

LAWRENCE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Audited Financial Statements and Special Reports
For the Year Ended September 30, 2021



SHAD WHITE
STATE AUDITOR

Stephanie C. Palmertree, CPA
Deputy State Auditor

Joe E. McKnight, CPA
Director, County Audit Section



A Report from the County Audit Section

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**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR**

Shad White
AUDITOR

January 19, 2023

Members of the Board of Supervisors
Lawrence County, Mississippi

Dear Board Members:

I am pleased to submit to you the 2021 financial and compliance audit report for Lawrence County. This audit was performed pursuant to Section 7-7-211(e), Mississippi Code Ann. (1972). The audit was performed in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shad White", is written over a horizontal line.

Shad White

LAWRENCE COUNTY

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LAWRENCE COUNTY

FINANCIAL SECTION

LAWRENCE COUNTY

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**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR
SHAD WHITE
AUDITOR**

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Members of the Board of Supervisors
Lawrence County, Mississippi

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying cash basis financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Lawrence County, Mississippi, (the County) as of and for the year ended September 30, 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements of the County's primary government as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

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

Auditor's Responsibility

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

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

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

Basis for Adverse Opinion on the Aggregate Discretely Presented Component Units

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

Adverse Opinion

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the "Basis for Adverse Opinion on the Aggregate Discretely Presented Component Units" paragraph, the financial statements referred to above do not present fairly the cash basis financial position of the aggregate discretely presented component units of Lawrence County, Mississippi, as of September 30, 2021, or the changes in cash basis financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles applicable to the County's cash basis of accounting.

Unmodified Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective cash basis financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Lawrence County, Mississippi, as of September 30, 2021, and the respective changes in cash basis financial position thereof for the year then ended, in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

Basis of Accounting

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

Other Matters

Report on Supplementary and Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise Lawrence County, Mississippi's basic financial statements. The accompanying Schedule of Operating Costs of Solid Waste is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The accompanying Schedule of Operating Costs of Solid Waste is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the 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 Operating Costs of Solid Waste is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

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

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated January 19, 2023 on our consideration of Lawrence County, Mississippi's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is 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 Lawrence 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 Lawrence County, Mississippi's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joe E. Mcknight". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

JOE E. MCKNIGHT, CPA
Director, County Audit Section

January 19, 2023

LAWRENCE COUNTY

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LAWRENCE COUNTY

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

LAWRENCE COUNTY

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LAWRENCE COUNTY
Statement of Net Position - Cash Basis
September 30, 2021

Exhibit 1

	<u>Primary Government</u>
	<u>Governmental</u>
	<u>Activities</u>
ASSETS	
Cash	\$ 11,428,321
Total Assets	<u>11,428,321</u>
NET POSITION	
Restricted:	
Expendable:	
General government	1,642,933
Public safety	1,014,103
Public works	3,966,488
Health and welfare	80,101
Culture and recreation	2,818
Economic development and assistance	25,107
Debt service	617,743
Unemployment compensation	12,985
Unrestricted	<u>4,066,043</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 11,428,321</u>

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

LAWRENCE COUNTY
Statement of Activities - Cash Basis
For the Year Ended September 30, 2021

Exhibit 2

Functions/Programs	Program Cash Receipts				Net (Disbursements) Receipts and Changes in Net Position
	Cash Disbursements	Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Primary Government Governmental Activities
Primary government:					
Governmental activities:					
General government	\$ 3,335,650	170,176	1,489,562		(1,675,912)
Public safety	2,156,664	230,511	29,274	1,200	(1,895,679)
Public works	5,778,316	22,006	1,047,795	1,016,969	(3,691,546)
Health and welfare	400,899		10,319		(390,580)
Culture and recreation	22,532				(22,532)
Education	263,689				(263,689)
Conservation of natural resources	82,199				(82,199)
Economic development and assistance	252,969				(252,969)
Debt service:					
Principal	720,340				(720,340)
Interest	125,258				(125,258)
Total Governmental Activities	\$ 13,138,516	422,693	2,576,950	1,018,169	(9,120,704)
General receipts:					
Property taxes				\$	7,045,802
Road & bridge privilege taxes					197,231
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs					504,008
In-lieu taxes					235,855
Unrestricted interest income					88,067
Miscellaneous					608,173
Proceeds from debt issuance					595,966
Sale of county property					180,633
Total General Receipts and Other Cash Sources					9,455,735
Changes in Net Position					335,031
Net Position - Beginning, as previously reported					10,852,804
Fund reclassification					240,486
Net Position - Beginning of year, as restated					11,093,290
Net Position - Ending				\$	11,428,321

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

LAWRENCE COUNTY
Statement of Cash Basis Assets and Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
September 30, 2021

Exhibit 3

	<u>Major Funds</u>			<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>ERBR-39(01)</u>	<u>Restricted for</u>	<u>Governmental</u>	<u>Governmental</u>
	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Stumptown</u>	<u>Other Purposes</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>
		<u>Road Fund</u>	<u>(ARPA) Fund</u>		
ASSETS					
Cash	\$ 4,066,043		1,222,650	6,139,628	11,428,321
Total Assets	<u>\$ 4,066,043</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,222,650</u>	<u>6,139,628</u>	<u>11,428,321</u>
FUND BALANCES					
Restricted for:					
General government	\$		1,222,650	420,283	1,642,933
Public safety				1,014,103	1,014,103
Public works				3,966,488	3,966,488
Health and welfare				80,101	80,101
Culture and recreation				2,818	2,818
Economic development and assistance				25,107	25,107
Debt service				617,743	617,743
Unemployment compensation				12,985	12,985
Assigned to:					
Health and welfare	21,667				21,667
Economic development and assistance	669				669
Unassigned	<u>4,043,707</u>				<u>4,043,707</u>
Total Fund Balances	<u>\$ 4,066,043</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,222,650</u>	<u>6,139,628</u>	<u>11,428,321</u>

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

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Exhibit 4

Statement of Cash Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Basis Fund Balances -
 Governmental Funds
 For the Year Ended September 30, 2021

	Major Funds				
	General	ERBR-39(01)	Restricted for	Other	Total
	Fund	Stumptown	Other Purposes	Governmental	Governmental
		Road Fund	(ARPA) Fund	Funds	Funds
RECEIPTS					
Property taxes	\$ 4,584,449			2,461,353	7,045,802
Road and bridge privilege taxes				197,231	197,231
Licenses, commissions and other receipts	89,323			1,914	91,237
Fines and forfeitures	88,457			3,288	91,745
In-lieu taxes	235,855				235,855
Intergovernmental receipts	1,080,671		1,222,342	1,796,114	4,099,127
Charges for services	83,311			156,400	239,711
Interest income	60,985		308	26,774	88,067
Miscellaneous receipts	542,919			65,254	608,173
Total Receipts	6,765,970	0	1,222,650	4,708,328	12,696,948
DISBURSEMENTS					
General government	3,303,735			31,915	3,335,650
Public safety	1,995,559			161,105	2,156,664
Public works		1,339,553		4,438,763	5,778,316
Health and welfare	400,899				400,899
Culture and recreation				22,532	22,532
Education	263,689				263,689
Conservation of natural resources	82,199				82,199
Economic development and assistance	252,969				252,969
Debt service:					
Principal	34,338			686,002	720,340
Interest	493			124,765	125,258
Total Disbursements	6,333,881	1,339,553	0	5,465,082	13,138,516
Excess (Deficiency) of Receipts over (under) Disbursements	432,089	(1,339,553)	1,222,650	(756,754)	(441,568)
OTHER CASH SOURCES (USES)					
Proceeds from long-term debt issuance				595,966	595,966
Sale of county property	125,000			55,633	180,633
Transfers in	564,659	72,929		1,919,055	2,556,643
Transfers out	(1,259,837)			(1,296,806)	(2,556,643)
Total Other Cash Sources and Uses	(570,178)	72,929	0	1,273,848	776,599
Excess (Deficiency) of Receipts and other Cash Sources over (under) Disbursements and other Cash Uses	(138,089)	(1,266,624)	1,222,650	517,094	335,031
Cash Basis Fund Balances - Beginning, as previously reported	3,963,646	1,266,624	0	5,622,534	10,852,804
Fund reclassification	240,486				240,486
Cash Basis Fund Balances - Beginning, as restated	4,204,132	1,266,624	0	5,622,534	11,093,290
Cash Basis Fund Balances - Ending	\$ 4,066,043	0	1,222,650	6,139,628	11,428,321

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

LAWRENCE COUNTY
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position - Cash Basis
September 30, 2021

Exhibit 5

	Custodial Funds
ASSETS	
Cash	\$ 101,533
Total Assets	\$ <u>101,533</u>
NET POSITION	
Restricted for:	
Individuals, organizations and other governments	\$ 101,533
Total Net Position	\$ <u>101,533</u>

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

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Exhibit 6Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position - Cash Basis
For the Year Ended September 30, 2021

	<u>Custodial Funds</u>
CASH ADDITIONS	
Tax collections for other governments	\$ 608,979
Licenses and fees collected for State	<u>128,812</u>
Total Additions	<u>737,791</u>
CASH DEDUCTIONS	
Payments of tax to other governments	597,557
Payments of licenses and fees to State	<u>126,269</u>
Total Deductions	<u>723,826</u>
Net increase (decrease) in fiduciary net position	13,965
Net Position - Beginning	<u>87,568</u>
Net Position - Ending	<u><u>\$ 101,533</u></u>

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

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended September 30, 2021

(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies.

A. Financial Reporting Entity.

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

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

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

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

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

B. Basis of Presentation.

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

Government-wide Financial Statements:

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

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

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended September 30, 2021

services offered by the program, grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Taxes and other receipts not classified as program receipts are presented as general receipts of the County, with certain limited exceptions. The comparison of direct disbursements with program receipts identifies the extent to which each governmental function is self-financing or draws from the general receipts of the County.

Fund Financial Statements:

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

C. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting.

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

The County reports the following major Governmental Funds:

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

ERBR-39(01) Stumptown Road Fund - This fund is used to account for monies from specific revenue sources that are restricted for the Stumptown Road construction project.

Restricted for Other Purposes (ARPA) Fund - This fund is used to account for the monies received from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) that are considered restricted in nature.

Additionally, the County reports the following fund types:

GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES

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

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

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

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended September 30, 2021

FIDUCIARY FUND TYPE

Custodial Funds - Custodial Funds are used to report fiduciary activities that are not held in a trust or equivalent arrangement that meets specific criteria.

D. Account Classifications.

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

E. Deposits.

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

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

F. Equity Classifications.

Government-wide Financial Statements:

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

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

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

Net Position Flow Assumption:

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

Fund Financial Statements:

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

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

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

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended September 30, 2021

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

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

Fund Balance Flow Assumption:

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

G. Property Tax Receipts.

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

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

H. Changes in Accounting Standards.

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

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended September 30, 2021

GASB 84, *Fiduciary Activities*, was implemented during fiscal year 2021. The objective of this statement is to improve guidance regarding the identification of fiduciary activities for accounting and financial reporting purposes and how those activities should be reported. This statement describes four fiduciary funds that should be reported, if applicable: (1) pension (and other employee benefit) trust funds, (2) investment trust funds, (3) private-purpose trust funds, and (4) custodial funds.

(2) Fund Reclassification (Accounting Change).

Effective October 1, 2020, and in accordance with the implementation of GASB Statement No. 84, the Payroll Clearing Fund and the Other Agency Fund, previously reported as Fiduciary Funds, were reclassified and reported in the General Fund. Therefore, the County has adjusted beginning fund balance/net position for the General Fund and Governmental Activities in the amount of \$240,486.

For the Fiduciary Fund Custodial Activities, the County has treated the beginning of year net position of \$87,568 as having been recognized in the period incurred. The County has adjusted beginning net position for their fiduciary activities from \$0 to \$87,568.

(3) Deposits.

The carrying amount of the County's total deposits with financial institutions at September 30, 2021, was \$11,529,854, and the bank balance was \$11,725,314. 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, *Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated*. 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.

(4) Interfund Transfers.

The following is a summary of interfund transfers at September 30, 2021:

Transfers In/Out:

<u>Transfers In</u>	<u>Transfers Out</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General Fund	Other Governmental Funds	\$ 564,659
ERBR-39(01) Stumptown Road Fund	Other Governmental Funds	72,929
Other Governmental Funds	General Fund	1,259,837
Other Governmental Funds	Other Governmental Funds	659,218
Total		<u>\$ 2,556,643</u>

The principal purpose of interfund transfers was to provide funds for budgeted operating costs, debt service payments, and capital outlay. All interfund transfers were routine and consistent with the activities of the funds making the transfer.

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended September 30, 2021

(5) 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, 2021, to January 1, 2022.

The pool may make an overall supplemental assessment or declare a refund depending on the loss experience of all the entities it insures.

(6) Operating Leases.

As Lessor:

On November 16, 2018, Lawrence County entered into a non-cancellable operating lease agreement with Southwest Mississippi Regional Medical Center for the lease of land and a building owned by the County for any purpose the lessor deems appropriate. The operating lease stipulated that the lessee would pay approximately \$20,000 per month in the lease payments commencing January 2, 2019 for a term of twenty (20) years.

The County receives income from property it leases under non-cancellable operating leases. Total income from such leases was \$240,000 for the year ended September 30, 2021. The future minimum lease receivables for these leases are as follows:

<u>Year Ending September 30</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2022	\$ 240,000
2023	240,000
2024	240,000
2025	240,000
2026	240,000
2027 - 2031	1,200,000
2032 - 2036	1,200,000
2037 - 2041	<u>540,000</u>
Total Minimum Payments Required	\$ <u><u>4,140,000</u></u>

As Lessee:

On April 1, 2019, Lawrence County entered into a non-cancellable operating lease agreement with Mullins Properties, LLC for the lease of land and a building owned by Mullins Properties, LLC for use as the Mississippi State University Extension Service's office. The operating lease stipulated that the lessee would pay approximately \$1,500 per month in lease payments commencing April 1, 2019, for a term of three (3) years.

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended September 30, 2021

On April 4, 2021, the County renewed the non-cancellable operating lease with Mullins Properties, LLC for a term of three (3) years, commencing April 4, 2021, with lease payments of approximately \$1,500 per month.

The County has entered into certain operating leases which do not give rise to property rights. Total costs for such leases were \$18,000 for the year ended September 30, 2021. The future minimum lease payments for these leases are as follows:

<u>Year Ending September 30</u>		<u>Amount</u>
2022	\$	18,000
2023		18,000
2024		9,000
Total Minimum Payments Required	\$	<u>45,000</u>

(7) Contingencies.

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

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

(8) Jointly Governed Organizations.

The County participates in the following jointly governed organizations:

Copiah-Lincoln Community College operates in a district composed of the Counties of Adams, Copiah, Franklin, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lincoln, and Simpson. The Lawrence County Board of Supervisors appoints two of the 27 members of the college board of trustees. The County contributed \$451,187 for maintenance and support of the college in fiscal year 2021.

Southwest Mississippi Planning and Development District operates in a district composed of the Counties of Adams, Amite, Claiborne, Franklin, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lincoln, Pike, Walthall and Wilkinson. The Lawrence County Board of Supervisors appoints four of the 40 members of the board of directors. The County contributes a small percentage of the district's total revenue. The County contributed \$27,360 for support of the district in fiscal year 2021.

Southwest Mississippi Mental Health Complex operates in a district composed of the Counties of Adams, Amite, Claiborne, Franklin, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lincoln, Pike, Walthall and Wilkinson. The Lawrence County Board of Supervisors appoints one of the ten members of the board of commissioners. The County contributed \$22,500 for support in fiscal year 2021.

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

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended September 30, 2021

(9) Defined Benefit Pension Plan.

Plan Description. Lawrence County, Mississippi, contributes to the Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi (PERS), a cost-sharing, multiple-employer, defined benefit pension plan. PERS provides retirement and disability benefits, annual cost-of-living adjustments and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. 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.

Funding Policy. At September 30, 2021, PERS members were required to contribute 9% of their annual covered salary, and the County is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The rate at September 30, 2021 was 17.40% of annual covered payroll. The contribution requirements of PERS members are established and may be amended only by the State of Mississippi Legislature. The County's contributions (employer share only) to PERS for the years ending September 30, 2021, 2020 and 2019 were \$541,810, \$544,679 and \$521,361, respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year.

(10) Tax Abatements.

As of September 30, 2021, Lawrence County provides tax exempt status to two manufacturing companies subject to the requirements of GASB Statement No. 77. These manufacturing companies are exempt from real property taxes and personal property taxes except for levies involving the school, mandatory mill, and the community college tax levies. These exemptions are authorized under *Sections 27-31-101 and 27-31-105 of the Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated*. These exemptions encourage businesses to locate and expand operations in the County and to create jobs. The amount of taxes abated during fiscal year 2021 totaled \$1,076,975.

LAWRENCE COUNTY

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

LAWRENCE COUNTY

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LAWRENCE COUNTY
Schedule of Operating Costs of Solid Waste
For the Year Ended September 30, 2021

Operating Disbursements, Cash Basis:

Salaries	\$	430,169
Expendable Commodities:		
Gasoline and petroleum products		15,486
Repair parts		24,003
Capital outlay		476,412
Maintenance		4,703
Contractual services		161,089
Supplies		<u>257</u>
Solid Waste Operating Costs Disbursements	\$	<u><u>1,112,119</u></u>

LAWRENCE COUNTY

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LAWRENCE COUNTY

OTHER INFORMATION

LAWRENCE COUNTY

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LAWRENCE COUNTY
 Budgetary Comparison Schedule -
 Budget and Actual (Non-GAAP Basis)
 General Fund
 For the Year Ended September 30, 2021
 UNAUDITED

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual (Budgetary Basis)	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
RECEIPTS				
Property taxes	\$ 4,493,022	4,584,449	4,584,449	
Licenses, commissions and other receipts	100,000	89,323	89,323	
Fines and forfeitures	76,000	88,457	88,457	
Special assessments	8,000			
In-lieu taxes		235,855	235,855	
Intergovernmental receipts	577,000	1,080,671	1,080,671	
Charges for services	5,000	83,311	83,311	
Interest income	8,450	60,985	60,985	
Miscellaneous receipts	671,000	542,919	542,919	
Total Receipts	<u>5,938,472</u>	<u>6,765,970</u>	<u>6,765,970</u>	<u>0</u>
DISBURSEMENTS				
Current:				
General government	2,836,335	3,303,735	3,303,735	
Public safety	2,212,771	1,995,559	1,995,559	
Health and welfare	413,997	400,899	400,899	
Education	300,000	263,689	263,689	
Conservation of natural resources	89,586	82,199	82,199	
Economic development and assistance	186,548	252,969	252,969	
Debt service:				
Principal		34,338	34,338	
Interest		493	493	
Total Disbursements	<u>6,039,237</u>	<u>6,333,881</u>	<u>6,333,881</u>	<u>0</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Receipts over (under) Disbursements	<u>(100,765)</u>	<u>432,089</u>	<u>432,089</u>	<u>0</u>
OTHER CASH SOURCES (USES)				
Sale of county property		125,000	125,000	
Transfers in		564,659	564,659	
Transfers out		(1,259,837)	(1,259,837)	
Other financing sources	433,988			
Other financing uses	(696,488)			
Total Other Cash Sources and Uses	<u>(262,500)</u>	<u>(570,178)</u>	<u>(570,178)</u>	<u>0</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Receipts and other Cash Sources over (under) Disbursements and other Cash Uses	<u>(363,265)</u>	<u>(138,089)</u>	<u>(138,089)</u>	<u>0</u>
Cash Basis Fund Balances - Beginning	<u>3,603,566</u>	<u>4,204,132</u>	<u>4,204,132</u>	<u>0</u>
Cash Basis Fund Balances - Ending	<u>\$ 3,240,301</u>	<u>4,066,043</u>	<u>4,066,043</u>	<u>0</u>

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

LAWRENCE COUNTY
 Budgetary Comparison Schedule -
 Budget and Actual (Non-GAAP Basis)
 Restricted for Other Purposes (ARPA) Fund
 For the Year Ended September 30, 2021
 UNAUDITED

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual (Budgetary Basis)	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
RECEIPTS				
Intergovernmental receipts		1,222,342	1,222,342	
Interest income	\$	308	308	
Total Receipts	<u>0</u>	<u>1,222,650</u>	<u>1,222,650</u>	<u>0</u>
DISBURSEMENTS				
Total Disbursements	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Receipts over (under) Disbursements	<u>0</u>	<u>1,222,650</u>	<u>1,222,650</u>	<u>0</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Receipts and other Cash Sources over (under) Disbursements and other Cash Uses	0	1,222,650	1,222,650	0
Cash Basis Fund Balances - Beginning	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Cash Basis Fund Balances - Ending	\$ <u>0</u>	<u>1,222,650</u>	<u>1,222,650</u>	<u>0</u>

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

LAWRENCE COUNTY
Schedule of Capital Assets
For the Year Ended September 30, 2021
UNAUDITED

Governmental activities:

	Balance Oct. 1, 2020	Additions	Deletions	Adjustments*	Balance Sept. 30, 2021
Land	\$ 613,666				613,666
Construction in progress	806,978	1,605,952		(743,933)	1,668,997
Infrastructure	103,289,244			743,933	104,033,177
Buildings	7,576,626		347,000		7,229,626
Improvements other than buildings	754,408				754,408
Mobile equipment	7,634,441	80,540	277,121	317,325	7,755,185
Furniture and equipment	1,188,242	49,069		133,356	1,370,667
Leased property under capital leases	2,076,725	595,966		(212,589)	2,460,102
Total capital assets	\$ 123,940,330	2,331,527	624,121	238,092	125,885,828

*Adjustments are to correct prior year errors in capital assets, to reclassify paid-off capital leases to mobile equipment, and to reclassify completed construction in progress to infrastructure.

LAWRENCE COUNTY
Schedule of Changes in Long-term Debt
For the Year Ended September 30, 2021
UNAUDITED

The following is a summary of changes in long-term liabilities and obligations for the year ended September 30, 2021:

Description and Purpose	Issue Date	Maturity Date	Interest Rate	Balance Oct. 1, 2020	Issued	Principal Payments	Balance Sept. 30, 2021
Governmental Activities:							
A. General Obligation Bonds:							
Series 2010 hospital sprinkler system bonds	09/2010	09/2025	3.25%/4.50%	\$ 365,000		65,000	300,000
GO Bonds, Series 2018 (Road and Bridge)	02/2018	08/2037	3.00%/4.00%	1,885,000		80,000	1,805,000
B. Capital Leases:							
(2) International dump trucks	10/2015	10/2020	2.27%	2,639		2,639	
District 4 - John Deere tractor	06/2016	06/2021	1.89%	9,546		9,546	
District 3 - Kubota tractor	10/2016	10/2021	2.07%	12,395		11,432	963
District 4 - CAT excavator	04/2017	04/2022	1.60%	41,466		26,066	15,400
District 4 - John Deere tractor	09/2017	09/2021	2.14%	15,795		15,795	
District 5 - Dump truck	04/2018	04/2022	2.54%	20,400		12,789	7,611
(3) Dodge Chargers and (1) Dodge Durango	11/2018	09/2021	3.69%	34,338		34,338	
Zetron 911 system	08/2019	08/2029	2.97%	473,315		46,577	426,738
Chevy Silverado	08/2019	08/2023	4.09%	22,695		7,479	15,216
District 1 - John Deere backhoe	07/2020	07/2025	2.20%	107,631		21,341	86,290
District 2 - Kenworth dump truck and John Deere backhoe	07/2020	07/2025	2.20%	223,419		44,298	179,121
District 3 - Kenworth dump truck	07/2020	07/2025	2.20%	115,788		22,958	92,830
District 1, 2, & 3 - CAT bulldozer	05/2021	05/2026	1.44%		119,554	7,701	111,853
District 2 - 2020 Freightliner garbage truck	10/2020	10/2025	1.37%		158,804	28,256	130,548
District 3 - 2020 Freightliner garbage truck	10/2020	10/2025	1.37%		158,804	28,256	130,548
District 4 - 2020 Freightliner garbage truck	10/2020	10/2025	1.37%		158,804	28,256	130,548

LAWRENCE COUNTY
Schedule of Changes in Long-term Debt
For the Year Ended September 30, 2021
UNAUDITED

The following is a summary of changes in long-term liabilities and obligations for the year ended September 30, 2021:

Description and Purpose	Issue Date	Maturity Date	Interest Rate	Balance	Issued	Principal	Balance
				Oct. 1, 2020		Payments	Sept. 30, 2021
Governmental Activities:							
C. Other Loans:							
CAP loan - fire truck	03/2015	04/2021	2.00%	36,879		36,879	
Road construction loan	11/2017	11/2022	1.94%	363,300		121,100	242,200
E911 radios	03/2020	03/2025	2.63%	68,886		14,612	54,274
Fire department radios	03/2020	03/2025	2.63%	259,394		55,022	204,372
Total				\$ 4,057,886	595,966	720,340	3,933,512

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

LAWRENCE COUNTY
Schedule of Surety Bonds for County Officials
For the Year Ended September 30, 2021
UNAUDITED

Name	Position	Company	Bond
Steve Garrett	Supervisor District 1	Western Surety Company	\$100,000
Delane Ervin	Supervisor District 2	Western Surety Company	\$100,000
Glenn Ard	Supervisor District 3	Western Surety Company	\$100,000
Stanley Stephens	Supervisor District 4	Western Surety Company	\$100,000
Carolyn Ross	Supervisor District 5	Western Surety Company	\$100,000
Kevin Rayborn	Chancery Clerk	Western Surety Company	\$100,000
Heather Malone	Purchase Clerk	Western Surety Company	\$100,000
Kevin Rayborn	Assistant Purchase Clerk	Western Surety Company	\$50,000
Jennifer D. Fields	Receiving Clerk	Western Surety Company	\$75,000
Mike Fuller	Assistant Receiving Clerk	Western Surety Company	\$50,000
Lee Presley	Assistant Receiving Clerk	Western Surety Company	\$50,000
Mike Catt	Assistant Receiving Clerk	Western Surety Company	\$50,000
James Ira Smith	Assistant Receiving Clerk	Western Surety Company	\$50,000
Kenny Ray Magee	Assistant Receiving Clerk	Western Surety Company	\$50,000
Kevin Rayborn	Inventory Control Clerk	Western Surety Company	\$75,000
Clifford Butler	Constable	Western Surety Company	\$50,000
Royce Jay Renfro	Constable	Western Surety Company	\$50,000
James S. Brister	Circuit Clerk	Western Surety Company	\$100,000
Tracey Carney	Deputy Circuit Clerk	Western Surety Company	\$50,000
Shawanna Holmes	Deputy Circuit Clerk	Western Surety Company	\$50,000
Ryan Everett	Sheriff	Western Surety Company	\$100,000
Albert H. Turnage	Justice Court Judge	RLI Surety	\$50,000
Donald G. Mullins	Justice Court Judge	Western Surety Company	\$50,000
Elizabeth J. Smith	Justice Court Clerk	Western Surety Company	\$50,000
Angela Jordan	Deputy Justice Court Clerk	Western Surety Company	\$50,000
Travisha Brown	Deputy Justice Court Clerk	Western Surety Company	\$50,000
Sherry Hyde Thames	Tax Assessor-Collector	Western Surety Company	\$100,000
Susan J. Smith	Deputy Tax Collector	Western Surety Company	\$50,000
Angel Powell	Deputy Tax Collector	Western Surety Company	\$50,000
April Brown	Deputy Tax Collector	Western Surety Company	\$50,000
Rachel Goleman	Deputy Tax Collector	Western Surety Company	\$50,000
Holly Summers	Deputy Tax Collector	Western Surety Company	\$50,000
Phillip Thames	Deputy Tax Assessor	Western Surety Company	\$50,000

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Notes to the Other Information
For the Year Ended September 30, 2021

(1) Budgetary Comparison Information.

A. Budgetary Information.

Statutory requirements dictate how and when the County's budget is to be prepared. Generally, in

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

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

B. Basis of Presentation.

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

(2) Long-term Debt Information:

A. Legal Debt Margin - The amount of debt, excluding specific exempted debt that can be incurred by the County is limited by state statute. Total outstanding debt during a year can be no greater than 15% of assessed value of the taxable property within the County, according to the then last completed assessment for taxation. However, the limitation is increased to 20% whenever a county issues bonds to repair or replace washed out or collapsed bridges on the public roads of the county. As of September 30, 2021, the amount of outstanding debt was equal to 1.69% of the latest property assessments.

B. Subsequent Events.

Subsequent to September 30, 2021, the County issued the following debt obligations:

<u>Issue Date</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Issue Amount</u>	<u>Type of Financing</u>	<u>Source of Financing</u>
11/10/2021	1.40%	\$ 61,944	Installment purchase	Ad valorem taxes
12/03/2021	1.56%	605,500	Road Construction Bond	Ad valorem taxes
03/07/2022	2.17%	38,000	Installment purchase	Ad valorem taxes
04/29/2022	2.41%	55,344	Installment purchase	Ad valorem taxes
07/15/2022	3.36%	66,964	Installment purchase	Ad valorem taxes
09/19/2022	3.69%	50,000	Installment purchase	Ad valorem taxes

LAWRENCE COUNTY

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LAWRENCE COUNTY

SPECIAL REPORTS

LAWRENCE COUNTY

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STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR
SHAD WHITE
AUDITOR

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

Members of the Board of Supervisors
Lawrence County, Mississippi

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the cash basis financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Lawrence County, Mississippi (the County), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated January 19, 2023. Our report includes an adverse opinion on the aggregate discretely presented component units due to the omission of the discretely presented component units which are required by accounting principles applicable to the County's cash basis of accounting to be reported with the financial data of the County's primary government unless the County also issues financial statements for the financial reporting entity that include the financial data for its component units.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

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

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

Compliance and Other Matters

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

We noted certain matters which we have reported to the management of Lawrence County, Mississippi, in the Independent Accountant's Report on Central Purchasing System, Inventory Control System and Purchase Clerk Schedules and the Limited Internal Control and Compliance Review Management Report dated January 19, 2023, included within this document.

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.



JOE E. MCKNIGHT, CPA
Director, County Audit Section

January 19, 2023



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR
SHAD WHITE
AUDITOR

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

Members of the Board of Supervisors
Lawrence County, Mississippi

We have examined Lawrence County, Mississippi's (the County) compliance with establishing and maintaining a central purchasing system and inventory control system in accordance with Sections 31-7-101 through 31-7-127, *Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated* and compliance with the purchasing requirements in accordance with the bid requirements of *Section 31-7-13, Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated* during the year ended September 30, 2021. The Board of Supervisors of Lawrence County, Mississippi is responsible for the County's compliance with those requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the County's compliance based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and, accordingly, included examining, on a test basis, evidence about the County's compliance with those requirements and performing 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 Lawrence County, Mississippi, has established centralized purchasing for all funds of the County and has established an inventory control system. The objective of the central purchasing system is to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that purchases are executed in accordance with state law.

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

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

Inventory Control Clerk.

1. The Inventory Control Clerk should ensure that all County assets are recorded timely.

Repeat Finding No

Criteria *Section 31-7-107, Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated*, requires the Inventory Control Clerk to maintain an inventory control system. An effective system of internal control over capital assets should include that certain data elements be captured in the capital asset records for all capital assets. Required data elements include a description of the asset, cost, location, acquisition date, disposition date, method of disposition, and other relevant information. The presence of these data elements in capital asset records helps identify and distinguish county assets from one another, thereby safeguarding county assets from loss or misappropriation

Condition During test work, we noted the County did not record two (2) assets that were purchased in the current fiscal year until after the fiscal year end. The total cost of these assets that were not included in the inventory listing for fiscal year 2021 was \$74,540. Also, the County recorded two grant program assets on the inventory listing to which the County does not have title as of fiscal year ending September 30, 2021. The values of these assets were recorded by the County totaling \$10,000.

Cause The Inventory Control Clerk lacks the necessary control procedures to accurately maintain an inventory control system and adequate subsidiary records.

Effect Failure to maintain an effective inventory control system could result in the reporting of inaccurate amounts and increases the possibility of the loss or misappropriation of public funds.

Recommendation The Inventory Control Clerk should implement control procedures to maintain accurate inventory records which document the existence, valuation, and completeness of capital assets.

Views of Responsible Official(s) Asset numbers 3252 and 2887 were inadvertently omitted and were added when I realized they were not on the asset listing. I concur that asset numbers 3224 and 3220 were vehicles that should not be on the County's listing for the year ending September 30, 2021, and I will take action to correct them.

In our opinion, except for the noncompliance referred to in the preceding paragraph, Lawrence County, Mississippi, complied, in all material respects, with state laws governing central purchasing, inventory and bid requirements for the year ended September 30, 2021.

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 of 1972 Annotated*. The information contained on these schedules has been subjected to procedures performed in connection with our aforementioned examination of the purchasing system and, in our opinion, is fairly presented when considered in relation to that examination.

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

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joe E. McKnight". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

JOE E. MCKNIGHT, CPA
Director, County Audit Section

January 19, 2023

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Schedule 1Schedule of Purchases From Other Than the Lowest Bidder
For the Year Ended September 30, 2021

<u>Date</u>	<u>Item Purchased</u>	<u>Bid Accepted</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Lowest Bid</u>	<u>Reason for Accepting Other Than the Lowest Bid</u>
4/5/2021	25 x 60 Single Slope Structure	\$ 11,906	Quality Metal	\$ 11,904	Lowest bidder performed subpar work in the past.
10/5/2020	(3) 2020 Freightliners	158,804	Samson Equipment	151,500	Bid accepted was cheapest after the buyback.

LAWRENCE COUNTY
Schedule of Emergency Purchases
For the Year Ended September 30, 2021

Schedule 2

<u>Date</u>	<u>Item Purchased</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Reason for Emergency Purchase</u>
11/16/2020	Dorm repairs to jail	\$ 63,738	R&S Corporation	Repairs needed due to riot/arson

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Schedule 3

Schedule of Purchases Made Noncompetitively From a Sole Source
For the Year Ended September 30, 2021

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



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR
SHAD WHITE
AUDITOR

LIMITED INTERNAL CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE REVIEW MANAGEMENT REPORT

Members of the Board of Supervisors
Lawrence County, Mississippi

In planning and performing our audit of the cash basis financial statements of Lawrence County, Mississippi (the County) for the year ended September 30, 2021, we considered Lawrence County, Mississippi's internal control to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on internal control.

In addition, for areas not considered material to Lawrence County, Mississippi's financial reporting, we have performed some additional limited internal control and state legal compliance review procedures as identified in the state legal compliance audit program issued by the Office of the State Auditor. Our procedures were substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion on the County's compliance with these requirements. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. This report does not affect our report dated January 19, 2023, on the financial statements of Lawrence County, Mississippi.

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

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

Board of Supervisors and Payroll Clerk.

1. PERS retirees should not be paid more than one-half of the salary of their position.

Repeat Finding Yes

Criteria *Section 25-11-127(4)(a), Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated*, requires retirees to receive no more than one-half of the salary in effect for the position at the time of employment in a fiscal year.

Condition During test work, it was noted that one PERS retiree was paid more than one-half of the salary for their position during fiscal year 2021.

Cause The Board of Supervisors and Payroll Clerk did not comply with state laws.

Effect Failure to comply with state laws regarding compensation of retired employees could result in retired employees being over compensated. By overpaying PERS retirees, the County is not in compliance with state legal requirements.

Recommendation The County should ensure that PERS retirees are not being paid more than the allowable amount.

Views of Responsible Official(s) We will comply.

Board of Supervisors.

2. Interfund transfers were not approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Repeat Finding No

Criteria *Section 19-3-27, Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated*, requires a complete and correct record to be maintained for all proceedings of the Board of Supervisors.

Condition During test work, it was noted that interfund transfers were made without board orders spread on the minutes.

Cause The Board of Supervisors did not comply with state laws.

Effect The failure to obtain Board of Supervisors approval for interfund transfers could result in erroneous amounts reported and increases the possibility of the loss or misuse of public funds.

Recommendation The Board of Supervisors should spread complete orders on the minutes relative to interfund transfers.

Views of Responsible Official(s) We will comply.

Circuit Clerk.

3. The Circuit Clerk should reconcile bank statements for the fee journal on a monthly basis.

Repeat Finding No

Criteria An effective system of internal control over cash should include the proper reconciliation of the fee journal to the bank account on a monthly basis.

Condition During test work, we noted that the Circuit Clerk's fee journal did not agree with the reconciled bank balance.

Cause The Circuit Clerk did not have adequate controls over cash.

Effect Failure to reconcile the Circuit Clerk's cash balance to the bank balance could result in the loss or misappropriation of public funds.

Recommendation The Circuit Clerk should ensure that the fee journal is reconciled to the bank statement on a monthly basis.

Views of Responsible Official(s) Will comply.

Circuit Clerk and Deputy Circuit Clerks.

4. Deputy Circuit Clerks should be bonded as required by state statute.

Repeat Finding No

Criteria *Section 9-7-123(2), Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated*, requires that all Deputy Circuit Clerks be bonded for three percent (3%) of the prior year's taxes with a minimum of \$50,000 and a maximum of \$100,000. Furthermore, *Section 25-1-15(2), Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated*, requires a new bond every four years concurrent with the normal election cycle of the County for all public employees required to give individual bond.

Condition The Deputy Circuit Clerks are bonded for an indefinite time period under a blanket bond for \$50,000.

Cause The County did not comply with state laws.

Effect Failure to comply with state law would limit the amount available for recovery if a loss occurred over multiple terms.

Recommendation The County should cancel the blanket bond and obtain individual bonds for each Deputy Circuit Clerk. Additionally, the County should ensure that all Deputy Circuit Clerks are bonded in accordance with state law.

Views of Responsible Official(s) Will comply.

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

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



JOE E. MCKNIGHT, CPA
Director, County Audit Section

January 19, 2023

LAWRENCE COUNTY

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LAWRENCE COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

LAWRENCE COUNTY

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LAWRENCE COUNTY

Schedule of Findings and Responses
For the Year Ended September 30, 2021

Section 1: Summary of Auditor's Results

Financial Statements:

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1. Type of auditor's report issued on the financial statements: | |
| Governmental activities | Unmodified |
| Aggregate discretely presented component units | Adverse |
| General Fund | Unmodified |
| ERBR-39(01) Stumptown Road Fund | Unmodified |
| Restricted for Other Purposes (ARPA) Fund | Unmodified |
| Aggregate remaining fund information | Unmodified |
| 2. Internal control over financial reporting: | |
| a. Material weakness identified? | No |
| b. Significant deficiency identified? | None Reported |
| 3. Noncompliance material to the financial statements noted? | No |

Section 2: Financial Statement Findings

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