



The following document was not prepared by the Office of the State Auditor, but was prepared by and submitted to the Office of the State Auditor by a private CPA firm. The document was placed on this web page as it was submitted. The Office of the State Auditor assumes no responsibility for its content or for any errors located in the document. Any questions of accuracy or authenticity concerning this document should be submitted to the CPA firm that prepared the document. The name and address of the CPA firm appears in the document.

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
AND SPECIAL REPORTS**

**Year Ended September 30, 2020**

# FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>PAGE</b>
<b>INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT</b>	1 - 4
<b>MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS</b>	5 - 14
<b>FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</b>	
Exhibit 1 - Statement of Net Position	15 - 16
Exhibit 2 - Statement of Activities	17
Exhibit 3 - Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds	18
Exhibit 3-1 - Reconciliation of the Balance Sheet of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Net Position	19
Exhibit 4 - Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds	20
Exhibit 4-1 - Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities	21 - 22
Exhibit 5 - Statement of Fiduciary Assets and Liabilities	23
<b>NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</b>	24 - 53
<b>REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION</b>	
Schedule 1 - Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Budget and Actual (Non-GAAP Basis) - General Fund	54 - 55
Schedule 2 - Schedule of the County's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	56
Schedule 3 - Schedule of County Contributions	57
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information	58 - 61
<b>SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION</b>	
Schedule 4 - Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards	62 - 63
Notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards	64
<b>OTHER INFORMATION</b>	
Schedule 5 - Schedule of Surety Bonds for County Officials	65 - 68

# FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

## CONTENTS PAGE TWO

	<u>PAGE</u>
<b><i>SPECIAL REPORTS</i></b>	
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 <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	69 - 71
Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance for The Major Federal Program and on Internal Control Over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance	72 - 74
Independent Accountant's Report on Central Purchasing System, Inventory Control System, and Purchase Clerk Schedules (Required by Section 31-7-115, Mississippi Code Annotated [1972])	75 - 76
Schedule 6 - Schedule of Purchases Not Made from the Lowest Bidder	77
Schedule 7 - Schedule of Emergency Purchases	78
Schedule 8 - Schedule of Purchases Made Noncompetitively from a Sole Source	79
Limited Internal Control and Compliance Review Management Report	80 - 85
<b><i>SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS</i></b>	86 - 87
<b><i>AUDITEE CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN</i></b>	88
<b><i>SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS</i></b>	89

## ***FINANCIAL SECTION***



## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Members of the Board of Supervisors  
Forrest County, Mississippi

### **Report on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Forrest 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 basic financial statements of the County's primary government as listed in the table of contents.

### **Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with 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 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



**HATTIESBURG**  
2 Southern Pointe Parkway, Suite 100  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401-8025

P. O. Drawer 15099  
Hattiesburg, MS 39404-5099

FAX: 601.264.3642

**COLUMBIA**  
150 Old Highway 98 E  
Columbia, MS 39429-6447

P. O. Box 609  
Columbia, MS 39429-0609

FAX: 601.736.0501

**GULFPORT**  
2019 23rd Avenue  
Gulfport, MS 39501-2968

P. O. Box 1842  
Gulfport, MS 39502-1842

FAX: 228.864.3850

Members of the Board of Supervisors  
Forrest County, Mississippi

for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

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

#### **Basis for Adverse Opinion on the Aggregate Discretely Presented Component Units**

The financial statements do not include financial data for the County's legally separate component units. Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require the financial data for those component units to be reported with the financial data of the County's primary government unless the County also issues financial statements for the financial reporting entity that include the financial data for its component units. The County has not issued such reporting entity financial statements. The amount by which this departure would affect the assets, liabilities, net position, revenues and expenses of the aggregate discretely presented component units has not been determined.

#### **Adverse Opinion**

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the "Basis for Adverse Opinion on the Aggregate Discretely Presented Component Units" paragraph, the financial statements referred to above do not present fairly, the financial position of the aggregate discretely presented component units of Forrest County, Mississippi, as of September 30, 2020, or the changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### **Unmodified 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 major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Forrest County, Mississippi, as of September 30, 2020, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Members of the Board of Supervisors  
Forrest County, Mississippi

## **Other Matters**

### *Required Supplementary Information*

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Management's Discussion and Analysis, the Budgetary Comparison Schedule and corresponding notes, the Schedule of the County's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability, and the Schedule of County Contributions 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.

### *Supplementary and Other Information*

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise Forrest County, Mississippi's basic financial statements. The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards, as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards, as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulation Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to



Members of the Board of Supervisors  
Forrest County, Mississippi

prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

The Schedule of Surety Bonds for County Officials has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements, and accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

**Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards**

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 2, 2021 on our consideration of Forrest 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 Forrest 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 Forrest County, Mississippi's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Hattiesburg, Mississippi  
November 2, 2021

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

**INTRODUCTION**

This discussion and analysis of Forrest County's financial performance provides an overall narrative review of the County's financial activities for the year ended September 30, 2020. The intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the County's performance as a whole; readers should also review the basic financial statements and related notes to enhance their understanding of the County's financial performance.

Forrest County is located in southeastern Mississippi along Interstate I-59. The population, according to the 2020 census, is 78,158. The local economic base is driven mainly by Manufacturing and Poultry Processing, as well as diverse trade and service developments including a regional healthcare center of Southeast Mississippi.

**FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

Forrest County is financially stable. The County has committed itself to financial excellence for many years by using sound financial planning, budgeting and strong internal controls. The County is committed to maintaining sound fiscal management to meet the challenges of the future.

Forrest County continues to grow both economically and in population. This has allowed the County to maintain a steady growth in tax revenues without a significant tax increase. The County government tax rate has increased only 4.56% over the last 5 years. This does not include School tax increases.

Key financial highlights for 2020 were as follows:

- Total net position increased by \$828,398, which includes a \$279,197 prior period adjustment that represents a 1.28% increase from the prior fiscal year. The County's ending cash balance increased by \$4,475,059 which represents a 12.41% increase from the prior fiscal year.
- The County had \$47,606,802 in total revenues. Tax revenues account for \$36,030,277 or 75.68% of total revenues. State and federal revenues in the form of reimbursements, shared revenue or grants, account for \$7,213,249 or 15.15% of total revenues.
- The County had \$46,499,207 in total expenses, which represents a decrease of \$2,509,939 or a 5.12% decrease from the prior fiscal year. Expenses in the amount of \$10,508,952 were offset by user charges, grants, and outside contributions. General revenues of \$37,097,850 were adequate to provide for the remaining expenses.
- The General Fund had \$38,571,105 in revenues and \$35,689,551 in expenditures exclusive of other financing sources (uses). The General Fund's fund balance increased \$1,973,184 over the prior year which includes a \$279,197 prior period adjustment.

- Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, decreased by \$348,680.
- Long-term debt increased by \$875,993 due to an increase in the County's net pension liability.

## OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the County's basic financial statements. The County's basic financial statements comprise three components: 1) Government-wide financial statements, 2) Fund financial statements and 3) Notes to the basic financial statements. Required Supplementary Information is included in addition to the basic financial statements.

**Government-Wide Financial Statements** - The government-wide financial statements are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the County's finances, in a manner similar to private-sector businesses.

The statement of net position presents information on all County assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two reported as net position. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the County is improving or deteriorating.

The statement of activities presents information showing how net position changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of the related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will result in cash flows in future fiscal periods.

Both of these government-wide financial statements distinguish functions of the County that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues (governmental activities) from other functions that are intended to recover all or part of their costs through user fees and charges (business-type activities). The governmental activities of the County include general government; public safety; public works (roads and bridges); health and welfare; culture and recreation; conservation of natural resources; economic development and assistance; pension expense and interest on long-term debt.

Management has chosen to omit from the financial statements, the following component units:

Forrest General Hospital  
Rawls Springs Volunteer Fire Department  
North Forrest Fire Protection District  
Forrest County Agriculture High School

The Government-wide Financial Statements can be found on pages 15 - 17 of this report.

**Fund Financial Statements** - A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The County uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate finance-related legal compliance. All of the funds of the County can be divided into two categories: governmental funds and fiduciary funds.

Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental funds financial statements focus on near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources, as well as on balances of spendable resources available at the end of the fiscal year. Such information may be useful in evaluating a county's near-term financing requirements. Governmental funds include the general, special revenue, debt service, and capital projects funds.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for governmental funds with similar information presented for governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the government's near-term financing decisions. Both the "Governmental Funds Balance Sheet" and the "Governmental Funds Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances" provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between governmental funds and governmental activities. These reconciliations are on pages 19 and 21 - 22, respectively.

The County maintains individual governmental funds in accordance with the *Mississippi County Financial Accounting Manual*. Information is presented separately in the Governmental Funds Balance Sheet and in the Governmental Funds Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances for all major funds. All other non-major funds are combined together and presented in these reports as other governmental funds.

The basic governmental funds financial statements can be found on pages 18 and 20 of this report.

Fiduciary funds are used to account for resources held for the benefit of parties outside the County government. Fiduciary funds are not reflected in the government-wide financial statements because the resources of those funds are not available to support the County's own programs. The accrual basis of accounting is used for fiduciary funds. The County is responsible for ensuring that the assets reported in these funds are used for their intended purposes. The County's fiduciary activities are presented in a separate Statement of Fiduciary Assets and Liabilities, which can be found on page 23 of this report.

Notes to the financial statements provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements. The notes can be found on pages 24 - 53 of this report.

In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents a Budgetary Comparison Schedule, Schedule of the County's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability and Schedule of County Contributions as Required Supplementary Information.

The County adopts an annual operating budget for all governmental funds. A Budgetary Comparison Schedule has been provided for the General Fund. This required supplementary information can be found on pages 54 - 55 of this report.

Additionally, a Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards is required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance) and can be found on pages 62 - 63 of this report.

## **GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS**

**Net Position** - Net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. In the case of Forrest County, assets and deferred outflows exceeded liabilities and deferred inflows by \$65,607,097 as of September 30, 2020.

By far, the largest portion of the County's net position consists of its investment in capital assets (e.g. land, construction in progress, infrastructure, buildings, improvements other than buildings, mobile equipment, furniture and equipment) less related outstanding debt used to acquire such assets. The County uses these capital assets to provide services to its citizens.

The County's financial position is a product of several financial transactions including the net results of activities, the acquisition and payment of debt, the acquisition and disposal of capital assets and the depreciation of capital assets.

Table 1 presents a summary of the County's net position for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2020.

(See Table on Next Page)

**Table 1**  
**Net Position**

	<b>Governmental Activities</b>		<b>Total</b>
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
			<b>Change</b>
<b>ASSETS:</b>			
Current assets	\$ 76,212,521	\$ 76,498,909	-0.37%
Capital assets, net	79,309,161	79,657,841	-0.44%
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>155,521,682</b>	<b>156,156,750</b>	-0.41%
<b>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS</b>	<b>11,136,669</b>	<b>9,391,984</b>	18.58%
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>			
Current liabilities	3,509,194	4,472,948	-21.55%
Long-term debt, outstanding	21,747,749	24,215,198	-10.19%
Net pension liability	42,415,214	39,071,772	8.56%
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>67,672,157</b>	<b>67,759,918</b>	-0.13%
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS</b>	<b>33,379,097</b>	<b>33,010,117</b>	1.12%
<b>NET POSITION:</b>			
Net investment in capital assets	61,940,984	59,958,401	3.31%
Restricted	11,815,463	13,441,356	-12.10%
Unrestricted	(8,149,350)	(8,621,058)	5.47%
<b>Total net position</b>	<b>\$ 65,607,097</b>	<b>\$ 64,778,699</b>	1.28%

Additional information on the net pension liability:

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

Total unrestricted net position (deficit)	\$ (8,149,350)
Less unrestricted deficit in net position resulting from recognition of GASB 68 & 71	31,563,477
<b>Unrestricted net position, exclusive of the net pension liability effect</b>	<b>\$ 23,414,127</b>

Although recent changes in general accounting standards require inclusion of the State of Mississippi's pension liability attributable to current Forrest County employees, the Forrest County Supervisors disagree that this liability is a legal obligation of the County, but rather solely of the State of Mississippi pursuant to statute establishing the Public Employees Retirement System.

*(This Space Intentionally Left Blank)*

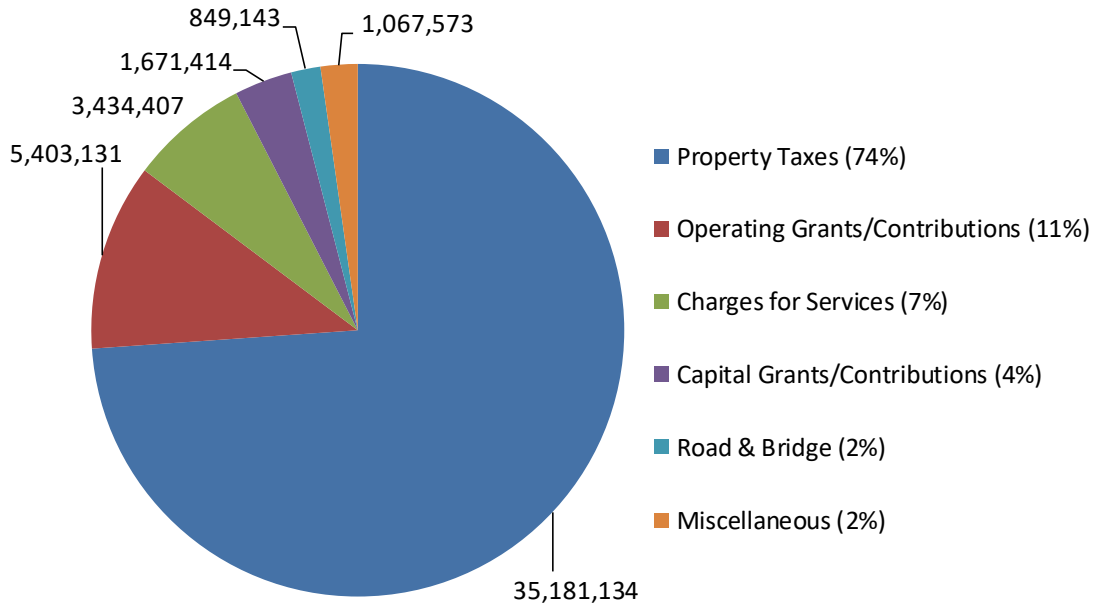
**Changes in Net Position** - Forrest County's total revenues for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2020, were \$47,606,802. The total cost of all services provided was \$46,499,207. The increase in net position was \$828,398 which includes a \$279,197 prior period adjustment. Table 2 presents a summary of the changes in net position for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2020, as compared to the fiscal year ended September 30, 2019.

**Table 2**  
**Changes in Net Position**

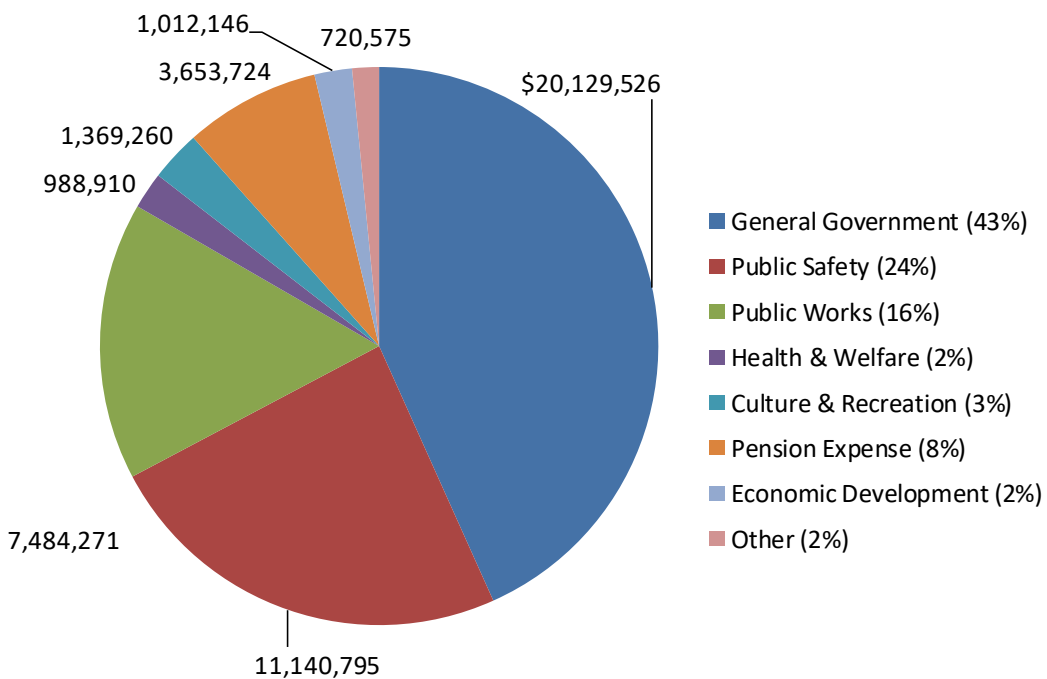
	<b>Governmental Activities</b>		<b>Total</b>
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
			<b>Change</b>
<b>REVENUES:</b>			
Program revenues:			
Charges for services	\$ 3,434,407	\$ 2,887,815	18.93%
Operating grants and contributions	5,403,131	4,696,720	15.04%
Capital grants and contributions	1,671,414	9,641,422	-82.66%
General revenues:			
Property taxes	35,181,134	33,089,675	6.32%
Other taxes	849,143	827,959	2.56%
Other general revenues	1,067,573	1,882,859	-43.30%
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>47,606,802</b>	<b>53,026,450</b>	-10.22%
<b>EXPENSES:</b>			
General government	20,129,526	21,637,607	-6.97%
Public safety	11,140,795	12,389,186	-10.08%
Public works	7,484,271	7,759,899	-3.55%
Health and welfare	988,910	1,030,614	-4.05%
Culture and recreation	1,369,260	1,723,631	-20.56%
Economic development and assistance	1,012,146	886,995	14.11%
Pension expense	3,653,724	3,041,169	20.14%
Other	720,575	540,045	33.43%
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>46,499,207</b>	<b>49,009,146</b>	-5.12%
<b>Changes in net position</b>	<b>\$ 1,107,595</b>	<b>\$ 4,017,304</b>	-72.43%

(This Space Intentionally Left Blank)

## WHERE THE COUNTY GETS ITS REVENUE



## HOW COUNTY REVENUES ARE USED





**Governmental Activities** - Table 3 presents the cost of eight major functional activities of the County: General Government, Public Safety, Public Works, Health and Welfare, Culture and Recreation, Economic Development and Assistance, Pension Expense and Other costs.

The table also shows each function's net cost (total cost less charges for services generated by the activity and intergovernmental aid provided for that activity). The net cost shows the financial burden that was placed on Forrest County's taxpayers by each of these functions.

**Table 3**  
**Functional Costs**

	<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>Net Costs</b>
General Government	\$ 20,129,526	\$ 14,702,505
Public Safety	11,140,795	8,268,725
Public Works	7,484,271	6,304,145
Health and Welfare	988,910	870,528
Culture and Recreation	1,369,260	457,907
Economic Development and Assistance	1,012,146	1,012,146
Pension Expense	3,653,724	3,653,724
Other	720,575	720,575

#### **FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE COUNTY'S FUNDS**

**Governmental Funds** - At the close of the fiscal year, Forrest County's governmental funds reported a combined fund balance of \$38,284,590, an increase of \$435,839.

The General Fund is the principal operating fund of the County. The increase in the fund balance of the General Fund for the fiscal year was \$1,973,184.

#### **BUDGETARY HIGHLIGHTS OF MAJOR FUNDS**

Over the course of the year, Forrest County revised its annual operating budget on several occasions. Significant budget amendments are explained as follows:

- Amendments were made to correct the estimated beginning fund balances made in the original budget to actual beginning fund balances on October 1.
- Budgeted revenue from state/federal sources was increased due to additional grant authorizations and receipts. The County received monies for emergency bridge repairs, COVID-19 related reimbursements and reimbursements for the school safe room projects.
- Budgeted expenditures were increased due to building repairs, emergency bridge repairs, COVID-19 related expenditures and the completion of the school safe room projects.

Even with these adjustments, actual disbursements were below final budget amounts by \$5,071,093 for the General Fund.

A schedule showing the original and final budget amounts compared to the County's financial activity for the General Fund is provided in this report as required supplementary information.

## **CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION**

**Capital Assets** - As of September 30, 2020, Forrest County's total capital assets was \$160,231,683. This includes land, construction in progress, infrastructure, buildings and improvements, mobile equipment, and furniture and equipment. This amount represents an increase from the previous year of \$2,656,585. The majority of this increase is due to the acquisition of mobile equipment and improvements to buildings during the current year.

Total accumulated depreciation as of September 30, 2020, was \$80,922,522, including \$3,114,337 of depreciation expense for the year. The balance in total net capital assets was \$79,309,161 at year-end.

Additional information on Forrest County's capital assets can be found in Note 7 on pages 36 and 37 of this report.

Table 4 provides an overview of the County's capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation.

**Table 4**  
**Capital Assets (Net of Depreciation)**

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Total Percentage Change</u>
Land and construction in progress	\$ 3,145,072	\$ 3,038,967	3.49%
Infrastructure	23,924,576	24,604,480	-2.76%
Buildings and improvements	46,357,497	46,431,298	-0.16%
Furniture and equipment	<u>5,882,016</u>	<u>5,583,096</u>	5.35%
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$ 79,309,161</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 79,657,841</u></b>	-0.44%

**Debt Administration** - At September 30, 2020, Forrest County had \$21,747,749 in long-term obligations outstanding. This includes general obligation bonds, unamortized bond premium, notes from direct borrowings and direct placements, claims and judgments, and compensated absences. Of this debt, \$2,258,794 is due within one year.

Forrest County maintains an "Aa3" bond rating from Moody's. The State of Mississippi limits the amount of debt a county can issue to generally 15% of total assessed value. The County's outstanding debt was equal to 2.34% of the latest property assessments as of September 30, 2020.

Additional information on long-term debt can be found in Note 9 on pages 38 - 42 of this report.

Table 5 is a summary of the total outstanding long-term debt obligations of the County.

**Table 5**  
**Outstanding Bonds, Notes and Long-Term Debt Obligations at Year End**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>Total Percentage Change</b>
General obligation bonds	\$ 16,640,000	\$ 18,325,000	-9.20%
Unamortized bond premium	567,164	670,434	-15.40%
Notes from direct borrowings and direct placements	3,445,945	4,063,685	-15.20%
Claims and judgements	540,600	608,175	-11.11%
Compensated absences	554,040	547,904	1.12%
<b><i>Total outstanding bonds, notes and long-term debt obligations</i></b>	<b><u>\$ 21,747,749</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 24,215,198</u></b>	<b>-10.19%</b>

#### **CURRENT AND FUTURE ITEMS OF IMPACT**

Forrest County has long been the “Hub” of South Mississippi from its beginning days as a rail and timber community to the vibrant economy of today built upon the pillars of healthcare, education, and military. Not only does Forrest County operate the largest hospital in the Pine Belt with Forrest General Hospital serving a 19-county regional area, the County is also home to Hattiesburg Clinic, the largest privately owned health clinic in the State of Mississippi. The Forrest County economy relies on a skilled workforce produced at multiple educational institutions, including several A-rated k12 school districts, Pearl River Community College, a private Christian University in William Carey University, and the University of Southern Mississippi, the third largest university in the State of Mississippi. Forrest County is also home to the Nation’s largest State-owned National Guard training facility in Camp Shelby. The 135,000 acre military base has been in operation since 1917 and will continue to serve as an economic engine in Forrest County and South Mississippi. Forrest County continues to further strengthen its economic vitality and further diversify its employment base, evident by Forrest County’s partnership with Lamar County to create the Eagle One Mega Site located in the central-western portion of the County, just outside the City of Hattiesburg. This 2,284 acre property is ideally situated to serve a large advance manufacturing employer with access to multiple modes of transportation and close proximity to a major metro-area. The investment in due diligence studies on this property strategically position the site to compete on a global stage to recruit companies from around the world and will further strengthen Forrest County’s economy. With a stable economy built on diverse and robust pillars, Forrest County will continue to lead South Mississippi into the future.

#### **CONTACTING THE COUNTY’S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, customers, and investors and creditors with a general overview of the County’s finances and to demonstrate the County’s accountability for the funds it received. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, please contact the Forrest County Chancery Clerk at Post Office Box 951, Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39403-0951.

## ***FINANCIAL STATEMENTS***

EXHIBIT 1

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

	<b>Governmental Activities</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 38,873,855
Property tax receivable	33,379,097
Fines receivable (net of allowance for uncollectibles of \$8,762,936)	1,111,449
Intergovernmental receivables	1,170,062
Other receivables	6,741
Restricted assets	1,671,317
Capital assets:	
Land and construction in progress	3,145,072
Other capital assets, net	76,164,089
Total assets	<u>155,521,682</u>
<b>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	
Deferred amount on refunding	284,932
Deferred outflows related to pensions	10,851,737
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>11,136,669</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Claims payable	1,348,113
Intergovernmental payables	1,972,186
Accrued interest payables	71,809
Amounts held in custody for others	117,086
Long-term liabilities:	
Due within one year:	
Capital debt	2,191,219
Claims and judgements payable	67,575
Due in more than one year:	
Capital debt	15,461,890
Non-capital debt	3,554,040
Claims and judgements payable	473,025
Net pension liability	42,415,214
Total liabilities	<u>67,672,157</u>
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	
Deferred revenues - property taxes	33,379,097
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>33,379,097</u>

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

EXHIBIT 1  
PAGE TWO

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

	<b>Governmental Activities</b>
<b><i>NET POSITION</i></b>	
Net investment in capital assets	\$ 61,940,984
Restricted for:	
Expendable:	
General government	94,917
Public safety	1,776,922
Public works	6,249,347
Culture and recreation	45,621
Conservation of natural resources	170,247
Unemployment compensation	117,917
Debt service	3,360,492
Unrestricted	(8,149,350)
<b><i>Total net position</i></b>	<b>\$ 65,607,097</b>

EXHIBIT 2

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

Functions / Programs	Expenses	Program Revenues			Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position
		Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities
<b>Primary Government:</b>					
Governmental activities:					
General government	\$ 20,129,526	\$ 1,642,879	\$ 2,202,728	\$ 1,581,414	\$ (14,702,505)
Public safety	11,140,795	1,607,258	1,174,812	90,000	(8,268,725)
Public works	7,484,271	-	1,180,126	-	(6,304,145)
Health and welfare	988,910	-	118,382	-	(870,528)
Culture and recreation	1,369,260	184,270	727,083	-	(457,907)
Conservation of natural resources	221,238	-	-	-	(221,238)
Economic development and assistance	1,012,146	-	-	-	(1,012,146)
Pension expense	3,653,724	-	-	-	(3,653,724)
Interest on long-term debt	499,337	-	-	-	(499,337)
Total governmental activities	46,499,207	3,434,407	5,403,131	1,671,414	(35,990,255)
<b>Total primary government</b>	<b>\$ 46,499,207</b>	<b>\$ 3,434,407</b>	<b>\$ 5,403,131</b>	<b>\$ 1,671,414</b>	<b>(35,990,255)</b>
General revenues:					
Property taxes					35,181,134
Road and bridge privilege taxes					849,143
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs					138,704
In lieu taxes - Petal Gas Storage					241,542
Unrestricted interest income					248,310
Miscellaneous					431,009
Gain on sale of capital assets					8,008
Total general revenues and gains					37,097,850
<b>CHANGES IN NET POSITION</b>					
1,107,595					
<b>NET POSITION - BEGINNING, AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED</b>					
64,778,699					
Prior period adjustment					
(279,197)					
<b>NET POSITION - BEGINNING, AS RESTATED</b>					
64,499,502					
<b>NET POSITION - ENDING</b>					
\$ 65,607,097					

EXHIBIT 3

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

BALANCE SHEET  
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

	General Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 28,764,970	\$ 10,108,885	\$ 38,873,855
Property tax receivable	27,524,803	5,854,294	33,379,097
Fines receivable (net of allowance for uncollectibles of \$8,762,936)	1,111,449	-	1,111,449
Intergovernmental receivables	779,262	390,800	1,170,062
Other receivables	6,741	-	6,741
Restricted assets	160,343	1,510,974	1,671,317
Due from other funds	-	157,826	157,826
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 58,347,568</b>	<b>\$ 18,022,779</b>	<b>\$ 76,370,347</b>
<b>LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS AND FUND BALANCES</b>			
<b>Liabilities:</b>			
Claims payable	\$ 1,251,646	\$ 96,467	\$ 1,348,113
Intergovernmental payables	934,670	-	934,670
Due to other funds	1,010,595	184,747	1,195,342
Amounts held in custody for others	117,086	-	117,086
Total liabilities	3,313,997	281,214	3,595,211
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources:</b>			
Unavailable revenue - property taxes	27,524,803	5,854,294	33,379,097
Unavailable revenue - fines	1,111,449	-	1,111,449
Total deferred inflows of resources	28,636,252	5,854,294	34,490,546
<b>Fund Balances:</b>			
Restricted for:			
General government	-	94,917	94,917
Public safety	-	1,617,533	1,617,533
Public works	-	6,249,347	6,249,347
Conservation of natural resources	-	170,247	170,247
Debt service	-	3,432,300	3,432,300
Unemployment compensation	-	117,917	117,917
Committed to:			
Public safety	-	159,389	159,389
Culture and recreation	-	45,621	45,621
Unassigned	26,397,319	-	26,397,319
Total fund balances	26,397,319	11,887,271	38,284,590
<b>Total liabilities, deferred inflows and fund balances</b>	<b>\$ 58,347,568</b>	<b>\$ 18,022,779</b>	<b>\$ 76,370,347</b>

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



EXHIBIT 3-1

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**RECONCILIATION OF THE BALANCE SHEET OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

	<u>Amount</u>
Total Fund Balances - Governmental Funds	\$ 38,284,590
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Net Position are different because:	
Capital assets are used in governmental activities and are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds, net of accumulated depreciation of \$80,922,522.	79,309,161
Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current period expenditures and, therefore, are deferred in the funds.	1,111,449
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.	(21,747,749)
Net pension obligations are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.	(42,415,214)
Accrued interest payable is not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, is not reported in the funds.	(71,809)
Deferred amount on refunding.	284,932
Deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to pensions are applicable to future periods and, therefore, are not reported in the funds:	
Deferred outflows of resources related to pensions	<u>10,851,737</u>
<b>Total net position - governmental activities</b>	<u><u>\$ 65,607,097</u></u>

EXHIBIT 4

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES  
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

	General Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Property taxes	\$ 28,741,861	\$ 6,200,437	\$ 34,942,298
Road and bridge privilege taxes	16,818	832,325	849,143
Licenses, commissions and other revenue	1,623,731	18,948	1,642,679
Fines and forfeitures	544,421	98,384	642,805
In lieu taxes - Petal Gas Storage	193,609	47,933	241,542
Intergovernmental revenues	5,124,397	2,415,688	7,540,085
Charges for services	1,560,673	-	1,560,673
Interest income	180,973	67,337	248,310
Miscellaneous revenues	584,622	124,960	709,582
Total revenues	<u>38,571,105</u>	<u>9,806,012</u>	<u>48,377,117</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Current:			
General government	15,643,779	578,607	16,222,386
Public safety	15,782,428	1,125,240	16,907,668
Public works	354,434	7,545,693	7,900,127
Health and welfare	995,091	-	995,091
Culture and recreation	881,859	805,352	1,687,211
Conservation of natural resources	164,519	39,076	203,595
Economic development and assistance	1,012,146	-	1,012,146
Debt Service:			
Principal	764,246	1,718,496	2,482,742
Interest	91,049	448,104	539,153
Other debt service costs	-	4,250	4,250
Total expenditures	<u>35,689,551</u>	<u>12,264,818</u>	<u>47,954,369</u>
<b>Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures</b>	<u>2,881,554</u>	<u>(2,458,806)</u>	<u>422,748</u>
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>			
Long-term capital debt issued	-	180,000	180,000
Proceeds from sale of capital assets	21,182	19,815	40,997
Compensation for loss of capital assets	51,145	20,146	71,291
Transfers in	35,500	737,000	772,500
Transfers out	(737,000)	(35,500)	(772,500)
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>(629,173)</u>	<u>921,461</u>	<u>292,288</u>
<b>Net changes in fund balances</b>	<u>2,252,381</u>	<u>(1,537,345)</u>	<u>715,036</u>
<b>FUND BALANCES - BEGINNING, AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED</b>	24,424,135	13,424,616	37,848,751
Prior Period Adjustments	<u>(279,197)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(279,197)</u>
<b>FUND BALANCES - BEGINNING, AS RESTATED</b>	<u>24,144,938</u>	<u>13,424,616</u>	<u>37,569,554</u>
<b>FUND BALANCES - ENDING</b>	<u>\$ 26,397,319</u>	<u>\$ 11,887,271</u>	<u>\$ 38,284,590</u>

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

EXHIBIT 4-1

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES  
IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

	<u>Amount</u>
Net Changes in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds	\$ 715,036
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities are different because:	
Governmental Funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the Statement of Activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense. Thus, the change in net position differs from the change in fund balances by the amount that depreciation of \$3,114,337 exceeded capital outlays of \$2,798,646 in the current period.	(315,691)
In the Statement of Activities, only gains and losses from the sale of capital assets are reported, whereas in the Governmental Funds, proceeds from the sale of capital assets increase financial resources. Thus, the change in net position differs from the change in fund balances by the amount of the net gain of \$8,008 and the proceeds from the sale of \$40,997 in the current period.	(32,989)
Fine revenue recognized on the modified accrual basis in the funds during the current year is reduced because prior year recognition would have been required on the Statement of Activities using the full-accrual basis of accounting.	(411,750)
Debt proceeds provide current financial resources to Governmental Funds, but issuing debt increases long-term liabilities in the Statement of Net Position. Repayment of debt principal is an expenditure in the Governmental Funds, but the repayment reduces long-term liabilities in the Statement of Net Position. Thus, the change in net position differs from the change in fund balances by the amount that debt repayments of \$2,482,740 exceed debt proceeds of \$180,000.	2,302,740

(Table Continued on Next Page)

EXHIBIT 4-1  
PAGE TWO

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES  
IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

	<u>Amount</u>
<p>Under the modified accrual basis of accounting used in the Governmental Funds, expenditures are not recognized for transactions that are not normally paid with expendable available financial resources. However, in the Statement of Activities, which is presented on the accrual basis, expenses and liabilities are reported regardless of when financial resources are available. In addition, interest on long-term debt is recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when due, rather than as it accrues. Thus, the change in net position differs from the change in fund balances by a combination of the following items:</p>	
Change in claims and judgements	\$ 67,575
Change in compensated absences	(6,136)
Change in accrued interest payable	11,294
Deferred charges on refunding bond	(74,746)
Amortization of prepaid insurance	(99,842)
Premium on refunding bond	103,270
	<u>1,415</u>
<p>Some items reported in the Statement of Activities relating to the implementation of GASB 68 are not reported in the governmental funds. These activities include:</p>	
Recognition of pension expense for the current period	(3,653,724)
Recognition of contributions made during the year	<u>2,502,558</u>
<b><i>Change in net position of governmental activities</i></b>	<u><u>\$ 1,107,595</u></u>

EXHIBIT 5

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY ASSETS AND LIABILITIES  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

	<u>Agency Funds</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 933,239
Due from other funds	<u>1,037,516</u>
<b>Total assets</b>	<u><u>\$ 1,970,755</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Amounts held in custody for others	\$ 271,223
Other liabilities	1,682,622
Intergovernmental payables	<u>16,910</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<u><u>\$ 1,970,755</u></u>

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

***NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS***

## FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

#### **NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**A. Financial Reporting Entity** - Forrest 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. Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require Forrest County to present these financial statements on the primary government and its component units which have significant operational or financial relationships with the County.

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

- Forrest General Hospital
- Rawls Springs Volunteer Fire Department
- North Forrest Fire Protection District
- Forrest County Agricultural High School

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

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

#### **B. Individual Component Unit Disclosure**

Blended Component Units - Certain component units, although legally separate from the primary government, are nevertheless so intertwined with the primary government that they are, in substance, the same as the primary government. Therefore, these component units are reported as if they are part of the primary government. The following component units' balances and transactions are blended with the balances and transactions of the primary government.

## FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### PAGE TWO

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

#### **NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Cont.)**

Forrest County Public Improvement Corporation was incorporated as a nonprofit under Section 31-8-3, Miss. Code Ann. (1972), which allows counties to enter into lease agreements with any corporation. The corporation's three-member board of directors is appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Although legally separate from the primary government, the Corporation's balances and transactions are blended with the balances and transactions of the primary government. The Corporation produces a financial benefit through its ability to finance the construction, acquisition and renovation of capital facilities for the primary government and imposes a financial burden on the primary government by obligating funds to repay the debt pursuant to a lease agreement.

#### **C. Basis of Presentation**

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

##### Government-wide Financial Statements:

The Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities display information concerning the County as a whole. The statements include all 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 revenues and other nonexchange revenues.

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

*(This Space Intentionally Left Blank)*



**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**PAGE THREE**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

***NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Cont.)***

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, deferred outflows, liabilities, deferred inflows, fund balances, revenues and expenditures. 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.

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

Governmental fund financial statements are presented using a current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized in the accounting period when they are both measurable and available to finance operations during the year or to liquidate liabilities existing at the end of the year. Available means collected in the current period or within 60 days after year end to liquidate liabilities existing at the end of the year. Measurable means knowing or being able to reasonably estimate the amount. Expenditures are recognized in the accounting period when the related fund liabilities are incurred. Debt service expenditures and expenditures related to compensated absences and claims and judgments, are recognized only when payment is due. Property taxes, state appropriations and federal awards are all considered to be susceptible to accrual and have been recognized as revenues of the current fiscal period.

The County reports the following major Governmental Fund:

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

*(This Space Intentionally Left Blank)*

## FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### PAGE FOUR

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

#### **NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Cont.)**

Additionally, the County reports the following fund types:

##### GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES

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

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

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

##### FIDUCIARY FUND TYPE

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

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

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

Cash includes cash on hand, demand deposits, all certificates of deposit and cash equivalents, which are short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to cash (generally three months or less). Investments in governmental securities are stated at fair value. However, the County did not invest in any governmental securities during the fiscal year.

*(This Space Intentionally Left Blank)*

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**PAGE FIVE**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

**NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Cont.)**

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

**H.     *Interfund Transactions and Balances*** - Transactions between funds that are representative of short-term lending/borrowing arrangements and transactions that have not resulted in the actual transfer of cash at the end of the fiscal year are referred to as "due to/from other funds." Interfund receivables and payables between funds within governmental activities are eliminated in the Statement of Net Position.

**I.     *Prepaid Items*** - 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. Prepaid items, such as prepaid insurance, are not reported for Governmental Fund Types since the costs of such items are accounted for as expenditures in the period of acquisition.

**J.     *Restricted Assets*** - Assets required to be held and/or used as specified in bond indentures, bond resolutions, board resolutions and amounts held in custody for others have been reported as restricted assets. When both restricted and unrestricted assets are available for use, the policy is to use restricted assets first.

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

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

*(This Space Intentionally Left Blank)*

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**PAGE SIX**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

**NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Cont.)**

The following schedule details those thresholds and estimated useful lives:

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

**L. Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources** - In addition to assets, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred outflows of resources, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expenditure) until then.

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

Deferred outflows related to pensions - This amount represents the County's proportionate share of the deferred outflows of resources reported by the pension plan in which the County participates. See Note 11 for additional details.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred inflows of resources, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time.

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

*(This Space Intentionally Left Blank)*

## FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### PAGE SEVEN

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

#### **NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Cont.)**

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

Deferred inflows related to pensions - This amount represents the County's proportionate share of the deferred inflows of resources reported by the pension plan in which the County participates. See Note 11 for additional details. There were no deferred inflows related to pensions at September 30, 2020.

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

In the government-wide financial statements, long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the governmental activities Statement of Net Position.

In the fund financial statements, the face amount of the debt issued is reported as other financing sources. Issuance costs, whether or not withheld from the actual debt proceeds received, are reported as debt service expenditures.

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

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

*(This Space Intentionally Left Blank)*

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**PAGE EIGHT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

**NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Cont.)**

**P. *Equity Classifications***

Government-wide Financial Statements:

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

*Net investment in capital assets* - Consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, notes or other borrowings attributable to the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets.

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

*Unrestricted net position* - All other net position not meeting the definition of "restricted" or "net investment in capital assets."

Net Position Flow Assumption:

When an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted (committed or unassigned) resources are available, it is the County's general policy to use restricted resources first. When expenses are incurred for purposes for which unrestricted (committed 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 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.

Government fund balance is classified as restricted, committed, 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.

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**PAGE NINE**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

***NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Cont.)***

*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 expenditures incurred for specific purposes exceeded the amounts restricted, committed or assigned to those purposes, it may be necessary to report a negative unassigned fund balance.

Fund Balance Flow Assumption:

When an expenditure is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted (committed or unassigned) resources are available, it is the County's general policy to use restricted resources first. When expenditures are incurred for purposes for which unrestricted (committed 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 and then unassigned amounts.

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

*(This Space Intentionally Left Blank)*

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**PAGE TEN**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

**NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Cont.)**

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

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

**S. Changes in Accounting Standards** - The County implemented the following standard issued by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) in the current year as required: GASB Statement No. 88, *Certain Disclosures Related to Debt*, including Direct Borrowings and Direct Placements. The provisions of this standard have been incorporated into the financial statements and notes.

**T. Recent Accounting Pronouncement** - In June 2018, the GASB issued Statement No. 84, *Fiduciary Activities* (GASB-84), which when effective will improve the identification of fiduciary activities for accounting and financial reporting purposes and how these activities should be reported. The guidance is effective for the year ending September 30, 2021, and early adoption is permitted. The County is evaluating the effect the guidance will have on their financial statements.

**NOTE 2 - PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT**

A summary of the prior period adjustment reflected on the County's financial statements is presented below:

<u>Explanation</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<b>Exhibit B and Exhibit D</b>	
<i>Correction of Error:</i>	
To correct duplicate posting of a receipt.	<u>\$ 279,197</u>



**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**PAGE ELEVEN**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

**NOTE 3 - DEPOSITS**

**Deposits** - The carrying amount of the County's total deposits with financial institutions at September 30, 2020, was \$41,478,411 and the bank balance was \$43,651,494 which includes restricted assets. 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.

**Cash with Fiscal Agents** - The carrying amount of the County's cash with fiscal agents held by financial institutions was \$1,554,231 at September 30, 2020. Included in this amount is \$1,510,974 in the County's 2012 Qualified School Construction Bond Sinking Fund.

**NOTE 4 - INTERFUND TRANSACTIONS AND BALANCES**

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

A. Due From/To Other Funds:

<u>Receivable Fund</u>	<u>Payable Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Other Governmental Funds	General Fund	\$ 157,826
Agency Funds	Other Governmental Funds	184,747
Agency Funds	General Fund	852,769
<b>Total</b>		<u><u>\$ 1,195,342</u></u>

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**PAGE TWELVE**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

**NOTE 4 - INTERFUND TRANSACTIONS AND BALANCES (Cont.)**

The receivables represent the tax revenue collected in September 2020, but not settled until October 2020 and the payroll that was due to the payroll clearing fund as of year-end that had not yet been paid. All interfund balances are expected to be repaid within one year from the date of the financial statements.

B. Transfers In/Out:

<u>Transfers In</u>	<u>Transfers Out</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General Fund	Other Governmental Funds	\$ 35,500
Other Governmental Funds	General Fund	737,000
		.
<b>Total</b>		<u><u>\$ 772,500</u></u>

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

**NOTE 5 - INTERGOVERNMENTAL RECEIVABLES**

Intergovernmental receivables at September 30, 2020, consisted of the following:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<b>Governmental Activities:</b>	
Legislative tag credit	\$ 339,748
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	359,779
Office of State Aid Road Construction	390,800
City of Hattiesburg	54,815
Department of Corrections	24,920
	<u>24,920</u>
<b>Total governmental activities</b>	<u><u>\$ 1,170,062</u></u>

(This Space Intentionally Left Blank)

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**PAGE THIRTEEN**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

**NOTE 6 - RESTRICTED ASSETS**

Restricted assets at September 30, 2020, consisted of amounts held by fiscal agent and bond proceeds for the following projects:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<b>Governmental Activities:</b>	
Qualified School Construction Bonds	\$ 1,510,974
Public Improvement Welfare Project	39,284
Public Improvement DHS Project	3,973
Amounts held in custody for others	<u>117,086</u>
<b>Total governmental activities</b>	<u><u>\$ 1,671,317</u></u>

**NOTE 7 - CAPITAL ASSETS**

The following is a summary of capital assets activity for the year ended September 30, 2020:

	<b>Balance</b>			<b>Balance</b>
<b>Governmental Activities:</b>	<b>Oct. 1, 2019</b>	<b>Additions</b>	<b>Deletions</b>	<b>Sep. 30, 2020</b>
Non-depreciable capital assets:				
Land	\$ 1,624,098	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,624,098
Construction in progress	<u>1,414,869</u>	<u>1,377,646</u>	<u>1,271,541</u>	<u>1,520,974</u>
Total non-depreciable capital assets	<u>3,038,967</u>	<u>1,377,646</u>	<u>1,271,541</u>	<u>3,145,072</u>
Depreciable capital assets:				
Infrastructure	65,073,420	-	-	65,073,420
Buildings	66,681,416	1,271,541	-	67,952,957
Improvements other than buildings	2,619,764	49,234	-	2,668,998
Mobile equipment	16,990,361	1,256,950	142,061	18,105,250
Furniture and equipment	<u>3,171,170</u>	<u>114,816</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,285,986</u>
Total depreciable capital assets	<u>154,536,131</u>	<u>2,692,541</u>	<u>142,061</u>	<u>157,086,611</u>

(Table Continued on Next Page)

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**PAGE FOURTEEN**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

**NOTE 7 - CAPITAL ASSETS (Cont.)**

	Balance Oct. 1, 2019	Additions	Deletions	Balance Sep. 30, 2020
<b>Governmental Activities (Cont.):</b>				
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Infrastructure	\$ 40,468,940	\$ 679,904	\$ -	\$ 41,148,844
Buildings	21,812,103	1,313,768	-	23,125,871
Improvements other than buildings	1,057,779	80,808	-	1,138,587
Mobile equipment	12,165,457	866,661	109,072	12,923,046
Furniture and equipment	2,412,978	173,196	-	2,586,174
Total accumulated depreciation	77,917,257	3,114,337	109,072	80,922,522
Total depreciable capital assets, net	76,618,874	(421,796)	32,989	76,164,089
<b>Governmental activities capital assets, net</b>	<b>\$ 79,657,841</b>	<b>\$ 955,850</b>	<b>\$ 1,304,530</b>	<b>\$ 79,309,161</b>

Depreciation expense was charged to the following functions:

Description	Amount
<b>Governmental Activities:</b>	
General government	\$ 883,283
Public safety	1,121,797
Public works	1,004,834
Health and welfare	2,203
Culture and recreation	81,346
Conservation of natural resources	20,874
<b>Total governmental activities depreciation expense</b>	<b>\$ 3,114,337</b>

Commitments with respect to unfinished capital projects at September 30, 2020, consisted of the following:

Description of Commitment	Remaining Financial Commitment	Expected Date of Completion
Emergency Road and Bridge Repair	\$ 14,282,955	2023

(This Space Intentionally Left Blank)

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**PAGE FIFTEEN**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

**NOTE 8 - 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 experience of all the entities it insures.

**NOTE 9 - LONG-TERM DEBT**

**General Obligation Bonds**

The County issues general obligation bonds to provide funds for the acquisition and construction of major capital facilities. General obligation bonds are direct obligations and pledge the full faith and credit of the County. The County has no special assessment bonds at September 30, 2020. Bonds are generally issued as serial bonds with essentially level principal and interest payments maturing each year with maturities that range from 5 to 30 years. Upon default, the Trustee shall notify the owners of all bonds then outstanding of such event of default by registered or certified mail, may pursue any available remedy at law or in equity or by statute to enforce the payment of principal and interest on the bonds outstanding, and may declare the principal and accrued interest on all bonds to be due and payable immediately.

*(This Space Intentionally Left Blank)*

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**PAGE SIXTEEN**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

**NOTE 9 - LONG-TERM DEBT (Cont.)**

General obligation bonds outstanding at September 30, 2020 are as follows:

<b>Description and Purpose</b>	<b>Amount Outstanding</b>	<b>Interest Rate</b>	<b>Final Maturity Date</b>
<b>Governmental Activities:</b>			
General obligation bonds:			
G.O. refunding bond, Series 2014	\$ 8,365,000	2.00 - 4.00%	03/2029
G.O. bond, Series 2012 (Qualified School Construction Bond)	3,000,000	0.00%	08/2027
G.O. refunding bond, Series 2016	<u>5,275,000</u>	2.00 - 3.00%	03/2024
<b>Total general obligation bonds</b>	<u><u>\$ 16,640,000</u></u>		

Notes from Direct Borrowings and Direct Placements

The County issues notes to provide funds for the acquisition and construction of major capital facilities and equipment purchases. These notes from direct borrowings and direct placements are direct obligations and pledge the full faith and credit of the County and have been issued for governmental activities. Notes from direct borrowings and direct placements are generally issued with a five-year maturity. The County has no anticipation notes at September 30, 2020. Upon default, the notes from direct borrowings and direct placements become immediately due in full.

Notes from direct borrowings and direct placements outstanding at September 30, 2020 are as follows:

<b>Description and Purpose</b>	<b>Amount Outstanding</b>	<b>Interest Rate</b>	<b>Final Maturity Date</b>
<b>Governmental Activities:</b>			
Notes from direct borrowings and direct placements:			
G.O. negotiable notes, Series 2019	\$ 3,235,754	2.27%	03/2024
Brooklyn Volunteer Fire Department	30,191	2.97%	11/2022
Dixie Volunteer Fire Department	90,000	2.33%	02/2025
Carnes Volunteer Fire Department	<u>90,000</u>	1.70%	04/2025
<b>Total notes from direct borrowings and direct placements</b>	<u><u>\$ 3,445,945</u></u>		

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**PAGE SEVENTEEN**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

**NOTE 9 - LONG-TERM DEBT (Cont.)**

**Governmental Activities:**

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

<u>Year Ending September 30,</u>	<b>General Obligation Bonds</b>	
	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>
2021	\$ 1,365,000	\$ 415,025
2022	1,400,000	379,875
2023	1,435,000	337,350
2024	1,475,000	293,700
2025	1,490,000	249,225
2026 - 2030	9,475,000 *	471,363
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>\$ 16,640,000</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 2,146,538</u></u>

*\*Includes \$3,000,000 principal due on Qualified School Construction Bonds.*

<u>Year Ending September 30,</u>	<b>Notes from Direct Borrowings and Direct Placements</b>	
	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>
2021	\$ 826,219	\$ 77,972
2022	844,954	59,237
2023	864,050	40,075
2024	873,271	20,480
2025	37,451	755
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>\$ 3,445,945</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 198,519</u></u>

*(This Space Intentionally Left Blank)*

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**PAGE EIGHTEEN**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

**NOTE 9 - LONG-TERM DEBT (Cont.)**

As more fully explained in Note 10, debt has been issued by the County that qualifies as Qualified School Construction bonds. Debt currently outstanding is as follows:

<u>Description and Purpose</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Amount Issued</u>	<u>Amount Outstanding</u>
G.O. bond, series 2012 (Qualified school construction bonds payable)	0%	08/2012	08/2027	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,000,000

***Legal Debt Margin***

The amount of debt, excluding specific exempted debt that can be incurred by the County is limited by state statute. Total outstanding debt during a year can be no greater than 15% of assessed value of the taxable property within the County, according to the then last completed assessment for taxation. However, the limitation is increased to 20% whenever a county issues bonds to repair or replace washed out or collapsed bridges on the public roads of the County. As of September 30, 2020, the amount of outstanding debt was equal to 2.34% of the latest property assessments.

***Prior Year Defeasance of Debt***

In prior years, the County defeased certain general obligation bonds by placing the proceeds of new bonds in an irrevocable trust to provide for all future debt service payments on the old bonds. Accordingly, the trust account assets and the liability for the defeased bonds are not included in the County's financial statements. On September 30, 2020, \$13,340,000 of bonds outstanding were considered defeased.

*(This Space Intentionally Left Blank)*



**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
PAGE NINETEEN  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

**NOTE 9 - LONG-TERM DEBT (Cont.)**

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

	<u>Balance Oct. 1, 2019</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	<u>Balance Sep. 30, 2020</u>	<u>Amount Due Within One Year</u>
<b>Governmental Activities:</b>					
Compensated absences	\$ 547,904	\$ 6,136	\$ -	\$ 554,040	B \$ -
Claims and judgements	608,175	-	67,575	540,600	67,575
General obligation bonds	15,325,000	-	1,685,000	13,640,000	A 1,365,000
General obligation bonds - qualified school construction bond	3,000,000	-	-	3,000,000	B -
Add:					
Premiums	670,434	-	103,270	567,164	A -
Total general obligation bonds	18,995,434	-	1,788,270	17,207,164	1,365,000
Notes from direct borrowings and direct placements	4,063,685	180,000	797,740	3,445,945	A 826,219
<b>Total governmental activities</b>	<u>\$ 24,215,198</u>	<u>\$ 186,136</u>	<u>\$ 2,653,585</u>	<u>\$ 21,747,749</u>	<u>\$ 2,258,794</u>

A. Capital debt

B. Non-capital debt

Compensated absences will be paid from the fund from which the employees' salaries were paid, which are generally the General Fund and the Road and Bridge Maintenance Fund.

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**PAGE TWENTY**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

**NOTE 10 - QUALIFIED SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BONDS**

Section 1521 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 provides for a source of capital at no or at nominal interest rates for costs incurred by certain public schools in connection with the construction, rehabilitation or repair of a public school facility or for the acquisition of land where a school will be built. Investors receive Federal income tax credits at prescribed tax credit rates in lieu of interest, which essentially allows state and local governments to borrow without incurring interest costs. The current maturity limit of tax credit bonds is 17 years, per the U.S. Treasury Department. Under this program, 10.00% of the proceeds must be subject to a binding commitment to be spent within six months of issuance and 100.00% must be spent within three years. Up to 2.00% of bond proceeds can be used to pay costs of issuance.

In August 2012, the County issued G.O. Bond, Series 2012 (Qualified School Construction Bonds) on behalf of Forrest County Agricultural High School (FCAHS) in the amount of \$3,000,000. The stated interest rate on the bonds is 0.00% with an applicable tax credit rate of 4.41%. The County remitted the entire amount of the bond proceeds, net of \$26,494 issuance costs, to FCAHS for capital improvement projects.

Pursuant to the bond documents, these bonds are to be repaid in full August 2027, from the proceeds of the annual minimum sinking fund deposit schedule. The County was originally scheduled to make 15 equal annual payments of \$200,000 into a sinking fund, with a maximum permitted yield of 3.34%. These sinking fund requirements were adjusted during fiscal year 2013 to reflect annual payments of \$210,000 for years 2014 - 2022 and \$211,000 for years 2023 - 2027. The amount accumulated in the sinking fund at the end of the 15-year period will be sufficient to retire the debt. The amount on deposit at September 30, 2020 was \$1,510,974.

The following schedule reports the projected annual deposits required for the sinking fund.

*(This Space Intentionally Left Blank)*

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**PAGE TWENTY-ONE**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

**NOTE 10 - QUALIFIED SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BONDS (Cont.)**

(Actual annual funding could be reduced by accumulated interest earned).

<u>Year Ending September 30,</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2021	\$ 210,000
2022	210,000
2023	211,000
2024	211,000
2025	211,000
2026-2027	422,000
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>\$ 1,475,000</u></u>

**NOTE 11 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN**

**General Information about the Pension Plan**

**Plan Description** - Forrest 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.

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

## FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### PAGE TWENTY-TWO

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

##### **NOTE 11 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN (Cont.)**

for life in an amount equal to 2.0 percent of their average compensation for each year of creditable service up to and including 30 years (25 years for those who became members of PERS before July 1, 2011), plus 2.5 percent for each additional year of creditable service with an actuarial reduction in the benefit for each year of creditable service below 30 years or the number of years in age that the member is below 65, whichever is less. Average compensation is the average of the employee's earnings during the four highest compensated years of creditable service. Benefits vest upon completion of eight years of membership service (four years of membership service for those who became members of PERS before July 1, 2007). PERS also provides certain death and disability benefits. A Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) payment is made to eligible retirees and beneficiaries. The COLA is equal to 3.00% of the annual retirement allowance for each full fiscal year of retirement up to the year in which the retired member reaches age 60 (55 for those who became members of PERS before July 1, 2011), with 3.00% compounded for each fiscal year thereafter. Plan provisions are established and may be amended only by the State of Mississippi Legislature.

**Contributions** - At September 30, 2020, PERS members were required to contribute 9.00% of their annual covered salary, and the County is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The employer's rate at September 30, 2020 was 17.40% of annual covered payroll. The contribution requirements of PERS members and employers are established and may be amended only by the State of Mississippi Legislature. The County's contributions (employer share only) to PERS for the years ending September 30, 2020, 2019, and 2018 were \$2,502,558, \$2,365,853, and \$2,204,355, respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year.

**Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions** - At September 30, 2020, the County reported a liability of \$42,415,214 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2020, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The County's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the County's long-term share of contribution to the pension plan relative to projected contributions of all participating entities, actuarially determined. The County's proportionate share used to calculate the September 30, 2020 net pension liability was .2191% which was based on a measurement date of June 30, 2020. This was a decrease of .0030% from its proportionate share used to calculate the September 30, 2019 net pension liability, which was based on a measurement date of June 30, 2019.

*(This Space Intentionally Left Blank)*

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**PAGE TWENTY-THREE**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

**NOTE 11 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN (Cont.)**

For the year ended September 30, 2020, the County recognized pension expense of \$3,653,724. At September 30, 2020, the County reported deferred outflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	<u><b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b></u>
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 267,576
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	1,393,804
Changes of assumptions	172,444
Changes in the proportion and differences between the County's contributions and proportionate share of contributions	8,455,443
County contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>562,470</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>\$ 10,851,737</u></u>

\$562,470 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from County contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction to the net pension liability in the year ended September 30, 2021. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

<u><b>Year Ending September 30,</b></u>	<u><b>Amount</b></u>
2021	\$ 2,824,102
2022	2,824,102
2023	2,767,859
2024	<u>1,873,204</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>\$ 10,289,267</u></u>

*(This Space Intentionally Left Blank)*

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
PAGE TWENTY-FOUR  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

**NOTE 11 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN (Cont.)**

**Actuarial Assumptions** - The total pension liability as of June 30, 2020 was determined by an actuarial valuation prepared as of June 30, 2019, using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods in the measurement:

Inflation	2.75 percent
Salary increases	3.00 - 18.25 percent, including inflation
Investment rate of return	7.75 percent, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation

Mortality rates were based on the PubS.H-2010(B) Retiree Table with the following adjustments: For males, 112% of male rates from ages 18 to 75 scaled down to 105% for ages 80 to 119. For females, 85% of the female rates from ages 18 to 65 scaled up to 102% for ages 75 to 119. Mortality rates will be projected generationally using the MP-2018 projection scale to account for future improvements in life expectancy.

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2019 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the four-year period from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2018. The experience report is dated April 2, 2019.

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a lognormal 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.

*(This Space Intentionally Left Blank)*

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**PAGE TWENTY-FIVE**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

**NOTE 11 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN (Cont.)**

The most recent 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>
Domestic Equity	27.00%	4.90%
International Equity	22.00	4.75
Global Equity	12.00	5.00
Fixed Income	20.00	0.50
Real Estate	10.00	4.00
Private Equity	8.00	6.25
Cash	1.00	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	

**Discount rate** - The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.75%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rate (9.00%) and that employer contributions will be made at the current employer contribution rate (17.40%). Based on those assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

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

	<u>1% Decrease ( 6.75% )</u>	<u>Discount Rate ( 7.75% )</u>	<u>1% Increase ( 8.75% )</u>
County's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 54,901,283	\$ 42,415,214	\$ 32,109,190

## FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### PAGE TWENTY-SIX

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

#### **NOTE 11 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN (Cont.)**

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

#### **NOTE 12 - CONTINGENCIES**

**Federal Grants** - The County has received federal grants for specific purposes that are subject to audit by the grantor agencies. Entitlements to these resources are generally conditional upon compliance with the terms and conditions of grant agreements and applicable federal regulations, including the expenditure of resources for allowable purposes. Any disallowance resulting from a grantor audit may become a liability of the County. No provision for any liability that may result has been recognized in the County's financial statements.

**Litigation** - The County is party to legal proceedings, many of which occur in the normal course of governmental operations. It is not possible at the present time to estimate 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.

#### **NOTE 13 - EFFECT OF DEFERRED AMOUNTS ON NET POSITION**

The governmental activities' unrestricted deficit net position amount of \$8,149,350 includes the effect of deferred outflows of resources related to pensions. A portion of the deferred outflow of resources related to pensions in the amount of \$562,470 resulting from County contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended September 30, 2021. The \$10,289,267 balance of the deferred outflow of resources related to pensions at September 30, 2020, will be recognized in pension expense over the next four years.

The governmental activities' net investment in capital assets net position of \$61,940,984 includes the effect of deferring the recognition of expenditures resulting from an advance refunding of County debt. \$284,932 of the \$11,136,669 balance of deferred outflows of resources at September 30, 2020, will be recognized as an expense and will decrease the net investment in capital assets net position over the next four years.

*(This Space Intentionally Left Blank)*



## **FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

### **NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

#### **PAGE TWENTY-SEVEN**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

#### ***NOTE 14 - JOINT VENTURES***

The County participates in the following joint ventures:

Forrest County is a participant with the City of Hattiesburg in a joint venture, authorized by Chapter 956, House Bill 1865, of the Local and Private Laws of 1994, to operate the Forrest County Industrial Park Commission. The joint venture was created to develop and operate an industrial park complex for the citizens of Forrest County and the City of Hattiesburg. The Forrest County Board of Supervisors appoints five of the ten members of the board. By contractual agreement, the County's appropriation to the joint venture was \$240,000 in fiscal year 2020. Complete financial statements for the Forrest County Industrial Park Commission can be obtained from Post Office Box 1898, Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39403.

Forrest County is a participant with Jones County, the Cities of Hattiesburg and Laurel, and the State of Mississippi in a joint venture, authorized by Section 61-3-5, Miss. Code Ann. (1971), to operate the Hattiesburg-Laurel Regional Airport Authority. The joint venture was created to develop and maintain the airport for the members of the authority. The Forrest County Board of Supervisors appoints one of the five members of the board of commissioners. By contractual agreement, the County's appropriation to the joint venture was \$268,445 in fiscal year 2020. Complete financial statements for the Hattiesburg-Laurel Regional Airport Authority can be obtained from 1002 Terminal Drive, Moselle, Mississippi 39459.

Forrest County is a participant with the Cities of Hattiesburg and Petal in a joint venture, authorized by Section 39-3-8, Miss. Code Ann. (1972), to operate the Library of Hattiesburg, Petal and Forrest County. The joint venture was created to provide free public library service to the citizens of Forrest County and the Cities of Hattiesburg and Petal. The Forrest County Board of Supervisors appoints six of the fifteen members of the board of directors. By contractual agreement, the County's appropriation to the joint venture was \$806,977 in fiscal year 2020. Complete financial statements for the Library of Hattiesburg, Petal and Forrest County can be obtained from 329 Hardy Street, Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39401.

#### ***NOTE 15 - JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS***

The County participates in the following jointly governed organizations:

Pearl River Community College operates in a district composed of the Counties of Forrest, Hancock, Jefferson Davis, Lamar, Marion and Pearl River. The Forrest County Board of Supervisors appoints two of the sixteen members of the college board of trustees. The County appropriated \$1,431,038 for maintenance and support of the college in fiscal year 2020.

## **FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

### **NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

#### **PAGE TWENTY-EIGHT**

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

##### ***NOTE 15 - JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS (Cont.)***

Southeast Mississippi Air Ambulance District provides air ambulance service to the Counties of Covington, Forrest, Greene, Jefferson Davis, Lamar, Marion, Pearl River, Perry and Walthall. The Forrest County Board of Supervisors appoints one of the nine members of the board of directors. There is no ongoing financial interest or responsibility for the appointing authorities. The County contributed \$300,910 for support of the district in fiscal year 2020.

Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District operates in a district composed of the Counties of Covington, Forrest, George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson Davis, Jones, Lamar, Marion, Pearl River, Perry, Stone, and Wayne. The Forrest County Board of Supervisors appoints one of the twenty-seven members of the board of directors. The County contributes a small percentage of the district's total revenue. The County appropriated \$96,928 to the agency in fiscal year 2020.

Pearl River Valley Opportunity, Inc. operates in a district composed of the Counties of Covington, Forrest, Jefferson Davis, Jones, Lamar, Marion, Pearl River, and Perry. The entity was created to administer programs conducted by community action agencies, limited purpose agencies and related programs authorized by federal law. The Forrest County Board of Supervisors appoints one of the twenty-four members of the board of directors. The primary source of funding for the entity is derived from federal funds. Each County provides a modest amount of financial support when matching funds are required for federal grants. Contributions for fiscal year 2020 totaled \$30,000.

Pine Belt Mental Health Care Resources operates in a district composed of the Counties of Covington, Forrest, Greene, Jefferson Davis, Jones, Lamar, Marion, Perry, and Wayne. The Forrest County Board of Supervisors appoints one of the nine members of the board of commissioners. The County appropriated \$212,500 for support of the agency in fiscal year 2020.

Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VIII operates in a district composed of the Counties of Covington, Forrest, George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Jones, Lamar, Marion, Pearl River, Perry, Stone, and Wayne. The governing body is a fifteen member board of commissioners, one appointed by the Board of Supervisors of each of the member counties and one appointed at large. The Counties generally provide no financial support to the organization.

Pearl and Leaf Rivers Rails-to-Trails Recreational District operates in a district composed of the Counties of Forrest, Jefferson Davis, and Lamar and the Cities of Bassfield, Hattiesburg, Prentiss, and Sumrall. The Forrest County Board of Supervisors appoints one of seven members of the board of directors. The County appropriated \$152,863 to the support of the district in fiscal year 2020.

## FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PAGE TWENTY-NINE FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

#### **NOTE 15 - JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS (Cont.)**

The City of Hattiesburg - Forrest County Emergency Management District operates in a district composed of Forrest County and the City of Hattiesburg. The Forrest County Board of Supervisors appoints three of the six members of the council. Operating funds are provided by state grants, E-911 charges and direct contributions.

#### **NOTE 16 - TAX ABATEMENTS**

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) implemented Statement 77, *Tax Abatement Disclosures* requiring governmental entities to disclose the reduction in tax revenues resulting from an agreement between one or more governments and an individual or entity in which (a) one or more governments promise to forgo tax revenues to which they are otherwise entitled and (b) the individual or entity promises to take a specific action after the agreement has been entered into that contributes to economic development or otherwise benefits the governments or the citizens of those governments.

The Forrest County Board of Supervisors negotiates property tax abatements on an individual basis. All abatements are for five and/or ten years and are for economic development purposes. The County had tax abatement agreements with twenty-seven entities as of September 30, 2020.

The County had two types of abatements, one of which provides for the abatement of school or state tax levies:

Sections 27-31-101 and 27-31-105, Miss. Code (Ann.) 1972 - All allowable property tax levies.

There are twenty-six companies that have tax abatements under this statute.

Section 27-31-104, Miss Code (Ann.) 1972 - Payments in-lieu of taxes.

There is one company that had tax abatements under this statute.

<u>Category</u>	<u>% of Taxes Abated During the Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Amount of Taxes Abated During Fiscal Year</u>
Construction and expansion of a storage facility	64%	\$ 720,005

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**PAGE THIRTY**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

***NOTE 16 - TAX ABATEMENTS (cont.)***

The company was required to comply with any-special provisions, and did so, in order to receive the abatements and the County made no commitments as part of the agreements other than to reduce taxes.

***NOTE 17 - 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 or 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 Forrest County, Mississippi evaluated the activity of the County through November 2, 2021 (the date the financial statements were available to be issued), and determined that no subsequent events have occurred requiring disclosure in the notes to the financial statements.

*(This Space Intentionally Left Blank)*

***REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION***

SCHEDULE 1

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL (NON-GAAP BASIS)  
GENERAL FUND - UNAUDITED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

	<b>Original Budget</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>	
Property taxes	\$ 27,368,190
Licenses, commissions and other revenue	1,289,450
Fines and forfeitures	504,000
Intergovernmental revenues	8,472,300
Charges for services	713,000
Interest income	204,000
Miscellaneous revenues	141,500
Total revenues	<u>38,692,440</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	
Current:	
General government	15,892,971
Public safety	16,721,247
Public works	328,445
Health and welfare	1,102,832
Culture and recreation	2,311,663
Education	125,000
Conservation of natural resources	94,345
Economic development and assistance	804,734
Debt service	858,300
Total expenditures	<u>38,239,537</u>
Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>452,903</u>
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>	
Transfers in	610,000
Transfers out	(1,015,000)
Other financing sources	-
Other financing uses	(7,000)
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>(412,000)</u>
<b>NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES</b>	40,903
Fund balances - beginning	<u>20,302,192</u>
Fund balances - ending	<u><u>\$ 20,343,095</u></u>

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

<b>Final Budget</b>	<b>Actual (Budgetary Basis)</b>	<b>Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)</b>
\$ 27,648,140	\$ 28,707,474	\$ 1,059,334
1,384,450	1,656,396	271,946
504,000	545,197	41,197
10,914,000	10,488,680	(425,320)
1,497,500	1,488,358	(9,142)
204,000	180,030	(23,970)
392,500	649,276	256,776
<u>42,544,590</u>	<u>43,715,411</u>	<u>1,170,821</u>
16,656,891	15,134,924	1,521,967
17,998,708	16,302,103	1,696,605
403,445	339,770	63,675
1,107,266	992,491	114,775
2,398,986	883,766	1,515,220
125,000	-	125,000
94,345	80,357	13,988
1,029,834	1,012,976	16,858
858,300	855,295	3,005
<u>40,672,775</u>	<u>35,601,682</u>	<u>5,071,093</u>
<u>1,871,815</u>	<u>8,113,729</u>	<u>6,241,914</u>
673,000	35,500	(637,500)
(1,486,344)	(737,000)	749,344
72,000	72,327	327
(5,000)	-	5,000
<u>(746,344)</u>	<u>(629,173)</u>	<u>117,171</u>
1,125,471	7,484,556	6,359,085
<u>27,507,552</u>	<u>27,507,552</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>\$ 28,633,023</u>	<u>\$ 34,992,108</u>	<u>\$ 6,359,085</u>

SCHEDULE 2

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**SCHEDULE OF THE COUNTY'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY  
LAST 10 FISCAL YEARS\* - UNAUDITED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
County's proportion of the net pension liability (asset)	0.2191%	0.2221%	0.2187%	0.2159%	0.2124%	0.2030%
County's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset)	\$ 42,415,214	\$ 39,071,772	\$ 36,376,308	\$ 35,889,908	\$ 37,939,944	\$ 31,379,796
Covered payroll	14,592,322	14,464,851	13,966,178	13,848,470	13,589,327	12,689,638
County's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered payroll	290.67%	270.12%	260.46%	259.16%	279.19%	247.29%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	58.97%	61.59%	62.54%	61.49%	57.47%	61.70%

\* The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the twelve months ended at the measurement date of June 30 of the fiscal year presented.

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



SCHEDULE 3

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**SCHEDULE OF COUNTY CONTRIBUTIONS  
LAST 10 FISCAL YEARS\* - UNAUDITED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
Contractually required contribution	\$ 2,502,558	\$ 2,365,853	\$ 2,204,355	\$ 2,188,984	\$ 2,105,376	\$ 1,997,469
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	<u>2,502,558</u>	<u>2,365,853</u>	<u>2,204,355</u>	<u>2,188,984</u>	<u>2,105,376</u>	<u>1,997,469</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Covered payroll	\$ 14,382,517	\$ 14,660,518	\$ 13,995,905	\$ 13,898,311	\$ 13,367,467	\$ 12,682,343
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	17.40%	16.14%	15.75%	15.75%	15.75%	15.75%

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

## FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

### NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

#### **NOTE 1 - BUDGETARY INFORMATION**

**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, Tax Assessor, and the Tax Collector for his or her respective department, prepares an original budget for each of the Governmental Funds for said fiscal year. The completed budget for the fiscal year includes for each fund every source of revenue, each general item of expenditure, and the unencumbered cash and investment balances. When during the fiscal year it appears to the Board of Supervisors that budgetary estimates will not be met, it may make revisions to the budget.

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

**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. The Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Budget and Actual (Non-GAAP Basis) is a part of required supplementary information.

**Budget/GAAP Reconciliation** - The major differences between the budgetary basis and the GAAP basis are:

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

*(This Space Intentionally Left Blank)*

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**PAGE TWO**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

**NOTE 1 - BUDGETARY INFORMATION (Cont.)**

The following schedule reconciles the budgetary basis schedules to the GAAP basis financial statements for the General Fund:

	<u><b>General Fund</b></u>
<b>Budget (cash basis)</b>	\$ 7,484,556
Increase (decrease):	
Net adjustments for revenue accruals	(5,144,306)
Net adjustments for expenditure accruals	<u>(87,869)</u>
<b>GAAP Basis</b>	<u><u>\$ 2,252,381</u></u>

**NOTE 2 - PENSION SCHEDULES**

***Changes of Assumptions***

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 RP-2000 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.

*(This Space Intentionally Left Blank)*

## FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

### NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

#### PAGE THREE

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

#### **NOTE 2 - PENSION SCHEDULES (Cont.)**

The price inflation and investment rate of return assumptions were changed from 3.50% to 3.00% and 8.00% to 7.75%, respectively.

#### 2016

The assumed rate of interest credited to employee contributions was changed from 3.50% to 2.00%.

#### 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. Small adjustments were also made to the Mortality Table for disabled lives.

The wage inflation assumption was reduced from 3.75% to 3.25%.

Withdrawal rates, pre-retirement mortality rates, disability rates and service retirement rates were also adjusted to more closely reflect actual experience.

The percentage of active member disabilities assumed to be in the line of duty was increased from 6.00% to 7.00%.

#### 2019

The expectation of retired life mortality was changed to the PubS.H-2010(B) Retiree Table with the following adjustments:

- For males, 112.00% of male rates from ages 18 to 75 scaled down to 105.00% for ages 80 to 119.
- For females, 85.00% of the female rates from ages 18 to 65 scaled up to 102.00% for ages 75 to 119.
- Projection scale MP-2018 will be used to project future improvements in life expectancy generationally.

The expectation of disabled mortality was changed to PubT.H-2010 Disabled Retiree Table for disabled retirees with the following adjustments:

- For males, 137.00% of male rates at all ages.

## FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

### NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

#### PAGE FOUR

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

#### **NOTE 2 - PENSION SCHEDULES (Cont.)**

- For females, 115.00% of female rates at all ages.
- Projection scale MP-2018 will be used to project future improvements in life expectancy generationally.

The price inflation assumption was reduced from 3.00% to 2.75%.

The wage inflation assumption was reduced from 3.25% to 3.00%.

Withdrawal rates, pre-retirement mortality rates, and service retirement rates were also adjusted to more closely reflect actual experience.

The percentage of active member disabilities assumed to be in the line of duty was increased from 7.00% to 9.00%.

#### **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.

Method and assumptions used in calculations of actuarially determined contributions. The actuarially determined contribution rates in the schedule of employer contributions are calculated as of June 30, two years prior to the end of the fiscal year in which contributions are reported (June 30, 2018 valuation for the June 30, 2020 fiscal year end). The following actuarial methods and assumptions were used to determine the most recent contribution rate reported in that schedule:

Actuarial cost method	Entry age
Amortization method	Level percentage of payroll, open
Remaining amortization period	30.9 years
Asset valuation method	5-year smoothed market
Price inflation	3.00%
Salary increase	3.25% to 18.50%, including inflation
Investment rate of return	7.75%, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation

***SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION***

SCHEDULE 4

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

<b>Federal Grantor/Pass-Through Grantor/Program Title</b>	<b>Federal CFDA Number</b>	<b>Pass Through Entity Identifying Number</b>	<b>Federal Expenditures</b>
<b><i>U.S. Department of Agriculture</i></b>			
Passed-through the Mississippi Office of State Treasurer			
Forest Service Schools and Roads Cluster:			
Schools and Roads - Grants to States	10.665	N/A	\$ 114,169
<b><i>U.S. Department of the Interior</i></b>			
Payments in Lieu of Taxes (Direct Program)	15.226	N/A	55,853
<b><i>U.S. Department of Justice</i></b>			
Passed-through the Mississippi Department of Public Safety			
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program	16.738	N/A	7,404
<b><i>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services</i></b>			
Maternal and Child Health Federal Consolidated Programs	93.110	N/A	8,043

The notes to the schedule of expenditures of federal awards are an integral part of this schedule.

SCHEDULE 4  
PAGE TWO

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

<b>Federal Grantor/Pass-Through Grantor/Program Title</b>	<b>Federal CFDA Number</b>	<b>Pass Through Entity Identifying Number</b>	<b>Federal Expenditures</b>
<b><i>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Cont.)</i></b>			
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Projects of Regional and National Significance (Direct Program)	93.243	N/A	<u>\$ 148,973</u>
Total U.S. Department of Health and Human Services			<u>157,016</u>
<b><i>Executive Office of the President</i></b>			
Passed through the Mississippi Department of Public Safety High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program	95.001	N/A	<u>18,183</u>
<b><i>U.S. Department of Homeland Security</i></b>			
Passed through the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation Grant (Direct Program)	97.039	1604-0529	<u>1,997,364</u>
<b><i>Total Expenditures of Federal Awards</i></b>			<u><u>\$ 2,349,989</u></u>

The notes to the schedule of expenditures of federal awards are an integral part of this schedule.



## **FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

### **NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

#### ***NOTE 1 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES***

The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards (the Schedule) includes the federal grant activity of Forrest County, Mississippi (the County) under programs of the federal government for the year ended September 30, 2020. The information in this Schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of the County, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net position, or cash flows of the County.

Expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in the Uniform Guidance, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement. Pass-through entity identifying numbers are presented where available.

#### ***NOTE 2 - DE MINIMIS COST RATE***

The County elected not to recover indirect costs for federal programs using the 10.00% de minimis cost rate allowed by the Uniform Guidance in Section 414.

*(This Space Intentionally Left Blank)*

## ***OTHER INFORMATION***

SCHEDULE 5

**SCHEDULE OF SURETY BONDS FOR COUNTY OFFICIALS - UNAUDITED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Surety Company</b>	<b>Bond Amount</b>
David Hogan	Supervisor District 1	FCCI Insurance Group	\$ 100,000
Sharon Thompson	Supervisor District 2	FCCI Insurance Group	100,000
Burkett Ross	Supervisor District 3	FCCI Insurance Group	100,000
Roderick Woullard	Supervisor District 4	Western Surety Company	100,000
Chris Bowen	Supervisor District 5	FCCI Insurance Group	100,000
Lance Reid	Chancery Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	100,000
Betty Carlisle	County Administrator	FCCI Insurance Group	100,000
Penny Steed	Chief Financial Officer	FCCI Insurance Group	100,000
Rochelle Campbell	Purchase Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	75,000
Ashleigh Fontaine	Assistant Purchasing Clerk	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Bryan Hunter	Receiving Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	100,000
Martha Jane White	Receiving Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	75,000
Beverly D. Temple	Assistant Receiving Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Brian Dewease	Assistant Receiving Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Chasity Nichole Pierce	Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Christa Little	Assistant Receiving Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Clarissa Kelly	Assistant Receiving Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Cynthia Myers	Assistant Receiving Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Daniel L. Lee	Assistant Receiving Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
David Mozingo	Assistant Receiving Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Deann Dean Clay	Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Debbie Smith	Assistant Receiving Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Diane Zachary	Assistant Receiving Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Donna Parker	Assistant Receiving Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Doris Middleton	Assistant Receiving Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Douglas Bolton	Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
James Ladner	Assistant Receiving Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Jimmy Murphy	Assistant Receiving Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Joel G. Hill	Assistant Receiving Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Lynn Hall	Assistant Receiving Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Melissa Chambliss Pack	Assistant Receiving Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Michael Turnage	Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Nickie Graham	Assistant Receiving Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
O.B. Cooley, Jr.	Assistant Receiving Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Pamela Diane Willams	Assistant Receiving Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Robbie Conway	Assistant Receiving Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Robert Taylor	Assistant Receiving Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Ronald D. Sellers	Assistant Receiving Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Sandi D. Carter	Assistant Receiving Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Shali Carter	Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Shannon S. Abney	Assistant Receiving Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Susan Tew	Assistant Receiving Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Tommy Pledger	Assistant Receiving Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Virginia Culpeper	Assistant Receiving Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
James Slade	Road Manager	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Robert Taylor, Jr.	Assistant Road Mananger	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Benjamin (Frank) Wade	Inventory Control	FCCI Insurance Group	75,000
Amber Polk Jerrell	Chancery Clerk Comptroller	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Charlie Sims	Sheriff	FCCI Insurance Group	100,000
Elbert Michael Harris	Constable	Travelers' Casualty and Surety Co.	50,000
Jennifer Brown-Travis	Constable	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
John Tyner	Constable	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Tommy Cook	Constable	Travelers' Casualty and Surety Co.	50,000

SCHEDULE 5  
PAGE TWO

**SCHEDULE OF SURETY BONDS FOR COUNTY OFFICIALS - UNAUDITED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Surety Company</b>	<b>Bond Amount</b>
Adrian Jones	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	\$ 50,000
Alton Thomas Taylor Jenkins	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Alyssa Chandlee	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Andy Davis	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Artedra Siggers	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Caleb McCoy Lazenby	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Carl Pyles	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	100,000
Charles Letchworth	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Charles L. Pittman	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Chiquita Caines	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Chris Selman	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Christopher Selman	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Daniel Benoit	Sheriff Deputy	Western Surety Bond Company	50,000
Danny Keith Leroy	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Debra Russell	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Derek Jones	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Don Allen Parker	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Elbert Mike Harris	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Erica Dunston	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Evan Henderson	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Gary Collins	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Gregory Stuart Holliman	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Herbert Dunell Brannon	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
James W. Woolhiser	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Jared Hagan	Sheriff Deputy	Western Surety Bond Company	50,000
Jarron Guy	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Jeffrey Byrd	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Jeremy Jackson	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Jeremy S. Brewer	Sheriff Deputy	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Jerome Wolfe	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Jimmy Rick Monday	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
John D Tryner	Sheriff Deputy	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
John David Bassett, Jr.	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
John Matthew Burt	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Jonathan Carter	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Joseph B. West	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	75,000
Joseph H. Corley	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Joshua Cain Dobbs	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Joshua Clay Jones	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Judith D Ruple	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Justin James Mayer	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Kenny Johnson	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Matthew Findley	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Matthew Steven Shepherd	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Michael Pol	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Nathanael E. Robertson	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Nicholas Aaron Latham	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Phillip Hendricks	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000

SCHEDULE 5  
PAGE THREE

**SCHEDULE OF SURETY BONDS FOR COUNTY OFFICIALS - UNAUDITED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Surety Company</b>	<b>Bond Amount</b>
Rafael Bailey	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	\$ 50,000
Richard Laubshcher	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Robert Pellegrin	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Robert Earl Gray	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Robert Michael Clark	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Scott Murphy	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Shawn W Jarrell	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Shelby N. Barfield	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Steven Ray Ducksworth	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Terry G. Carter	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Timeka Hudson	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Timothy L. Hartfield	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Timothy Vincent Young	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Tony McSwain	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Travis William Breland	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Wendy Carmichael	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
William Blaine Stansell	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
William Camerson Hoggard	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
William John III	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
William L. Herrington	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Burnice (Wes) Curry	Justice Court Judge	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Gay Polk-Payton	Justice Court Judge	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Robert Davis	Justice Court Judge	FCCI Insurance Group	100,000
Zachary Monreo Vaughn	Justice Court Judge	FCCI Insurance Group	100,000
Keitha Sparkman	Justice Court Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
April Chmiel	Justice Court Deputy Clerk	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Cheryl Holder	Justice Court Deputy Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Gloria N. Chestang	Justice Court Deputy Clerk	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Kendria L. Jackson	Justice Court Deputy Clerk	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
LaKeisha Copeland	Justice Court Deputy Clerk	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Lashonda Clark	Justice Court Deputy Clerk	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Louise V. Jackson	Justice Court Deputy Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Patricia A. Watts	Justice Court Deputy Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Shelby B. Raborn	Justice Court Deputy Clerk	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Temeraka Garner	Justice Court Deputy Clerk	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Gwen Wilks	Circuit Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	100,000
Brittany A Stuart	Deputy Circuit Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Carolyn Nelson	Deputy Circuit Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Chasity Nicole Pierce	Deputy Circuit Clerk	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Debbie Smith	Deputy Circuit Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Gina Hudson	Deputy Circuit Clerk	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Juanita Wilson	Deputy Circuit Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Katlyn Marie Storey	Deputy Circuit Clerk	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Kayla Dawn LaBove	Deputy Circuit Clerk	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Lacrecia Tracvis	Deputy Circuit Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Lisa Benson	Deputy Circuit Clerk	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Rebecca A Bunch	Deputy Circuit Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Rhonda Lee Crowe	Deputy Circuit Clerk	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Sarah Walley	Deputy Circuit Clerk	RLI Insurance Company	50,000

SCHEDULE 5  
PAGE FOUR

**SCHEDULE OF SURETY BONDS FOR COUNTY OFFICIALS - UNAUDITED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Surety Company</b>	<b>Bond Amount</b>
Billy Hudson	Tax Collector	FCCI Insurance Group	\$ 100,000
Alice E. Downs	Deputy Tax Collector	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Charla Dunlap	Deputy Tax Collector	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Edgar R. Myers	Deputy Tax Collector	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Elsie Bass	Deputy Tax Collector	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Janet Latham	Deputy Tax Collector	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Jennifer Sherrer	Deputy Tax Collector	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Lori L Ellington	Deputy Tax Collector	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Marlee Jean Miller	Deputy Tax Collector	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Patrick Frank	Deputy Tax Collector	FCCI Insurance Group	25,000
Paula D. Johnson	Deputy Tax Collector	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Robbie Conway	Deputy Tax Collector	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Sandra C. Wilson	Deputy Tax Collector	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Stephanie R. Smith	Deputy Tax Collector	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Tracy L. Parker	Deputy Tax Collector	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Valerie McGehee Leeper	Deputy Tax Collector	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Zachary Howell	Deputy Tax Collector	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Mary Ann Palmer	Tax Assessor	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Addie Cognevich	Deputy Tax Assessor	RLI Insurance Company	25,000
Bruce Templeton	Deputy Tax Assessor	FCCI Insurance Group	25,000
Bryan Hunter	Deputy Tax Assessor	FCCI Insurance Group	25,000
Cassie Brantley	Deputy Tax Assessor	FCCI Insurance Group	25,000
Daniel Patrick Frank	Deputy Tax Assessor	FCCI Insurance Group	25,000
Quitman, Jr. Griffin	Deputy Tax Assessor	FCCI Insurance Group	25,000
Richard A. Tew	Deputy Tax Assessor	FCCI Insurance Group	25,000
Sandra Brady	Deputy Tax Assessor	FCCI Insurance Group	25,000
Travis Clark	Deputy Tax Assessor	FCCI Insurance Group	25,000
Wylie Anderson	Deputy Tax Assessor	RLI Insurance Company	25,000

## ***SPECIAL REPORTS***



**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  
Forrest County, Mississippi

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Forrest 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 November 2, 2021. Our report includes an adverse opinion on the aggregate discretely presented component units due to the omission of the discretely presented component units which are required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America to be reported with the financial data of the County's primary government unless the County also issues financial statements for the financial reporting entity that include the financial data for its component units.

**Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

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

- 69 -



**HATTIESBURG**  
2 Southern Pointe Parkway, Suite 100  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401-8025  
  
P. O. Drawer 15099  
Hattiesburg, MS 39404-5099  
  
FAX: 601.264.3642

**COLUMBIA**  
150 Old Highway 98 E  
Columbia, MS 39429-6447  
  
P. O. Box 609  
Columbia, MS 39429-0609  
  
FAX: 601.736.0501

**GULFPORT**  
2019 23rd Avenue  
Gulfport, MS 39501-2968  
  
P. O. Box 1842  
Gulfport, MS 39502-1842  
  
FAX: 228.864.3850



Members of the Board of Supervisors  
Forrest County, Mississippi

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

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified. We did identify a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs as 2020-001 that we consider to be to be a material weakness.

#### **Compliance and Other Matters**

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

We noted certain matters that we reported to the management of Forrest County, Mississippi in the Limited Internal Control and Compliance Review Management Report dated November 2, 2021, included within this document.

#### **Forrest County, Mississippi's Response to Finding**

Forrest County, Mississippi's response to the finding identified in our audit is described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs. Forrest County, Mississippi's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

Members of the Board of Supervisors  
Forrest County, Mississippi

**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.



Hattiesburg, Mississippi  
November 2, 2021



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

Members of the Board of Supervisors  
Forrest County, Mississippi

**Report on Compliance for the Major Federal Program**

We have audited Forrest County, Mississippi's compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on Forrest County, Mississippi's major federal program for the year ended September 30, 2020. Forrest County, Mississippi's major federal program is 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 federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of its federal awards applicable to its federal programs.

**Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on compliance for Forrest County, Mississippi's major federal program 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

- 72 -



**HATTIESBURG**  
2 Southern Pointe Parkway, Suite 100  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401-8025  
  
P. O. Drawer 15099  
Hattiesburg, MS 39404-5099  
  
FAX: 601.264.3642

**COLUMBIA**  
150 Old Highway 98 E  
Columbia, MS 39429-6447  
  
P. O. Box 609  
Columbia, MS 39429-0609  
  
FAX: 601.736.0501

**GULFPORT**  
2019 23rd Avenue  
Gulfport, MS 39501-2968  
  
P. O. Box 1842  
Gulfport, MS 39502-1842  
  
FAX: 228.864.3850

Members of the Board of Supervisors  
Forrest County, Mississippi

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 Forrest County, 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 the major federal program. However, our audit does not provide a legal determination of Forrest County, Mississippi's compliance.

### **Opinion on the Major Federal Program**

In our opinion, Forrest County, Mississippi complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on its major federal program for the year ended September 30, 2020.

### **Report on Internal Control Over Compliance**

Management of Forrest County, 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 Forrest County, Mississippi's internal control over compliance with the types of requirements that could have a direct and material effect on the major federal program to determine the auditing procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing an opinion on compliance for the 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 County'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.

Members of the Board of Supervisors  
Forrest County, Mississippi

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



Hattiesburg, Mississippi  
November 2, 2021



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

Members of the Board of Supervisors  
Forrest County, Mississippi

We have examined Forrest County, Mississippi's (the County) compliance with establishing and maintaining a central purchasing system and inventory control system in accordance with Sections 31-7-101 through 31-7-127, Miss. Code Ann. (1972) and compliance with the purchasing requirements in accordance with bid requirements of Section 31-7-13, Miss. Code Ann. (1972) during the year ended September 30, 2020. The Board of Supervisors of Forrest County, Mississippi is responsible for the County's compliance with those requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the County's compliance based on our examination.

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

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

In our opinion, Forrest County, Mississippi, complied, in all material respects, with state laws governing central purchasing, inventory and bid requirements for the year ended September 30, 2020.

- 75 -



**HATTIESBURG**  
2 Southern Pointe Parkway, Suite 100  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401-8025  
  
P. O. Drawer 15099  
Hattiesburg, MS 39404-5099  
  
FAX: 601.264.3642

**COLUMBIA**  
150 Old Highway 98 E  
Columbia, MS 39429-6447  
  
P. O. Box 609  
Columbia, MS 39429-0609  
  
FAX: 601.736.0501

**GULFPORT**  
2019 23rd Avenue  
Gulfport, MS 39501-2968  
  
P. O. Box 1842  
Gulfport, MS 39502-1842  
  
FAX: 228.864.3850

Members of the Board of Supervisors  
Forrest County, Mississippi

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

This report is intended for use in evaluating Forrest County, Mississippi's compliance with the aforementioned requirements, and is not intended to be and should not be relied upon for any other purpose. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.



Hattiesburg, Mississippi  
November 2, 2021

SCHEDULE 6

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**SCHEDULE OF PURCHASES NOT MADE FROM THE LOWEST BIDDER  
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

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



SCHEDULE 7

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**SCHEDULE OF EMERGENCY PURCHASES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Item Purchased</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Reason for Emergency Purchase</u>
10/15/2019	Dell Server	\$ 5,690	B & E Communications	Old server crashed resulting in cameras going down and data being lost.
2/5/2020	Technical Support for AS 400	5,500	Shane Harvell	The AS 400 system crashed and the County needed to get it up and running to be able to process information.
2/26/2020	Road Striping and Reflectors	15,860	McCraney Striping & Seal Coating, LLC	Road was noted to be dangerous at night with low visibility due to the lack of road markings.
4/13/2020	External Wi-Fi Booster	8,775	Gilliland Electronics	To provide a means for students to do classwork while remaining in their cars to comply with state mandated COVID-19 restrictions.
6/10/2020	Cameras (3)	1,500	Gilliland Electronics	Cameras to watch the Confederate Statue
7/15/2020	Epson Printer	300	Office Depot	Replace a broken printer

SCHEDULE 8

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**SCHEDULE OF PURCHASES MADE NONCOMPETITIVELY A FROM SOLE SOURCE  
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

Our tests did not identify any purchases made noncompetitively from a sole source.



## LIMITED INTERNAL CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE REVIEW MANAGEMENT REPORT

Members of the Board of Supervisors  
Forrest County, Mississippi

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of Forrest County, Mississippi for the year ended September 30, 2020, we considered Forrest County, Mississippi's internal control to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on internal control.

In addition, for areas not considered material to Forrest County, Mississippi's financial reporting, we have performed some additional limited internal control and state legal compliance review procedures as identified in the state legal compliance audit program issued by the Office of the State Auditor. Our procedures were substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion on the County's compliance with these requirements. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. This report does not affect our report dated November 2, 2021, on the financial statements of Forrest County, Mississippi.

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

The results of our review procedures and compliance tests identified certain immaterial instances of noncompliance with state laws and regulations that are opportunities for strengthening internal controls and operating efficiency.

Our findings, recommendations, and your responses are disclosed below:

- 80 -



**HATTIESBURG**  
2 Southern Pointe Parkway, Suite 100  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401-8025

P. O. Drawer 15099  
Hattiesburg, MS 39404-5099

FAX: 601.264.3642

**COLUMBIA**  
150 Old Highway 98 E  
Columbia, MS 39429-6447

P. O. Box 609  
Columbia, MS 39429-0609

FAX: 601.726.0501

**GULFPORT**  
2019 23rd Avenue  
Gulfport, MS 39501-2968

P. O. Box 1842  
Gulfport, MS 39502-1842

FAX: 228.864.3850

Members of the Board of Supervisors  
Forrest County, Mississippi

**Board of Supervisors.**

**Finding 1:** Public officials should ensure compliance with state law concerning the approving and documenting of the duties of the road manager.

**Applicable State Law:** *Section 65-17-1(2), Mississippi Code Annotated (1972)*, states, "The board of supervisors shall adopt the general policies to be followed in the administration of the county road department and shall appoint as administrative head of the county road department a county road manager who shall be educated or experienced in the construction and maintenance of highways, bridges and other facets of county highway responsibilities... The county road manager, under the policies determined by the board of supervisors and subject to the board's general supervision and control, shall administer the county road department, superintend the working, construction and maintaining of the public roads and the building of bridges in such county, and carry out the general policies of the board in conformity with the estimates of expenditures fixed in the annual budget as finally adopted by the board or as thereafter revised by appropriate action of the board. All requisitions for the purchase and repair of all equipment, heavy equipment, machinery, supplies, commodities, materials and services for the county road department shall be prepared by the county road manager and submitted to the county department of purchasing for processing in accordance with the central purchasing system."

**Finding Detail:** During procedures performed of Forrest County's personnel policies and Board minutes, we noted the Board does not have written personnel policies and procedures for the duties of the Road Manager. The County is in violation of *Mississippi Code Section 65-17-1(2)*.

Failure to document and approve the job description for the Road Manager resulted in noncompliance with *Mississippi Code Section 65-17-1(2)* and could result in a lack of transparency and loss of public trust.

**Recommendation:** We recommend the Board of Supervisors document adoptions of the approved job description for the Road Manager's position, ensuring compliance with state law.

**Official Response:** The Board of Supervisors adopted a job description for the Road Managers' position during fiscal year 2021.

**Repeat Finding:** Yes

**Finding 2:** Public officials should ensure compliance with state law over the inspections of roads and bridges.

**Applicable State Law:** *Section 65-7-117, Mississippi Code Annotated (1972)*, states, "Each member of the board of supervisors shall inspect every road, bridge and ferry in each district at least annually, at times to be fixed by the board, and shall file with the clerk of the board a report, under oath, of the condition of the several roads, bridges and ferries inspected by him, with such recommendations as are needful, which reports shall be presented to the board of supervisors and kept on the file for three (3) years."

Members of the Board of Supervisors  
Forrest County, Mississippi

**Finding Detail:** During the review of Board minutes and inquiry of County personnel, we noted the Board of Supervisors did not inspect every road, bridge, and ferry in each district annually and spread upon its minutes. Failure to inspect every road, bridge, and ferry in each of the County's districts resulted in noncompliance with *Mississippi Code Section 65-7-117*.

**Recommendation:** We recommend the Board of Supervisors inspect all roads, bridges, and ferries in each of the County's district annually, ensuring compliance with state law.

**Official Response:** Acknowledged.

**Repeat Finding:** Yes

**Circuit Clerk.**

**Finding 3:** Public officials should strengthen internal controls over the reconciliation of bank statements and fee journal.

**Internal Control Deficiency:** An effective system of internal controls over cash should include maintaining a fee journal and reconciling the bank statements to the fee journal.

**Finding Detail:** During the testing of the Circuit Clerk's bank statements and fee journal, we noted the bank statements were not timely reconciled to the fee journal. The Circuit Clerk did have the necessary controls in place over cash.

Failure to reconcile the bank statements to the fee journal could result in the loss or misappropriation of public funds.

**Recommendation:** We recommend the Circuit Clerk strengthen controls to ensure bank statements are reconciled to the fee journal monthly in a timely manner.

**Official Response:** The Circuit Clerk has been informed of this finding and has assured the County corrective action is being taken.

**Repeat Finding:** Yes.

**Board of Supervisors, Tax Assessor, and Tax Collector.**

**Finding 4:** Public officials should ensure compliance with state laws over inter-local agreements.

Members of the Board of Supervisors  
Forrest County, Mississippi

**Applicable State Law:** *Section 17-11-13, Mississippi Code Annotated (1972)*, states, "Every agreement made by a local governmental unit hereunder shall, prior to and as a condition precedent to its entry into force, be submitted to the Attorney General of this state who shall determine whether the agreement is in proper form and compatible with the laws of this state. No agreement may be considered that does not cite the specific authority under which each of the local governing units involved may exercise the powers necessary to fulfill the terms of the joint agreement. The Attorney General shall approve any such agreement submitted to him hereunder unless he shall find that it does not meet the conditions set forth herein and elsewhere in the laws of this state and shall detail in writing addressed to the governing bodies of the units concerned the specific respects in which the proposed agreement fails to meet the requirements of law."

As noted by the *Mississippi Attorney General*, the inter-local agreements predate the terms of office of the current county and municipal governing authorities, neither are bond by the subject of the inter-local agreement

**Finding Detail:** During the review of Forrest County Tax Assessor and Tax Collector's inter-local agreements, we noted the following:

- The inter-local agreement with the City of Hattiesburg has not been renewed since 2008; and
- The inter-local agreement with the City of Petal has not been renewed since 2004.

Failure to renew inter-local agreements with each new term of office could result in the Tax Assessor and Tax Collector being overpaid and resulted in the new Board of Supervisor Members and City Council Members being responsible for the prior Board's liability.

**Recommendation:** We recommend the Tax Assessor, Tax Collector, and Board of Supervisors ensure there are new inter-local agreements approved with each new term of office, as required by law.

**Official Response:** The Attorney General has consistently opined that such agreements are voidable by successor officials but not void in the absence of related action. Se.e.g., MS ag Op., Fair (Feb. 21, 2014). No such action has been taken by any party to the agreement in question, which explicitly provides for automatic annual renewal in the absence of written notice termination. Accordingly, it is the considered opinion of the Tax Collector, the Tax Assessor, and the Board of Supervisors that the agreements remain valid without the need for formal renewal. Nevertheless, the Board of Supervisors took action to renew all existing Interlocal Agreements during fiscal year 2021.

**Repeat Finding:** Yes

**Constables and Justice Court Judges.**

**Finding 5:** Public officials should ensure compliance with state laws over the filing of a statement of economic interest each year by May 1st.

Members of the Board of Supervisors  
Forrest County, Mississippi

**Applicable State Law:** *Section 25-4-25, Mississippi Code Ann. (1972)*, provides that "Each of the following individuals shall file a statement of economic interest with the commission in accordance with the provisions of this chapter: a) Persons elected by popular vote..."

*Section 25-4-29, Mississippi Code Ann. (1972)*, provides that "1) Required statements hereunder shall be filed as follows: a) Every incumbent public official required....to file a statement of economic interest shall file such statement with the commission on or before May 1 of each year that such official holds office, regardless of duration. 2) Any person who fails to file a statement of economic interest within thirty (30) days of the date of the statement is due shall be deemed delinquent by the commission...a fine of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) per day, not to exceed a total fine of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) shall be assessed against the delinquent filer for each day thereafter in which the statement of economic interest is not properly filed. The commission shall enroll such assessment as a civil judgment with the circuit clerk in the delinquent filer's county of residence..."

**Finding Detail:** During our review of the Statement of Economic Interest, we noted not all Statements of Economic Interest were filed for the year. Failure to file the required Statement could result in the assessment of fines and enrollment of civil judgment against all non-compliant elected officials.

**Recommendation:** We recommend the elected officials who have not file a Statement of Economic Interest each year, as required by *Section 25-4-25, Mississippi Code Ann. (1972)*.

**Official Response:** State law clearly indicates this is the responsibility of the individual public officials and is not the responsibility of the County.

**Repeat Finding:** Yes.

#### **Board of Supervisors and Chancery Clerk.**

**Finding 6:** Public officials and employees should ensure compliance with state law over surety bonding requirements.

**Applicable State Law:** *Section 25-1-15(2), Mississippi Code Annotated (1972)*, requires public employees that are required to give individual bond to obtain a new bond at least every four years concurrent with the County's normal election cycle.

*Section 25-1-19, Mississippi Code Annotated (1972)*, requires all bonds for public employees should be approved by the Board of Supervisors, and these bonds should be filed and recorded in the Chancery Clerk's Office; however, the Chancery Clerk's bond should be filed in the Circuit Clerk's office.

**Finding Detail:** During the procedures performed on surety bonds, we noted the following noncompliance:

- The Chancery Clerk's bond was not filed in the Circuit Clerk's office
- One employee's bond lapsed during the year.

Members of the Board of Supervisors  
Forrest County, Mississippi

- There were multiple employees that did not have bonds filed in a timely manner.

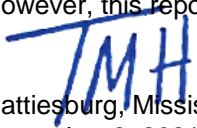
**Recommendation:** We recommend the Board of Supervisors ensure that County officials and employees' bonds meet the requirements of State Laws.

**Official Response:** Corrected as of fiscal year 2021.

**Repeat Finding:** Yes.

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

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



Hattiesburg, Mississippi  
November 2, 2021



***SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
AND  
QUESTIONED COSTS***

## FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

### SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS 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: |               |
|    | Governmental activities                                      | Unmodified    |
|    | General fund   | Unmodified    |
|    | Aggregate remaining fund information                         | Unmodified    |
|    | Aggregate discretely presented component units               | Adverse       |
| 2. | Internal control over financial reporting:                   |               |
|    | A. Material weakness identified?                             | Yes           |
|    | B. Significant deficiency identified?                        | None reported |
| 3. | Noncompliance material to the financial statements noted?    | No            |

##### **Federal Awards:**

- |    |  |               |
|----|--|---------------|
| 4. | Internal control over the major federal program:   |               |
|    | A. Material weakness identified?   | No            |
|    | B. Significant deficiency identified?  | None reported |
| 5. | Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for the major federal program:                       | Unmodified    |
| 6. | Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with 2 CFR 200.516(a)? | No            |
| 7. | Identification of the major federal program:   |               |

<b><u>CFDA Number</u></b>	<b><u>Name of Federal Program or Cluster</u></b>
---------------------------	--

97.039	Hazard Mitigation Grant
--------	-------------------------

- |     |  |           |
|-----|--|-----------|
| 8.  | Dollar threshold used to distinguish between type A and type B programs:   | \$750,000 |
| 9.  | Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee?   | No        |
| 10. | Prior fiscal year audit finding and questioned costs relative to federal awards which would require the auditee to prepare a summary schedule of prior audit findings in accordance with 2 CFR 200.511(b)? | Yes       |

## FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

### SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

#### PAGE TWO

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

#### **SECTION 2: FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS**

2020-001 The financial statements do not include the financial data for the County's legally separate component units.

Finding Type: Material Weakness

Repeat Finding: Yes

**Criteria** - Generally accepted accounting principles require the financial data for the County's component units to be reported with the financial data of the County's primary government unless the County also issues financial statements for the financial reporting entity that include the financial data for its component units.

**Condition** - As reported in the prior years' audit report, the County's financial statements do not include the financial data of the County's component units.

**Cause** - The County did not provide audited financial statements for the required presentation of the aggregate discretely presented component units (not presented in this report).

**Effect** - Failure to include the data required by generally accepted accounting principles resulted in an adverse opinion on the aggregate discretely presented component units.

**Recommendation** - The Board of Supervisors should provide the financial data of all its discretely presented component units in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

**Views of Responsible Officials** - See Auditee Corrective Action Plan.

#### **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.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DAVID HOGAN  
DISTRICT 1, PRESIDENT

CHARLES MARSHALL  
DISTRICT 2

BURKETT ROSS  
DISTRICT 3

RODERICK WOULLARD  
DISTRICT 4, VICE PRESIDENT

CHRIS BOWEN  
DISTRICT 5



641 MAIN STREET  
P. O. BOX 1310  
HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39403-  
1310

PHONE (601) 545-6000  
FAX (601) 545-6095

DAVID B. MILLER  
ATTORNEY

BETTY CARLISLE  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

### **AUDITEE CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN**

Forrest County, Mississippi respectfully submits the following corrective action plan.

Audit Period: September 30, 2020

The finding discussed below is numbered consistently with the number assigned in the schedule of findings and questioned costs.

#### **Corrective Action Plan for Financial Statement Finding**

2020-001

Forrest County, Mississippi made a conscious decision to exclude the discrete presentation of the County's component units in its financial statements because the cost and effort of this reporting requirement outweighs the benefit to the County.

Name of Responsible Person: Board of Supervisors of Forrest County, Mississippi

Expected Date of Completion: Unknown

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DAVID HOGAN  
DISTRICT 1, PRESIDENT

CHARLES MARSHALL  
DISTRICT 2

BURKETT ROSS  
DISTRICT 3

RODERICK WOULLARD  
DISTRICT 4, VICE PRESIDENT

CHRIS BOWEN  
DISTRICT 5



641 MAIN STREET  
P. O. BOX 1310  
HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39403-  
1310

PHONE (601) 545-6000  
FAX (601) 545-6095

DAVID B. MILLER  
ATTORNEY

BETTY CARLISLE  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

## SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS

Year Ended September 30, 2020

The following is an update of the prior audit findings.

2019-001

**Condition** - As reported in the prior years' audit reports, the County's financial statements do not include the financial data of the County's component units.

**Recommendation** - The Board of Supervisors should provide the financial data for its discretely presented component units for inclusion in the County's financial statements.

**Current Status** - Not corrected. See Finding 2020-001.

2019-002

**Condition** - As reported in the prior years' audit reports, monthly reconciliations of receipts in Jail Tracker software to settlement reports were not being performed.

**Recommendation** - The Sheriff's office should perform monthly reconciliations of receipts recorded in the Jail Tracker Software System to the manual receipts used in the preparation of settlement reports that are remitted to the Chancery Clerk's office on a timely basis.

**Current Status** - Corrected.