Interest		130,000		7,093		2,474	139,567	
Total Disbursements	_	6,471,802		1,832,342	-	2,116,662	10,420,806	
Excess (Deficency) of Receipts over (under) Disbursements	_	336,253		(593,973)	_	(1,272,319)	(1,530,039)	
OTHER INFORMATION								
Proceeds of long-term debt				223,591			223,591	
Proceeds from sale of capital assets		36,901		4,058			40,959	
Compensation for loss on county property		35,606		33,125			68,731	
Transfers in				919,337		117,590	1,036,927	
Transfers out		(1,036,927)					(1,036,927)	
Total Other Cash Sources and Uses	_	(964,420)		1,180,111	_	117,590	333,281	
Excess (Deficency) of Receipts and other Cash Sources								
over (under) Disbursements and other Cash Uses	_	(628,167)		586,138	_	(1,154,729)	(1,196,758)	
Cash Basis Fund Balances - Beginning	_	3,895,061		1,947,241	_	2,128,974	7,971,276	
Cash Basis Fund Balances - Ending	\$ _	3,266,894	\$	2,533,379	\$ =	974,245 \$	6,774,518	

Exhibit 5

Statement of Fiduciary Assets and Liabilities - Cash Basis September 30, 2020

	Agency Funds
ASSETS	
Cash	\$ 27,837
Total Assets	\$ 27,837
LIABILITIES	
Amounts held in custody for others	\$ 27,837
Total Liabilities	\$ 27,837

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended September 30, 2020

Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended September 30, 2020

(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies.

A. Financial Reporting Entity.

Benton County, Mississippi (the County), is a political subdivision of the State of Mississippi. The County is governed by an elected five-member Board of Supervisors. The financial statements of the County are presented on a cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as established by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. These accounting principles require Benton County to present these financial statements on the primary government and its component units which have significant operational or financial relationships with the County. There are no outside organizations that should be included as component units of the County's reporting entity.

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

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

B. Basis of Presentation.

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

Government-wide Financial Statements:

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

The Statement of Net Position – Cash Basis presents the financial condition of the governmental activities of the County at year-end. The Government-wide Statement of Activities – Cash Basis presents a comparison between direct disbursements and program receipts for each function or program of the County's governmental activities. Direct disbursements are those that are specifically associated with a service, program or department and therefore, are clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program receipts include charges paid by the recipient of the goods or services offered by the program, grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Taxes and other receipts not classified as program receipts are presented as general receipts of the County, with certain limited exceptions. The comparison of direct disbursements with program receipts identifies the extent to which each

Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended September 30, 2020

governmental function is self-financing or draws from the general receipts of the County.

Fund Financial Statements:

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

C. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting.

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

The County reports the following major Governmental Fund(s):

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

<u>Road and Bridge Maintenance Fund</u> - This fund is used to account for monies from specific sources that are restricted for road and bridge maintenance.

Additionally, the County reports the following fund types:

GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES

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

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

FIDUCIARY FUND TYPE

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

Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended September 30, 2020

D. Account Classifications.

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

E. Deposits.

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

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

F. Equity Classifications.

Government-wide Financial Statements:

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

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

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

Net Position Flow Assumption

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

Fund Financial Statements:

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

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

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

Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended September 30, 2020

Committed fund balance includes amounts that can be used only for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by a formal action of the Board of Supervisors, the County's highest level of decision-making authority. This formal action is an order of the Board of Supervisors as approved in the board minutes.

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

Fund Balance Flow Assumption:

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

G. Property Tax Receipts.

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

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

H. Changes in Accounting Standards.

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board issued GASB 95, *Postponement of the Effective Dates of Certain Authoritative Guidance* in May 2020. The objective of this Statement was to provide temporary relief to governments in light of the COVID-19 pandemic by postponing effective dates of certain Statements and Implementation Guides. The effective dates of GASB 83-84, GASB 88-93, and Implementation Guides No. 2017-3, 2018-1, 2019-1, and 2019-2 were postponed one year. The effective dates of GASB 87, *Leases*, and Implementation Guide No. 2019-3, *Leases*, were postponed eighteen months.

Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended September 30, 2020

(2) Deposits.

The carrying amount of the County's total deposits with financial institutions at September 30, 2020, was \$6,802,355, and the bank balance was \$7,022,268. The collateral for public entities' deposits in financial institutions is held in the name of the State Treasurer under a program established by the Mississippi State Legislature and is governed by Section 27-105-5, Miss. Code Ann. (1972). Under this program, the entity's funds are protected through a collateral pool administered by the State Treasurer. Financial institutions holding deposits of public funds must pledge securities as collateral against those deposits. In the event of failure of a financial institution, securities pledged by that institution would be liquidated by the State Treasurer to replace the public deposits not covered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

Custodial Credit Risk - Deposits. Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of the failure of a financial institution, the County will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The County does not have a formal policy for custodial credit risk. In the event of failure of a financial institution, securities pledged by that institution would be liquidated by the State Treasurer to replace the public deposits not covered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). Deposits above FDIC coverage are collateralized by the pledging financial institution's trust department or agent in the name of the Mississippi State Treasurer on behalf of the County.

(3) Interfund Transfers.

The following is a summary of interfund transfers at September 30, 2020:

Transfers In/Out:

Transfers In	Transfers Out	 Amount
Road and Bridge Maintenance General Fund Other Governmental Funds General Fund		\$ 919,337 117,590
Total		\$ 1,036,927

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

(4) Claims and Judgments.

Risk Financing.

The County finances its exposure to risk of loss related to workers' compensation for injuries to its employees through the Mississippi Public Entity Workers' Compensation Trust, a public entity risk pool. The County pays premiums to the pool for its workers' compensation insurance coverage, and the participation agreement provides that the pool will be self-sustaining through member premiums. The retention for the pool is \$1,000,000 for each accident and completely covers statutory limits set by the Workers' Compensation Commission. Risk of loss is remote for claims exceeding the pool's retention liability. However, the pool also has catastrophic reinsurance coverage for statutory limits above the pool's retention, provided by Safety National Casualty Corporation, effective from January 1, 2020, to January 1, 2021. The pool may make an overall supplemental assessment or declare a refund depending on the loss

Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended September 30, 2020

experience of all the entities it insures.

(5) Contingencies.

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

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

(6) Jointly Governed Organizations.

The County participates in the following jointly governed organizations:

The Northeast Mental Health-Mental Retardation Commission operates in a district composed of the Counties of Benton, Chickasaw, Itawamba, Lee, Monroe, Pontotoc and Union. The Benton County Board of Supervisors appoints one of the seven members of the Board of Commissioners. The County contributed \$10,000 for the maintenance and support of the Commission in fiscal year 2020.

The Northeast Mississippi Planning and Development District operates in a district composed of the Counties of Alcorn, Benton, Marshall, Prentiss, Tippah and Tishomingo. The Benton County Board of Supervisors appoints four of the twenty-four members of the Board of Directors. The County contributed \$7,000 for the maintenance and support of the District in fiscal year 2020.

Northwest Mississippi Community College operates in a district composed of the Counties of Benton, Calhoun, DeSoto, Lafayette, Marshall, Panola, Quitman, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tunica and Yalobusha. The Benton County Board of Supervisors appoints two of the twenty-three members of the College Board of Trustees. The County contributed \$133,586 for the maintenance and support of the College in fiscal year 2020.

The Northeast Mississippi Regional Solid Waste Authority provides solid waste services to the Counties of Benton, Prentiss and Tippah along with the Cities of Ashland, Booneville and Ripley. Currently, Benton County does not receive any direct services from the Authority, but rather contracts with a private firm for the collection of solid waste. The Authority prepared a five-year solid waste plan for the County. Each member of the Authority appoints one member of the six-member Commission. The County did not contribute any funds to the Authority in fiscal year 2020.

The United Community Action Commission, Inc. was created as a nonprofit organization pursuant to federal community action legislation in the mid-1960s. The Commission is governed by a twenty-one member board, seven of whom are appointed by the Benton County Board of Supervisors. Most of the Commission's operating revenue comes from federal sources. The County contributed \$50,000 to the Commission in fiscal year 2020.

Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended September 30, 2020

(7) Defined Benefit Pension Plan.

<u>Plan Description</u>. Benton County, Mississippi, contributes to the Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi (PERS), a cost-sharing, multiple-employer, defined benefit pension plan. PERS provides retirement and disability benefits, annual cost-of-living adjustments and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Plan provisions and the Board of Trustees' authority to determine contribution rates are established by Miss. Code Ann. Section 25-11-1 et seq., (1972, as amended) and may be amended only by the State of Mississippi Legislature. PERS issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. That information may be obtained by writing to Public Employees' Retirement System, PERS Building, 429 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201-1005 or by calling 1-800-444-PERS.

<u>Funding Policy</u>. At September 30, 2020, PERS members were required to contribute 9% of their annual covered salary, and the County is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The rate at September 30, 2020 was 17.40% of annual covered payroll. The contribution requirements of PERS members are established and may be amended only by the State of Mississippi Legislature. The County's contributions (employer share only) to PERS for the years ending September 30, 2020, 2019 and 2018 were \$385,091, \$344,349 and \$321,197, respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year.

(8) The Mississippi Office of the State Auditor (OSA) has elected to perform limited procedures in relation to purchasing and compliance with state law. This report should be viewed in conjunction with the report from OSA in order to gain a comprehensive understanding of the County's operations. This report and OSA's report will be available on OSA's website at http://www.osa.ms.gov/reports. OSA's report will include a Purchasing Report and Limited Compliance Review Report.

OTHER INFORMATION

Budgetary Comparison Schedule -Budget and Actual (Non-GAAP Basis) General Fund For the Year Ended September 30, 2020 UNAUDITED

		Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual (Budgetary Basis)	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
RECEIPTS					
Property taxes	\$	2,169,293 \$	2,154,924 \$	2,152,075 \$	(2,849)
Licenses, commissions and other receipts		124,571	125,909	128,758	2,849
Fines and forfeitures		84,006	77,954	77,954	-
In-lieu taxes - TVA		1,907,869	3,761,298	3,761,298	-
Intergovernmental receipts		667,776	611,535	615,948	4,413
Charges for services		-	640	640	-
Interest income		14,699	17,922	17,922	-
Miscellaneous receipts	_	20,779	24,147	53,460	29,313
Total Receipts	_	4,988,993	6,774,329	6,808,055	33,726
DISBURSEMENTS Current:					
General government		5,400,840	3,180,720	3,180,720	-
Public safety		1,334,202	1,294,597	1,294,597	-
Health and welfare		65,102	33,456	33,456	-
Culture and recreation		122,451	172,459	172,459	_
Education		1,487,300	1,589,035	1,589,035	_
Conservation of natural resources		65,000	64,535	64,535	_
Economic development and assistance		7,000	7,000	7,000	_
Debt service:		,,	,,	.,	
Interest			130,000	130,000	_
Total Disbursements	_	8,481,895	6,471,802	6,471,802	-
Excess of Receipts over (under) Disbursements		(3,492,902)	302,527	336,253	33,726
OTHER CASH SOURCES (USES)					
Sale of county property		30,000	36,901	36,901	_
Compensation for loss on county property		-	35,606	35,606	_
Transfers in		1,252,325	1,717,013	22,000	(1,717,013)
Transfers out		1,202,020	(2,724,627)	(1,036,927)	1,687,700
Other financing sources (uses)		4,538	4,413	(1,030,327)	(4,413)
Total Other Cash Sources (Uses)	_	1,286,863	(930,694)	(964,420)	(33,726)
Total State Cush Sources (Cises)	_	1,200,005	(220,021)	(501,120)	(33,720)
Net Change in Fund Balance		(2,206,039)	(628,167)	(628,167)	-
Cash Basis Fund Balances - Beginning	_	(5,275,569)	3,895,060	3,895,061	1
Cash Basis Fund Balances - Ending	\$_	(7,481,608) \$	3,266,893 \$	3,266,894 \$	1

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

Budgetary Comparison Schedule -Budget and Actual (Non-GAAP Basis) Road and Bridge Maintenance Fund For the Year Ended September 30, 2020 UNAUDITED

RECEIPTS Property taxes Road and bridge privilege taxes Intergovernmental receipts Interest income Miscellaneous receipts Total Receipts	\$	Original Budget 345,870 115,312 793,368 9,062 6,595 1,270,207	\$ Final Budget 501,551 119,090 607,368 9,268 1,091 1,238,368	\$	Actual (Budgetary Basis) 348,755 119,091 760,164 9,268 1,091 1,238,369	\$	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative) (152,796) 1 152,796 - 1
DISBURSEMENTS							
Current:							
Public works		2,763,500	1,561,224		1,659,480		(98,256)
Debt service:							
Principal		130,000	54,518		165,769		(111,251)
Interest	_	2 002 500	7,081	_	7,093	-	(12)
Total Disbursements	-	2,893,500	1,622,823	_	1,832,342	-	(209,519)
Excess of Receipts over (under) Disbursements	_	(1,623,293)	(384,455)	_	(593,973)		(209,518)
OTHER CASH SOURCES (USES)							
Proceeds of long-term debt					223,591		223,591
Sale of county property		_	18,129		4,058		(14,071)
Compensation for loss on county property		_	33,125		33,125		-
Transfers in		919,450	919,337		919,337		_
Total Other Cash Sources (Uses)	_	919,450	970,591		1,180,111	•	209,520
Net Change in Fund Balance		(703,843)	586,136		586,138	-	2
Cash Basis Fund Balances - Beginning	_	(318,891)	1,947,241	_	1,947,241	-	
Cash Basis Fund Balances - Ending	\$ =	(1,022,734)	\$ 2,533,377	\$_	2,533,379	\$	2

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

Schedule of Interfund Loans and Advances For the Year Ended September 30, 2020 UNAUDITED

The following is a summary of interfund balances at September 30, 2020:

A. Due From/To Other Funds:

Receivable Fund	Payable Fund	 Balance at Sept30, 2020
NONE NOTED IN FISCAL YEAR 2020.		\$
		\$

Schedule of Capital Assets For the Year Ended September 30, 2020 UNAUDITED

Governmental activities:

		Balance				Balance
	_	Oct. 1, 2019	Additions	Deletions	Adjustments*	Sept. 30, 2020
Land	\$	236,499	27,000			263,499
Construction in progress		64,926	56,530			121,456
Infrastructure		9,118,468	66,500			9,184,968
Buildings		2,880,953	4,170,251			7,051,204
Improvements other than buildings		445,487	368,583			814,070
Mobile equipment		5,785,229	422,714	64,202	19,828	6,163,569
Furniture and equipment		733,053	28,702		7,785	769,540
Leased property under capital leases	_	427,484	223,591	145,284	2,884	508,675
Total capital assets	\$_	19,692,099	5,363,871	209,486	30,497	24,876,981

^{*}Immaterial adjustments to classifications to match county records.

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

Schedule of Changes in Long-term Debt For the Year Ended September 30, 2020 UNAUDITED

The following is a summary of changes in long-term liabilities and obligations for the year ended September 30, 2020:

				Balance		Principal	Balance
Description and Purpose	Issue Date	Maturity Date	Interest Rate	Oct. 1, 2019	Issued	Payments	Sept. 30, 2020
Governmental Activities:							
A. Certificates of Participation:							
Series 2018 New Jail	11/2018	11/2027	3.25% \$	4,000,000	\$	S S	4,000,000
B. Capital Leases:							
Dump Truck - District 5	01/2015	01/2020	2.32%	4,740		4,740	-
2018 International Dump Truck - District 1*	08/2017	09/2021	2.48%	117,080		117,080	-
2018 International Dump Truck - District 2	08/2017	08/2021	2.47%	39,122		20,180	18,942
2020 International Dump Truck - District 3	07/2019	07/2024	3.78%	75,315		14,470	60,845
2020 Mack Dump Truck - District 1	03/2020	03/2024	2.98%		148,591	6,974	141,617
2018 Caterpillar Backhoe - District 1	07/2020	07/2025	2.96%		75,000	2,325	72,675
				236,257	223,591	165,769	294,079
C. Other Loans:			•				
NE Benton Fire Department Loan**	10/2017	11/2021	2.00%	9,749		-	9,749
E911 Equipment Loan	05/2018	06/2023	2.00%	121,343		28,938	92,405
			-	131,092		28,938	102,154
Total			\$	4,367,349	\$\$	194,707	4,396,233

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

^{*} Sold February 2020 and bank loan paid off entirely. 2020 District 1 Mack Truck purchased as a replacement.

^{**} No payments noted in fiscal year 2020.

Schedule of Surety Bonds for County Officials For the Year Ended September 30, 2020 UNAUDITED

Name	Position	Company	Bond
Christopher Graves Shoup	Supervisor District 1	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$100,000
James Griffin	Supervisor District 2	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$100,000
James Lowry	Supervisor District 3	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$100,000
Tommy Fortner	Supervisor District 4	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$100,000
Ricky Wayne Pipkin, Sr.	Supervisor District 5	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$100,000
Marlene McKenzie	Chancery Clerk	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$100,000
Cindy Wilson	Deputy Chancery Clerk	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Teleshia Everett	Deputy Chancery Clerk	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Marlene McKenzie	Comptroller	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$100,000
Marlene McKenzie	Purchase Clerk	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$100,000
Marjorie Jimmerson	Assistant Purchase Clerk	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Teleshia Everett	Assistant Purchase Clerk	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Collin Mills	Receiving Clerk	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$75,000
Joe Harris	Assistant Receiving Clerk	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Clarence Kimbrough	Assistant Receiving Clerk	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Alonzo Tucker	Assistant Receiving Clerk	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Marc Steele	Assistant Receiving Clerk	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Ronnie Briscoe	Assistant Receiving Clerk	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Margaret Taylor	Assistant Receiving Clerk	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Cindy Wilson	Assistant Receiving Clerk	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Pearlie Thompson	Assistant Receiving Clerk	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Marjorie Jimmerson	Assistant Receiving Clerk	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Teleshia Everett	Assistant Receiving Clerk	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Jerry Estes	Assistant Receiving Clerk	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Cindy Wilson	Inventory Control Clerk	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$75,000
James Williams	Constable	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Robert O'Neil Dickerson	Constable	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Joshua Shane Ward	Constable	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Larry Hobson	Coroner	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Kathy M. Graves	Circuit Clerk	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$100,000
Lakeisha Fuller	Deputy Circuit Clerk	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$100,000
Albert Arnold McMullen	Sheriff	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$100,000
Aaron Robby Goolsby, Jr.	Sheriff	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$100,000
Bobby Dickerson	Deputy Sheriff*	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Brent Kuhl	Deputy Sheriff*	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Charles Peters	Deputy Sheriff*	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Charlie Fortner	Deputy Sheriff*	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Clint Moffitt	Deputy Sheriff*	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Cody Teel	Deputy Sheriff*	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Derek Hobson	Deputy Sheriff*	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Frank Peters	Deputy Sheriff*	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Gary Byrd	Deputy Sheriff*	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Gerald Lollar	Deputy Sheriff*	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Glenn Cooke	Deputy Sheriff*	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Harold Nicholson	Deputy Sheriff*	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Jacky Stanton	Deputy Sheriff*	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
James Williams	Deputy Sheriff*	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Janice Fortner	Deputy Sheriff*	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Jeff King	Deputy Sheriff*	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Joe Batts	Deputy Sheriff*	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Kenneth Jones	Deputy Sheriff*	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Margaret Taylor	Deputy Sheriff*	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Mark Aldridge	Deputy Sheriff*	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
——————————————————————————————————————			
Michael Garner	Deputy Sheriff*	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000

Schedule of Surety Bonds for County Officials For the Year Ended September 30, 2020 UNAUDITED

Name	Position	Company	Bond
Michael Roberson	Deputy Sheriff*	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Pete Samples	Deputy Sheriff*	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Randy Hobson	Deputy Sheriff*	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Rick Preciado	Deputy Sheriff*	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Robert Fortner	Deputy Sheriff*	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Scott Poff	Deputy Sheriff*	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Shane Ward	Deputy Sheriff*	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Sweetie Wooten	Deputy Sheriff*	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Tony Poplar	Deputy Sheriff*	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Adam Zellner	Jailor	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$10,000
Angela Tallie	Jailor	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$10,000
Charles Forter	Jailor	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$10,000
Christopher Hall	Jailor	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$10,000
Daniel Phillips	Jailor	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$10,000
Daniel Ross	Jailor	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$10,000
Darius Dukes	Jailor	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$10,000
Early Smith	Jailor	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$10,000
James Couch	Jailor	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$10,000
Kristy O'Dell	Jailor	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$10,000
Leon Crawford	Jailor	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$10,000
Macy McKaughan	Jailor	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$10,000
Robert Rogers	Jailor	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$10,000
Roger Elliott	Jailor	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$10,000
Stacey Duncan	Jailor	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$10,000
Stanley Warren	Jailor	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$10,000
Willie Brown	Jailor	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$10,000
Margaret Taylor	Dispatcher	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Connie Strickland	Dispatcher	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Teresa Conan	Dispatcher	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Earl Phillips	Dispatcher	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Kashuna Ross	Dispatcher	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Brody Lee Childers	Justice Court Judge	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$100,000
Gary McBride	Justice Court Judge	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$100,000
Felicia Washington	Justice Court Clerk	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Karen Moody	Deputy Justice Court Clerk	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Shannon Wilburn	Tax Collector-Assessor	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$100,000
Collin Mills	Deputy Tax Collector	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Pearlie Thompson	Deputy Tax Collector	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Rhonda Reno	Deputy Tax Collector	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Stanley Poff	Deputy Tax Collector	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000
Kenneth P. Geno, Jr.	County Engineer	Travelers Casualty and Surety Company	\$50,000

^{*} hired under Section 45-5-9, Miss. Code Ann. (1972)

Notes to Other Information For the Year Ended September 30, 2020

A. Budgetary Information.

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

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

B. Basis of Presentation.

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

(1) Long-term Debt Information:

- A. <u>Legal Debt Margin</u> The amount of debt, excluding specific exempted debt that can be incurred by the County is limited by state statute. Total outstanding debt during a year can be no greater than 15% of assessed value of the taxable property within the County, according to the then last completed assessment for taxation. However, the limitation is increased to 20% whenever a county issues bonds to repair or replace washed out or collapsed bridges on the public roads of the county. As of September 30, 2020, the amount of outstanding debt was equal to 0% of the latest property assessments.
- B. <u>Certificates of Participation</u> In accordance with Section 31-8-1 et. Seq. Miss. Code Ann. (1972) the County issued Certificates of Participation and transferred the proceeds to the Rise Foundation (Corporation). The funds are to be used to construct a new Benton County jail facility. At completion, the Corporation will enter into an eight-year lease with the County. The County is obligated to pay rent equal to the principal and interest on the debt. At the completion of the lease, the County will assume ownership of the facility. The obligation is not a general obligation and does not constitute a pledge of full faith and credit of the County. The debt will be recorded on the County's books upon completion of construction and occupying the jail facility.

Notes to Other Information For the Year Ended September 30, 2020

C. <u>Subsequent Events</u>.

Subsequent to September 30, 2020, the County has not issued any debt obligations.

SPECIAL REPORT

FORTENBERRY BALLARD, PC CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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

Members of the Board of Supervisors Benton County, Mississippi

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the cash basis financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Benton County, Mississippi (the County), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated January 27, 2023.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Benton County, Mississippi's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Benton County, Mississippi's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control.

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

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

Compliance and Other Matters

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

1048 GLUCKSTADT ROAD, SUITE B MADISON, MISSISSIPPI 39110 TELEPHONE 601-992-5292 FAX 601-992-2033

Purpose of this Report

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

FORTENBERRY & BALLARD, PC

Fortenberry and Ballard, PC January 27, 2023

Certified Public Accountants

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

Schedule of Findings and Responses For the Year Ended September 30, 2020

Section 1: Summary of Auditor's Results

Financial Statements:

1. Type of auditor's report issued on the financial statements:

Unmodified

2. Internal control over financial reporting:

a. Material weakness(es) identified?

b. Significant deficiency(ies) identified? None Reported

3. Noncompliance material to the financial statements noted?

Section 2: Financial Statement Findings

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