

OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR REPORT NOTE:

Section 7-7-211, Mississippi Code Annotated (1972) gives the Office of the State Auditor the authority to audit, with the exception of municipalities, any governmental entity in the state. In the case of municipalities, *Section 21-35-31, Mississippi Code Annotated (1972)* requires municipalities to obtain an annual audit performed by a private CPA firm and submit that audit report to the Office of the State Auditor. The Office of the State Auditor files these audit reports for review in case questions arise related to the municipality.

As a result, the following document was not prepared by the Office of the State Auditor. Instead, it was prepared by a private CPA firm and submitted to the Office of the State Auditor. The document was placed on this web page as it was submitted and no review of the report was performed by the Office of the State Auditor prior to finalization of the report. 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.

City of Bruce, Mississippi

Audit Report

September 30, 2021

City of Bruce, Mississippi

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON
THE STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND
DISBURSEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

Honorable Mayor and Board of Aldermen
City of Bruce
Bruce, Mississippi

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements of the governmental activities, business-type activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Bruce, Mississippi, as of and for the year ended September 30, 2021, and the related notes to the Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements, which collectively comprise the City's basic financial statements as listed in the contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of this financial statement 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 presentation of the financial statement in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of a financial statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement 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 statement is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, 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 statement 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 statement.

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

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the respective results of operations - cash basis of the governmental activities, business-type activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Bruce, Mississippi for the year ended September 30, 2021, in accordance with the cash basis of accounting described in Note 1.

Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statement, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statement is prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to that matter.

Other Matters

Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements of the City of Bruce, Mississippi. The schedule of investments, schedule of capital assets, schedule of long-term debt, and schedule of surety bonds for municipal officials are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements.

The schedules of investments, capital assets, long-term debt, and surety bonds are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements or to the Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements itself, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion the schedules of investments, capital assets, long-term debt, and surety bonds are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 9, 2024 on our consideration of the City of Bruce, Mississippi's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the City of Bruce, Mississippi's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Oxford Mississippi
May 9, 2024

Watkins Ward and Stafford, P.C.

CITY OF BRUCE, MISSISSIPPI
Statement Of Cash Receipts And Disbursements
Governmental and Business Type Activities
For The Year Ended September 30, 2021

	Governmental Activities					Business-type Activities
	Major Fund	Special Revenue Funds	ARPA Fund	Capital Projects Funds	Total	Water and Sewer
	General					
Revenues						
Taxes:						
General property taxes	\$ 387,757	-	-	-	387,757	-
TVA in lieu of taxes	49,523	-	-	-	49,523	-
Licenses and permits:						
Privilege licenses	4,433	-	-	-	4,433	-
Franchise charges - Pontotoc EPA	54,192	-	-	-	54,192	-
Intergovernmental revenues:						
USDA grant-police cars	19,700	-	-	-	19,700	-
MEMA grant	10,759	-	-	-	10,759	-
MDEQ grant-sewer improvement	-	-	-	188,835	188,835	-
BP Settlement SB 2969	-	-	-	500,000	500,000	-
American Rescue Plan	-	-	223,473	-	223,473	-
Walking and bike trail grant	120,000	-	-	-	120,000	-
Haworth Access small municipality grant	149,250	-	-	-	149,250	-
HB 1730 Square Theater grant	100,000	-	-	-	100,000	-
State shared revenues:						
Sales tax	570,639	-	-	-	570,639	-
Homestead reimbursements	25,625	-	-	-	25,625	-
Modernization Use Tax	77,885	-	-	-	77,885	-
Municipal aid	6,784	-	-	-	6,784	-
Emergency management funds	41,230	-	-	-	41,230	-
County shared revenues:						
Road and bridge tax funds	77,376	-	-	-	77,376	-
Fire fund	24,258	-	-	-	24,258	-
Drug fund	21,197	-	-	-	21,197	-
Charges for services						
Sanitation	115,963	-	-	-	115,963	-
Nursing home rent	139,112	-	-	-	139,112	-
AT&T tower rent	7,740	-	-	-	7,740	-
Water	-	-	-	-	-	451,183
Fines and forfeitures	78,005	-	-	-	78,005	-
Recreation	34,300	-	-	-	34,300	-
Interest income	733	12	-	3	748	794
Donations	418	-	-	-	418	-
Micellaneous receipts	11,160	-	-	-	11,160	9,648
Total Revenues	\$ 2,128,039	12	223,473	688,838	3,040,362	461,625

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

CITY OF BRUCE, MISSISSIPPI
Statement Of Cash Receipts And Disbursements
Governmental and Business Type Activities
For The Year Ended September 30, 2021

	Governmental Activities					Business-type Activities
	Major Fund	Special Revenue Funds	ARPA Fund	Capital Projects Funds	Total	Water and Sewer
	General					
Disbursements:						
General government	\$ 337,116	-	-	-	337,116	-
Public safety:						
Police	497,041	-	-	-	497,041	-
Fire	42,824	-	-	-	42,824	-
Public works	260,987	-	-	-	260,987	-
Culture and recreation	244,590	-	-	-	244,590	-
Sanitation	111,765	-	-	-	111,765	-
Enterprise	-	-	-	-	-	375,066
Total Disbursements	1,494,323	-	-	-	1,494,323	375,066
Excess of Receipts Over Disbursements	633,716	12	223,473	688,838	1,546,039	86,559
Other Financing Sources (Uses)						
Debt repaid	(27,983)	-	-	-	(27,983)	(34,010)
Capital outlay	(461,964)	-	-	(195,485)	(657,449)	(366,075)
Interfund loan repayment	837	-	-	-	837	(837)
Water deposits	-	-	-	-	-	2,721
Total Other Cash Sources (Uses)	(489,110)	-	-	(195,485)	(684,595)	(398,201)
Excess (deficiency) of receipts and other financing sources (uses) over disbursements and other cash uses	144,606	12	223,473	493,353	861,444	(311,642)
Cash Balance - Beginning of Year	1,094,170	54,219	-	-	1,148,389	615,819
Cash Balance - End of Year	\$ 1,238,776	54,231	223,473	493,353	2,009,833	304,177

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

CITY OF BRUCE, MISSISSIPPI

Notes to Financial Statement

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Reporting Entity

The City of Bruce, Mississippi (the City) was incorporated in 1927. The City operates under a Mayor-Board of Alderman form of government and provides all of the rights and privileges and services as provided by statutes for municipalities.

In evaluating how to define the government, for financial reporting purposes, management has considered all potential component units. The decision to include a potential component unit in the reporting entity was made by applying the criteria set forth in accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The basic-but not only-criterion for including a potential component unit within the reporting entity is the governing body's ability to exercise oversight responsibility. The most significant manifestation of this ability is financial interdependency. Other manifestations of the ability to exercise oversight responsibility include, but are not limited to, the selection of governing authority, the designation of management, the ability to significantly influence operations, and accountability for fiscal matters. A second criterion used in evaluating potential component units is the scope of public service. Application of this criterion involves considering whether the activity benefits the government and/or its citizens, or whether the activity is conducted within the geographic boundaries of the government and is generally available to its citizens. A third criterion used to evaluate potential component units for inclusion or exclusion from the reporting entity is the existence of special financing relationships, regardless of whether the government is able to exercise oversight responsibilities. Based upon the application of these criteria, no additional component unit will be reported within the City of Bruce, Mississippi's reporting entity.

Fund Accounting

The accounts of the City of Bruce, Mississippi are organized on the basis of funds and account groups, each of which is considered a separate accounting entity. The operations of each fund are accounted for with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues, and expenditures, or expenses, as appropriate. Government resources are allocated to and accounted for in individual funds based upon the purposes for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled. The various funds are grouped into generic fund types and broad fund categories as follows:

CITY OF BRUCE, MISSISSIPPI

Notes to Financial Statement

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Governmental Funds

General Fund - The General Fund is the general operating fund of the City of Bruce, Mississippi. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

Special Revenue Fund - The Special Revenue Fund is used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally restricted for specific expenditure purposes.

Proprietary Funds

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

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the City have been prepared on the cash-basis of accounting, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). The cash-basis of accounting differs from GAAP primarily because revenues are recognized when received rather than when earned and expenditures recorded when paid rather than when incurred. The financial statements therefore present only the cash equivalents and changes therein in the form of cash receipts and disbursements.

Encumbrances

An encumbrance system is not maintained to account for commitments resulting from approved purchase orders, work orders and contracts.

Note 2 - Report Classifications

Receipts and disbursements were classified according to requirements for small towns in the State of Mississippi as prescribed by the Office of the State Auditor.

CITY OF BRUCE, MISSISSIPPI

Notes to Financial Statement

Note 3 - Cash and Investments

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 Depository Insurance Corporation.

The carrying amount of the City's deposits with financial institutions was \$2,331,639 on September 30, 2021, and the total of all bank balances was \$2,314,010.

As provided in Section 91-13-8 Miss. Code Ann. (1972), the investments of the City are certificates of deposit with Renasant Bank and Cadence Bank. (See page 14 for Schedule of Investments.)

Interest Rate Risk. The City does not have a formal investment policy that limits investments maturities as a mean of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates. However, Section 19-9-29, Miss. Code Ann. (1972) limits the maturity period of any investment to no more than one year.

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

Custodial Credit Risk - Investments. Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the City will not be able to recover the value of its investments of collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The City does not have a formal policy for custodial risk.

CITY OF BRUCE, MISSISSIPPI
Notes to Financial Statement

Note 4 - Defined Benefit Pension Plan

Plan Description

The City of Bruce, Mississippi contributes to the Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi (PERS), a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan. PERS provides retirement and disability benefits, annual cost-of-living adjustments, and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Benefit provisions are established by State law and may be amended only by the State of Mississippi Legislature. PERS issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. That information may be obtained by writing to Public Employee Retirement System, PERS Building, 429 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201-1005 or by calling (601) 359-3589 or 1-800-444-PERS.

Funding Policy

PERS members are required to contribute 9% of their annual covered salary and the City of Bruce, Mississippi is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate, which is 17.4% of covered payroll. The contribution requirements of PERS members are established and may be amended only by the State of Mississippi Legislature. The City of Bruce, Mississippi's contributions to PERS for the years ending September 30, 2021, 2020 and 2019 were \$116,203, \$103,026 and \$114,419 respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year.

Note 5 - Risk Management

The City of Bruce, Mississippi is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The City of Bruce, Mississippi carries commercial insurance for these risks. Settled claims resulting from these insured risks have not exceeded commercial insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

Under GASB Statement No. 10, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Risks Financing and Related Insurance Issues*, a liability for claims must be reported if information prior to the issuance of the financial statements indicates that it is probable that a liability has been incurred at the date of the financial statements and that the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated. As of the date of this audit report, there were no known claims above the amount of coverage purchased for risks of loss related to torts, theft of, damage to, and the destruction of assets, errors and omissions, injuries to employees and natural disasters at September 30, 2021, therefore no liability has been accrued at this time.

CITY OF BRUCE, MISSISSIPPI
Notes to Financial Statement

Note 6 - Property Tax

Numerous statutes exist under which the Mayor and Board of Aldermen may levy property taxes. The selection of authorities is made based on the objectives and responsibilities of the City. 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 Mayor and Board of Aldermen, each year at a meeting in September, levy 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. The City taxes are collected and remitted to the City by the Calhoun County Tax Collector.

The distribution of taxes to funds was made in accordance with prescribed tax levies, and uncollected taxes were properly handled.

Delinquent taxes are not recorded as assets.

CITY OF BRUCE, MISSISSIPPI
Notes to Financial Statement

Note 7 - Subsequent Events

Events that occur after the Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements 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 Cash Receipts and Disbursements date are recognized in the accompanying financial statement. Subsequent events which provide evidence about conditions that existed after the Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements date require disclosure in the accompanying notes. The City has evaluated subsequent events through May 9, 2024, the date the financial statements were available to be issued, and determined that the following events occurred requiring disclosure:

- On December 21, 2021 the City accepted grant funds in the amount of \$1,000,000 for the Sewer System Improvement Project from the Department of Finance and Administration in association with Section 39 of Senate Bill 2971, 2021 Regular Legislative Session Laws of 2021.
- Amended the designation of the Square Theater Grant in the amount of \$100,000 to the Square Building Project. The original grant was received in April 2021 and was intended for a rehabilitation project of the Square Theater, which was subsequently sold on October 7, 2021. The City was allowed to redesignate the funds to spend on a city building located on the square. As of May 9, 2024 no funds from this grant have been expended.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

CITY OF BRUCE, MISSISSIPPI
Schedule of Investments – All Funds
For the Year Ended September 30, 2021

Ownership	Type of Investments	Interest Rate	Maturity Date	Other Information	Investment Fair Value
General Fund	Certificates of Deposit	0.59%	8/20/2022	Renasant Bank	\$ 3,013
General Fund	Certificates of Deposit	0.10%	8/25/2022	Bancorp South	762,781
Water & Sewer Fund	Certificates of Deposit	1.50%	1/9/2022	Renasant Bank	48,643
Total					<u>\$ 814,437</u>

CITY OF BRUCE, MISSISSIPPI
Schedule of Capital Assets
For the Year Ended September 30, 2021

	<u>10/1/2020</u>				<u>9/30/2021</u>
	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Increases</u>	<u>Decreases</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Governmental activities:					
Capital Assets:					
Land	\$ 614,533	-	-	-	614,533
Buildings	5,525,124	-	-	-	5,525,124
Machinery and equipment	1,565,003	63,030	-	-	1,628,033
Infrastructure	1,650,133	398,934	-	-	2,049,067
Construction in progress	-	195,485	-	-	195,485
Governmental activities capital assets	\$ 9,354,793	657,449	-	-	10,012,242
 Business-type activities:					
Capital Assets:					
Land	\$ 100,100	-	-	-	100,100
Buildings	132,282	-	-	-	132,282
Machinery and equipment	489,910	5,669	3,727	-	491,852
Infrastructure	3,642,266	360,406	-	-	4,002,672
Business-type activities capital assets	\$ 4,364,558	366,075	3,727	-	4,726,906

CITY OF BRUCE, MISSISSIPPI
Schedule of Long - Term Debt
For the Year Ended September 30, 2021

	<u>10/1/2020</u> <u>Balance</u>	<u>Issued</u>	<u>Redeemed</u>	<u>9/30/2021</u> <u>Balance</u>
Governmental activities:				
KS State Bank	\$ 38,333	-	(27,983)	10,350
Governmental activities long-term liabilities	<u>38,333</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(27,983)</u>	<u>10,350</u>
Business-type activities:				
MDEQ-WPCRLF	385,308	-	(21,966)	363,342
Bancorp South	34,219	-	(12,044)	22,175
Business-type activities long-term liabilities	<u>419,527</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(34,010)</u>	<u>385,517</u>
Total long-term debt	<u>\$ 457,860</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(61,993)</u>	<u>395,867</u>

CITY OF BRUCE, MISSISSIPPI
Schedule of Surety Bonds for Municipal Officials
September 30, 2021

Name	Position	Surety	Bond Amount
Rudy Pope	Mayor	Travelers	\$ 50,000
John Earl Armstrong	Alderman Ward 1	Travelers	\$ 50,000
Johnny Armstrong	Alderman Ward 2	Travelers	\$ 50,000
Jimmy Hubbard	Alderman Ward 3	Travelers	\$ 50,000
Steve Nelson	Alderman Ward 4	Travelers	\$ 50,000
Ellen Shaw	Alderdwoman Ward 5	Travelers	\$ 50,000
Rita Talford	City Clerk	Western Surety	\$ 50,000
William Sockwell	Chief of Police	Western Surety	\$ 50,000
Other specified city employees	Various	Travelers	\$ 50,000



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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON COMPLIANCE
WITH STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

Honorable Mayor and Board of Alderman
City of Bruce
Bruce, Mississippi

We have audited the Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements for the governmental activities, business-type activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Bruce, Mississippi as of September 30, 2021, and have issued our report dated May 9, 2024. We have conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*.

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

The results of those procedures and our audit of the Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements and supplemental information disclosed no material instances of noncompliance with state laws and regulations.

This report is intended for the information of the City's management and the Office of the State Auditor and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

Oxford, Mississippi
May 9, 2024

Watkins Ward and Stafford, PLLC

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

The Honorable Mayor and Board of Alderman
City of Bruce
Bruce, Mississippi

We have audited the Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements of the governmental activities, business-type activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Bruce, Mississippi as of September 30, 2021, and the related notes to the financial statement, and have issued our report thereon dated May 9, 2024.

Internal Control over Financial Reporting

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

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statement 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 the City of Bruce, Mississippi's financial statement is free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

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

Oxford, Mississippi
May 9, 2024

Watkins Ward and Stafford, PLLC