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FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

**AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AND SPECIAL REPORTS**

Year Ended September 30, 2022

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
<i>INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT</i>	1 - 5
<i>MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS</i>	6 - 16
<i>FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</i>	
Exhibit 1 - Statement of Net Position	17 - 18
Exhibit 2 - Statement of Activities	19
Exhibit 3 - Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds	20
Exhibit 3-1 - Reconciliation of the Balance Sheet of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Net Position	21
Exhibit 4 - Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds	22
Exhibit 4-1 - Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities	23 - 24
Exhibit 5 - Statement of Fiduciary Net Position	25
Exhibit 6 - Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position	26
<i>NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</i>	27 - 59
<i>REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION</i>	
Schedule 1 - Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Budget and Actual (Non-GAAP Basis) - General Fund	60 - 61
Schedule 2 - Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Budget and Actual (Non-GAAP Basis) - Emergency Road and Bridge Repair Fund	62 - 63
Schedule 3 - Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Budget and Actual (Non-GAAP Basis) - American Rescue Plan Act Fund	64 - 65
Schedule 4 - Schedule of the County's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	66
Schedule 5 - Schedule of County Contributions	67
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information	68 - 73
<i>SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION</i>	
Schedule 6 - Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards	74 - 75
Notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards	76

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

CONTENTS PAGE TWO

	<u>PAGE</u>
OTHER INFORMATION	
Schedule 7 - Schedule of Surety Bonds for County Officials	77 - 80
SPECIAL REPORTS	
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of the Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	81 - 83
Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program and on Internal Control Over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance	84 - 87
Independent Accountant's Report on Central Purchasing System, Inventory Control System, and Purchase Clerk Schedules (Required by <i>Section 31-7-115, Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated</i>)	88 - 89
Schedule 8 - Schedule of Purchases from other than the Lowest Bidder	90
Schedule 9 - Schedule of Emergency Purchases	91
Schedule 10 - Schedule of Purchases Made Noncompetitively from a Sole Source	92
Limited Internal Control and Compliance Review Management Report	93 - 96
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS	97 - 99
AUDITEE CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN	100
SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS	101

FINANCIAL SECTION



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Members of the Board of Supervisors
Forrest County, Mississippi

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Adverse and Unmodified Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Forrest County, Mississippi, (the County) as of and for the year ended September 30, 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Adverse Opinion on Aggregate Discretely Presented Component Units

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the "Basis for Adverse and Unmodified Opinions" section of our report, the accompanying financial statements referred to above do not present fairly the financial position of the aggregate discretely presented component units of Forrest County, Mississippi, as of September 30, 2022, or the changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Unmodified Opinions on Governmental Activities and Each Major Fund

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and each major fund of Forrest County, Mississippi, as of September 30, 2022, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Adverse and Unmodified Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*). Our responsibilities under



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Members of the Board of Supervisors
Forrest County, Mississippi

those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the County, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our adverse and unmodified opinions.

Matters Giving Rise to Adverse Opinion on the Aggregate Discretely Presented Component Units

The financial statements do not include financial data for the County's legally separate component units. Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require the financial data for those component units to be reported with the financial data of the County's primary government unless the County also issues financial statements for the financial reporting entity that include the financial data for its component units. The County has not issued such reporting entity financial statements. The effects of not including the County's legally separate component units on the aggregate discretely presented component units has not been determined.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the County's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions,

Members of the Board of Supervisors
Forrest County, Mississippi

misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood, that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 County's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the County's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Management's Discussion and Analysis, the Budgetary Comparison Schedules and corresponding notes, the Schedule of the County's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability, and the Schedule of County Contributions be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it

Members of the Board of Supervisors
Forrest County, Mississippi

to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary Information

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

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards, as required by Title 2 *U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. The other information comprises the Schedule of Surety Bonds for County Officials but does not include the basic financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinions on the basic financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

Members of the Board of Supervisors
Forrest County, Mississippi

In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

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


Hattiesburg, Mississippi
June 27, 2023

**FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

INTRODUCTION

This discussion and analysis of Forrest County's financial performance provides an overall narrative review of the County's financial activities for the year ended September 30, 2022. The intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the County's performance as a whole; readers should also review the basic financial statements and related notes to enhance their understanding of the County's financial performance.

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

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

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

Forrest County continues to grow both economically and in population. This has allowed the County to maintain a steady growth in tax revenues without a significant tax increase. The County government tax rate has increased only 0.005% over the last 5 years. This does not include school tax increases.

Key financial highlights for 2022 were as follows:

- Total net position increased by \$1,621,507, which includes a \$25,011 prior period adjustment that represents a 1.82% increase from the prior fiscal year. The County's ending cash balance increased by \$18,378,972 which represents a 29.80% increase from the prior fiscal year.
- The County had \$48,292,671 in total revenues. Tax revenues account for \$36,944,693 or 76.50% of total revenues. State and federal revenues in the form of reimbursements, shared revenue or grants, account for \$6,252,698 or 12.95% of total revenues.
- The County had \$46,696,175 in total expenses, which represents an increase of \$7,288,296 or a 18.49% increase from the prior fiscal year. Expenses in the amount of \$10,101,144 were offset by user charges, grants, and outside contributions. General revenues of \$38,191,527 were adequate to provide for the remaining expenses.
- The General Fund had \$36,906,381 in revenues and \$33,765,624 in expenditures exclusive of other financing sources (uses). The General Fund's fund balance increased \$3,300,131 over the prior year.
- Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, increased by \$5,802,131.

- Long-term debt increased by \$27,918,010 due to a large increase in the County's net pension liability, the addition of a new General Obligation Bond and the addition of leases payable.

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Government-wide Financial Statements can be found on pages 17-19 of this report.

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

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

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for governmental funds with similar information presented for governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the government's near-term financing decisions. Both the "Governmental Funds Balance Sheet" and the "Governmental Funds Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances" provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between governmental funds and governmental activities. These reconciliations are on pages 21 and 23 - 24, respectively.

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

The basic governmental funds financial statements can be found on pages 20 and 22 of this report.

Fiduciary funds are used to account for resources held for the benefit of parties outside the County government. Fiduciary funds are not reflected in the government-wide financial statements because the resources of those funds are not available to support the County's own programs. The accrual basis of accounting is used for fiduciary funds. The County is responsible for ensuring that the assets reported in these funds are used for their intended purposes. The County's fiduciary activities are presented in a separate Statement of Fiduciary Net Position and Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position, which can be found on pages 25 - 26 of this report.

Notes to the financial statements provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements. The notes can be found on pages 27 - 59 of this report.

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

The County adopts an annual operating budget for all governmental funds. A Budgetary Comparison Schedule has been provided for the General Fund, the Emergency Road and Bridge Repair Fund and the American Rescue Plan Act Fund. This required supplementary information can be found on pages 60 - 65 of this report.

Additionally, a Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards is required by Title 2 *U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance) and can be found on pages 74 - 75 of this report.

GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Net Position - Net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. In the case of Forrest County, assets and deferred outflows exceeded liabilities and deferred inflows by \$90,701,661 as of September 30, 2022.

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

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

Table 1 presents a summary of the County's net position for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2022.

(See Table on Next Page)

**Table 1
Net Position**

	Governmental Activities		Total Percentage Change
	2022	2021	
ASSETS:			
Current assets	\$ 117,544,515	\$ 98,508,220	19.32%
Capital assets, net	89,920,108	84,117,977	6.90%
Total assets	207,464,623	182,626,197	13.60%
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS	13,348,045	7,869,242	69.62%
LIABILITIES:			
Current liabilities	4,295,826	3,549,996	21.01%
Long-term debt, outstanding	30,969,177	17,209,657	79.95%
Net pension liability	45,448,675	31,290,185	45.25%
Total liabilities	80,713,678	52,049,838	55.07%
DEFERRED INFLOWS	49,397,329	49,365,447	0.06%
NET POSITION:			
Net investment in capital assets	63,110,730	71,174,909	-11.33%
Restricted	30,068,637	22,722,059	32.33%
Unrestricted	(2,477,706)	(4,816,814)	48.56%
Total net position	\$ 90,701,661	\$ 89,080,154	1.82%

Additional information on the net pension liability:

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

Total unrestricted net position (deficit)	\$ (2,477,706)
Less unrestricted deficit in net position resulting from recognition of GASB 68 & 71	32,243,096
Unrestricted net position, exclusive of the net pension liability effect	\$ 29,765,390

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

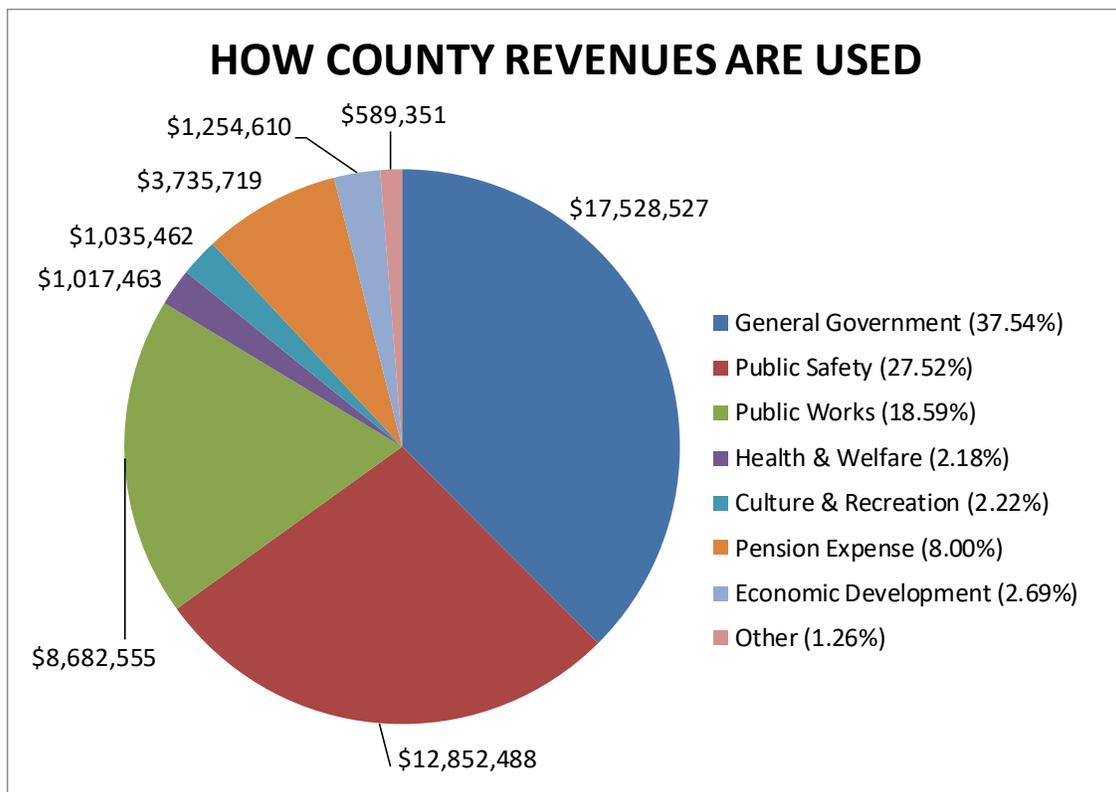
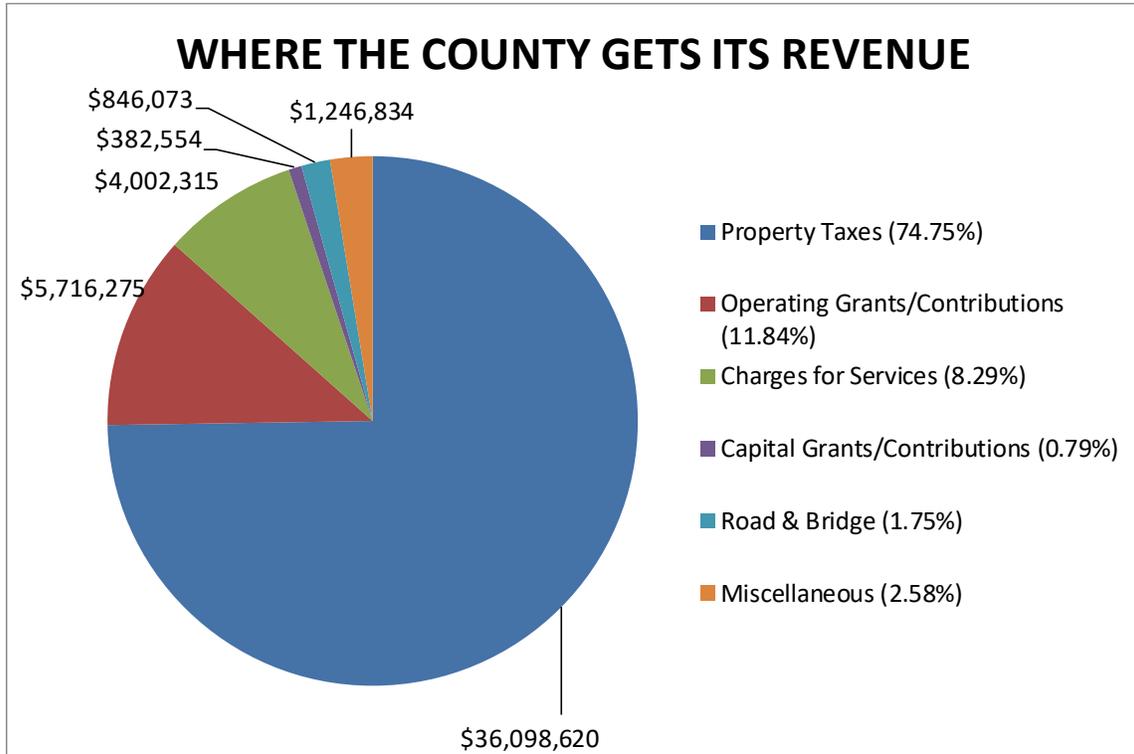
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Changes in Net Position - Forrest County's total revenues for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2022, were \$48,292,671. The total cost of all services provided was \$46,696,175. The increase in net position was \$1,621,507 which includes a \$25,011 prior period adjustment. Table 2 presents a summary of the changes in net position for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2022, as compared to the fiscal year ended September 30, 2021.

**Table 2
Changes in Net Position**

	Governmental Activities		Total Percentage Change
	2022	2021	
REVENUES:			
Program revenues:			
Charges for services	\$ 4,002,315	\$ 4,232,462	-5.44%
Operating grants and contributions	5,716,275	20,813,463	-72.54%
Capital grants and contributions	382,554	114,744	233.40%
General revenues:			
Property taxes	36,098,620	35,589,303	1.43%
Other taxes	846,073	904,714	-6.48%
Other general revenues and losses	1,246,834	972,744	28.18%
Total revenues	48,292,671	62,627,430	-22.89%
EXPENSES:			
General government	17,528,527	13,966,970	25.50%
Public safety	12,852,488	11,514,172	11.62%
Public works	8,682,555	7,020,951	23.67%
Health and welfare	1,017,463	1,495,259	-31.95%
Culture and recreation	1,035,462	1,384,383	-25.20%
Economic development and assistance	1,254,610	1,276,388	-1.71%
Pension expense	3,735,719	2,194,839	70.20%
Other	589,351	554,917	6.21%
Total expenses	46,696,175	39,407,879	18.49%
Changes in net position	\$ 1,596,496	\$ 23,219,551	-93.12%

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

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

**Table 3
Functional Costs**

	Total Costs	Net Costs
General Government	\$ 17,528,527	\$ 12,509,629
Public Safety	12,852,488	9,879,136
Public Works	8,682,555	7,422,253
Health and Welfare	1,017,463	899,515
Culture and Recreation	1,035,462	304,818
Economic Development and Assistance	1,254,610	1,254,610
Pension Expense	3,735,719	3,735,719
Other	589,351	589,351

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE COUNTY'S FUNDS

Governmental Funds - At the close of the fiscal year, Forrest County's governmental funds reported a combined fund balance of \$62,792,113, an increase of \$10,754,234.

The General Fund is the principal operating fund of the County. The increase in the fund balance of the General Fund for the fiscal year was \$3,300,131.

BUDGETARY HIGHLIGHTS OF MAJOR FUNDS

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

- Amendments were made to correct the estimated beginning fund balances made in the original budget to actual beginning fund balances on October 1.
- Budgeted revenue from state/federal sources was increased due to additional grant authorizations and receipts as well as borrowing \$15,000,000 for mandated timber pile bridge repairs. The County also received monies for emergency bridge repairs, COVID-19 related reimbursements and additional grants.
- Budgeted expenditures were increased due to building repairs, emergency bridge repairs, COVID-19 related expenditures and additional grants.

Even with these adjustments, actual disbursements were below final budget amounts by \$3,925,511 for the General Fund, \$13,737,116 for the Emergency Road and Bridge Repair Fund and \$4,651,796 for the American Rescue Plan Act.

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

CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION

Capital Assets - As of September 30, 2022, Forrest County's total capital assets was \$176,413,328. This includes land, construction in progress, infrastructure, buildings and improvements, mobile equipment, furniture and equipment and intangible right-of-use assets. This amount represents an increase from the previous year of \$8,698,570. The majority of this increase is due to the acquisition of improvements other than buildings, mobile equipment, furniture and equipment, intangible right-of-use assets and construction in progress during the current year.

Total accumulated depreciation as of September 30, 2022, was \$86,493,220, including \$3,403,762 of depreciation expense for the year. The balance in total net capital assets was \$89,920,108 at year-end.

Additional information on Forrest County's capital assets can be found in Note 7 on pages 41 - 43 of this report.

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

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

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Total Percentage Change</u>
Land and construction in progress	\$ 15,822,359	\$ 9,102,245	73.83%
Infrastructure	22,666,499	23,277,790	-2.63%
Buildings and improvements	44,553,955	44,923,921	-0.82%
Furniture and equipment	6,295,361	6,594,037	-4.53%
Intangible right-to-use assets	581,934	-	N/A
Leased property under capital lease	-	219,984	-100.00%
Total	<u>\$ 89,920,108</u>	<u>\$ 84,117,977</u>	6.90%

Debt Administration - At September 30, 2022, Forrest County had \$30,969,177 in long-term obligations outstanding. This includes general obligation bonds, unamortized bond premium, notes from direct borrowings and direct placements, leases payable, claims and judgments, and compensated absences. Of this debt, \$2,520,059 is due within one year.

Forrest County maintains an “Aa3” bond rating from Moody’s. The State of Mississippi limits the amount of debt a county can issue to generally 15% of total assessed value. The County’s outstanding debt was equal to 3.38% of the latest property assessments as of September 30, 2022.

Additional information on long-term debt can be found in Note 10 on pages 46 - 49 of this report.

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

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

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	Total Percentage Change
General obligation bonds	\$ 28,875,000	\$ 15,275,000	89.03%
Unamortized bond premium	374,257	470,711	-20.49%
Notes from direct borrowings and direct placements	120,655	166,062	-27.34%
Leases payable	581,934	-	N/A
Capital leases	-	244,995	-100.00%
Claims and judgements	405,450	473,025	-14.29%
Compensated absences	611,881	579,864	5.52%
	<u>\$ 30,969,177</u>	<u>\$ 17,209,657</u>	79.95%
<i>Total outstanding bonds, notes and long-term debt obligations</i>			

CURRENT AND FUTURE ITEMS OF IMPACT

Forrest County has long been the “Hub” of South Mississippi from its beginning days as a rail and timber community to the vibrant economy of today built upon the pillars of healthcare, education, and military. Not only does Forrest County operate the largest hospital in the Pine Belt with Forrest General Hospital serving a 19-county regional area, the County is also home to Hattiesburg Clinic, the largest privately owned health clinic in the State of Mississippi. The Forrest County economy relies on a skilled workforce produced at multiple educational institutions, including several A-rated K-12 school districts, Pearl River Community College, a private Christian University in William Carey University, and the University of Southern Mississippi, the third largest university in the State of Mississippi. Forrest County is also home to the Nation’s largest State-owned National Guard training facility in Camp Shelby. The 135,000 acre military base has been in operation since 1917 and will continue to serve as an economic engine in Forrest County and South Mississippi. Forrest County continues to further strengthen its economic vitality and further diversify its employment base, evident by Forrest County’s partnership with Lamar County to create the Eagle One Mega Site located in the central-western portion of the County, just outside the City of Hattiesburg. This 2,284 acre property is ideally situated to serve a large advance manufacturing employer with access to multiple modes of transportation and close proximity to a major metro-area. The investment in due diligence studies on this property strategically position the site to compete on a global stage to recruit companies from around the world and will further strengthen Forrest County’s economy. With a stable economy built on diverse and robust pillars, Forrest County will continue to lead South Mississippi into the future.

CONTACTING THE COUNTY'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

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

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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

EXHIBIT 1

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

	Governmental Activities
ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 77,883,280
Property tax receivable	35,630,449
Fines receivable (net of allowance for uncollectibles of \$9,351,278)	1,198,886
Intergovernmental receivables	610,291
Other receivables	42,986
Restricted assets	2,178,623
Capital assets:	
Land and construction in progress	15,822,359
Other capital assets, net	74,097,749
Total assets	<u>207,464,623</u>
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Deferred amount on refunding	142,466
Deferred outflows related to pensions	13,205,579
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>13,348,045</u>
LIABILITIES	
Claims payable	2,903,070
Intergovernmental payables	1,048,771
Accrued interest payables	139,639
Amounts held in custody for others	204,346
Long-term liabilities:	
Due within one year:	
Capital debt	2,452,484
Claims and judgements payable	67,575
Due in more than one year:	
Capital debt	24,499,362
Non-capital debt	3,611,881
Claims and judgements payable	337,875
Net pension liability	45,448,675
Total liabilities	<u>80,713,678</u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Deferred revenue - grants	13,766,880
Deferred revenues - property taxes	35,630,449
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>49,397,329</u>

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

EXHIBIT 1
PAGE TWO

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

	Governmental Activities
<i>NET POSITION</i>	
Net investment in capital assets	\$ 63,110,730
Restricted for:	
Expendable:	
General government	114,000
Public safety	1,856,651
Public works	24,002,599
Culture and recreation	47,695
Conservation of natural resources	195,260
Unemployment compensation	119,064
Debt service	3,733,368
Unrestricted	<u>(2,477,706)</u>
<i>Total net position</i>	<u><u>\$ 90,701,661</u></u>

EXHIBIT 3

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

BALANCE SHEET
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

	General Fund	Emergency Road and Bridge Repair Fund	American Rescue Plan Act Fund	G.O. Bond, Series 2022 Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 35,230,525	\$ 4,353,200	\$ 13,514,669	\$ 14,472,664	\$ 10,312,222	\$ 77,883,280
Property tax receivable	28,902,789	-	-	-	6,727,660	35,630,449
Fines receivable (net of allowance for uncollectibles of \$9,351,278)	1,198,886	-	-	-	-	1,198,886
Intergovernmental receivables	610,291	-	-	-	-	610,291
Other receivables	42,986	-	-	-	-	42,986
Restricted assets	247,658	-	-	-	1,930,965	2,178,623
Due from other funds	54,326	-	-	-	158,804	213,130
Total assets	\$ 66,287,461	\$ 4,353,200	\$ 13,514,669	\$ 14,472,664	\$ 19,129,651	\$ 117,757,645
LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS AND FUND BALANCES						
Liabilities:						
Claims payable	\$ 820,093	\$ 19,682	\$ 225,000	\$ 267,655	\$ 200,705	\$ 1,533,135
Intergovernmental payables	1,009,416	-	-	-	-	1,009,416
Due to other funds	198,160	-	-	-	54,326	252,486
Amounts held in custody for others	204,346	-	-	-	-	204,346
Other payables	1,369,934	-	-	-	-	1,369,934
Total liabilities	3,601,949	19,682	225,000	267,655	255,031	4,369,317
Deferred Inflows of Resources:						
Unavailable revenue - property taxes	28,902,789	-	-	-	6,727,660	35,630,449
Unavailable revenue - grants	-	-	13,266,880	-	500,000	13,766,880
Unavailable revenue - fines	1,198,886	-	-	-	-	1,198,886
Total deferred inflows of resources	30,101,675	-	13,266,880	-	7,227,660	50,596,215
Fund Balances:						
Restricted for:						
General government	-	-	22,789	-	91,211	114,000
Public safety	-	-	-	-	1,628,624	1,628,624
Public works	-	4,333,518	-	14,205,009	5,464,072	24,002,599
Conservation of natural resources	-	-	-	-	195,260	195,260
Debt service	-	-	-	-	3,873,007	3,873,007
Unemployment compensation	-	-	-	-	119,064	119,064
Committed to:						
Public safety	-	-	-	-	228,027	228,027
Culture and recreation	-	-	-	-	47,695	47,695
Unassigned	32,583,837	-	-	-	-	32,583,837
Total fund balances	32,583,837	4,333,518	22,789	14,205,009	11,646,960	62,792,113
Total liabilities, deferred inflows and fund balances	\$ 66,287,461	\$ 4,353,200	\$ 13,514,669	\$ 14,472,664	\$ 19,129,651	\$ 117,757,645

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

EXHIBIT 3-1

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

**RECONCILIATION OF THE BALANCE SHEET OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

	<u>Amount</u>
Total Fund Balances - Governmental Funds	\$ 62,792,113
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Net Position are different because:	
Capital assets are used in governmental activities and are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds, net of accumulated depreciation and amortization of \$86,493,220.	89,920,108
Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current period expenditures and, therefore, are deferred in the funds.	1,198,886
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.	(30,969,177)
Net pension obligations are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.	(45,448,675)
Accrued interest payable is not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, is not reported in the funds.	(139,639)
Deferred amount on refunding.	142,466
Deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to pensions are applicable to future periods and, therefore, are not reported in the funds:	
Deferred outflows of resources related to pensions	<u>13,205,579</u>
Total net position - governmental activities	<u><u>\$ 90,701,661</u></u>

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

EXHIBIT 4

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

	General Fund	Emergency Road and Bridge Repair Fund	American Rescue Plan Act Fund	G.O. Bond, Series 2022 Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES						
Property taxes	\$ 29,420,978	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,677,642	\$ 36,098,620
Road and bridge privilege taxes	12,789	-	-	-	843,654	856,443
Licenses, commissions and other revenue	1,583,138	-	-	-	14,289	1,597,427
Fines and forfeitures	434,417	-	-	-	149,759	584,176
In lieu taxes - Petal Gas Storage	94,441	-	-	-	-	94,441
Intergovernmental revenues	3,036,531	-	773,204	-	3,013,389	6,823,124
Charges for services	1,737,084	-	-	-	-	1,737,084
Interest income	101,233	23,255	18,483	5,741	36,739	185,451
Miscellaneous revenues	485,770	-	-	-	388,736	874,506
Total revenues	<u>36,906,381</u>	<u>23,255</u>	<u>791,687</u>	<u>5,741</u>	<u>11,124,208</u>	<u>48,851,272</u>
EXPENDITURES						
Current:						
General government	17,450,873	-	548,204	-	653,940	18,653,017
Public safety	12,505,489	-	225,000	-	802,419	13,532,908
Public works	553,246	6,909,553	-	359,482	7,747,488	15,569,769
Health and welfare	1,033,022	-	-	-	-	1,033,022
Culture and recreation	883,687	-	-	-	685,571	1,569,258
Conservation of natural resources	84,697	-	-	-	20,231	104,928
Economic development and assistance	1,254,610	-	-	-	-	1,254,610
Debt Service:						
Principal	-	-	-	-	1,445,407	1,445,407
Interest	-	-	-	-	381,916	381,916
Other debt service costs	-	-	-	441,250	5,750	447,000
Total expenditures	<u>33,765,624</u>	<u>6,909,553</u>	<u>773,204</u>	<u>800,732</u>	<u>11,742,722</u>	<u>53,991,835</u>
Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>3,140,757</u>	<u>(6,886,298)</u>	<u>18,483</u>	<u>(794,991)</u>	<u>(618,514)</u>	<u>(5,140,563)</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)						
Long-term capital debt issued	736,046	-	-	15,000,000	-	15,736,046
Proceeds from sale of capital assets	1,674	-	-	-	78,284	79,958
Compensation for loss of capital assets	15,524	-	-	-	63,269	78,793
Transfers in	-	-	-	-	593,870	593,870
Transfers out	(593,870)	-	-	-	-	(593,870)
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>159,374</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,000,000</u>	<u>735,423</u>	<u>15,894,797</u>
Net changes in fund balances	<u>3,300,131</u>	<u>(6,886,298)</u>	<u>18,483</u>	<u>14,205,009</u>	<u>116,909</u>	<u>10,754,234</u>
FUND BALANCES - BEGINNING	<u>29,283,706</u>	<u>11,219,816</u>	<u>4,306</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,530,051</u>	<u>52,037,879</u>
FUND BALANCES - ENDING	<u>\$ 32,583,837</u>	<u>\$ 4,333,518</u>	<u>\$ 22,789</u>	<u>\$ 14,205,009</u>	<u>\$ 11,646,960</u>	<u>\$ 62,792,113</u>

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

EXHIBIT 4-1

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

**RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES
IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

	<u>Amount</u>
Net Changes in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds	\$ 10,754,234
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities are different because:	
Governmental Funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the Statement of Activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense. Thus, the change in net position differs from the change in fund balances by the amount that capital outlays of \$9,524,804 exceeded depreciation and amortization of \$3,403,762 in the current period.	6,121,042
In the Statement of Activities, only gains and losses from the sale of capital assets are reported, whereas in the Governmental Funds, proceeds from the sale of capital assets increase financial resources. Thus, the change in net position differs from the change in fund balances by the amount of the net loss of \$18,969 and the proceeds from the sale of \$79,958 in the current period.	(98,927)
Fine revenue recognized on the modified accrual basis in the funds during the current year is reduced because prior year recognition would have been required on the Statement of Activities using the full-accrual basis of accounting.	73,258
Debt proceeds provide current financial resources to Governmental Funds, but issuing debt increases long-term liabilities in the Statement of Net Position. Repayment of debt principal is an expenditure in the Governmental Funds, but the repayment reduces long-term liabilities in the Statement of Net Position. Thus, the change in net position differs from the change in fund balances by the amount that debt repayments of \$1,599,519 did not exceed debt proceeds of \$15,736,046.	(14,136,527)

(Table Continued on Next Page)

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

**RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES
IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

	<u>Amount</u>
<p>Under the modified accrual basis of accounting used in the Governmental Funds, expenditures are not recognized for transactions that are not normally paid with expendable available financial resources. However, in the Statement of Activities, which is presented on the accrual basis, expenses and liabilities are reported regardless of when financial resources are available. In addition, interest on long-term debt is recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when due, rather than as it accrues. Thus, the change in net position differs from the change in fund balances by a combination of the following items:</p>	
Change in claims and judgements	\$ 67,575
Change in compensated absences	(32,017)
Change in accrued interest payable	(107,524)
Deferred charges on refunding bond	(71,233)
Premium on refunding bond	96,454
	<u>(46,745)</u>
<p>Some items reported in the Statement of Activities relating to the implementation of GASB 68 are not reported in the governmental funds. These activities include:</p>	
Recognition of pension expense for the current period	(3,735,719)
Recognition of contributions made during the year	<u>2,665,880</u>
<i>Change in net position of governmental activities</i>	<u>\$ 1,596,496</u>

EXHIBIT 5

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

**STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

	<u>Custodial Funds</u>
ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 564,508
Due from other funds	<u>39,356</u>
Total assets	<u>603,864</u>
LIABILITIES	
Other liabilities	259,295
Intergovernmental payables	<u>103,981</u>
Total liabilities	<u>363,276</u>
NET POSITION	
Restricted for:	
Individuals, organizations and other governments	<u>240,588</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ 240,588</u>

EXHIBIT 6

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

	<u>Custodial Funds</u>
ADDITIONS	
Interest income	\$ 710
Tax collections for other governments	294,257
Other income	893,088
Total additions	<u>1,188,055</u>
DEDUCTIONS	
Administrative expense	764,582
Other expense	419,569
Total deductions	<u>1,184,151</u>
Net increase in fiduciary net position	3,904
NET POSITION - BEGINNING	<u>236,684</u>
NET POSITION - ENDING	<u>\$ 240,588</u>

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Financial Reporting Entity - Forrest County, Mississippi (the County) is a political subdivision of the State of Mississippi. The County is governed by an elected five-member Board of Supervisors. Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require Forrest County to present these financial statements on the primary government and its component units which have significant operational or financial relationships with the County.

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

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

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

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

B. Individual Component Unit Disclosure

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

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PAGE TWO

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

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

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

C. Basis of Presentation

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

Government-wide Financial Statements:

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

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

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FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PAGE THREE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

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

Fund Financial Statements:

Fund financial statements of the County are organized into funds, each of which is considered to be separate accounting entities. Each fund is accounted for by providing a separate set of self-balancing accounts that constitute its assets, deferred outflows, liabilities, deferred inflows, fund balances, revenues and expenditures. Funds are organized into governmental and fiduciary, even though the latter are excluded from the government-wide financial statements. Major individual Governmental Funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements. Nonmajor funds are aggregated and presented in a single column as Other Governmental Funds.

D. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting - The Government-wide and Fiduciary Funds financial statements are presented using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recorded when the liability is incurred or economic asset used, regardless of when the related cash flows take place. Property taxes are recognized as revenue in the year for which they are levied. Shared revenues are recognized when the provider government recognizes the liability to the County. Grants are recognized as revenues as soon as all eligibility requirements have been satisfied.

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

The County reports the following major Governmental Funds:

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

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FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PAGE FOUR

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

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

Emergency Road and Bridge Repair Fund - This fund is used to account for monies from specific revenue sources that are restricted for emergency road and bridge maintenance.

American Rescue Plan Act Fund - This fund is used to account for monies from specific revenue sources that are restricted for building maintenance, bridge replacements and other capital projects.

G.O. Bond, Series 2022 Fund - This fund is used to account for all road and bridge repair projects associated with the Series 2022 Bond issuance.

Additionally, the County reports the following fund types:

GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES

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

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

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

FIDUCIARY FUND TYPE

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

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

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

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PAGE FIVE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

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

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

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

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

I. Prepaid Items - Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid items in both government-wide and fund financial statements. Prepaid items, such as prepaid insurance, are not reported for Governmental Fund Types since the costs of such items are accounted for as expenditures in the period of acquisition.

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

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

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FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PAGE SIX

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

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

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

The following schedule details those thresholds and estimated useful lives:

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

** Intangible assets for the County represent right to use leased assets and are capitalized as a group for reporting purposes. The estimated useful life is the term of the lease agreement. There is no mandated maximum amortization period. Intangible assets with indefinite useful lives are not amortized.

The term "depreciation" includes the amortization of intangible assets.

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

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

Deferred outflows related to pensions - This amount represents the County's proportionate share of the deferred outflows of resources reported by the pension plan in which the County participates. See Note 12 for additional details.

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PAGE SEVEN

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

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

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

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

Deferred revenues - grants/unavailable revenue - grants - Unavailable revenues from grants are deferred and recognized as inflows of resources in the period that the amounts become available.

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

M. Leases - The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 87, Leases (GASB 87) to establish a single leasing model for accounting and reporting purposes. This guidance is intended to enhance the accountability, consistency and comparability of lease activities reported by governments. GASB 87 was implemented during fiscal year 2022.

The County's incremental borrowing rate is determined using the daily treasury rate that is in effect at the start of the lease adjusted by 1.00% based on the quality of the County's credit. This rate is used to calculate the present value of lease payments when the rate implicit in the lease is not known.

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

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

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FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PAGE EIGHT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

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

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

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

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

Q. Equity Classifications

Government-wide Financial Statements:

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

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

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

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

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FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PAGE NINE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

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

Net Position Flow Assumption:

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

Fund Financial Statements:

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

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

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

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

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

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FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PAGE TEN

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

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

Fund Balance Flow Assumption:

When an expenditure is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted (committed or unassigned) resources are available, it is the County's general policy to use restricted resources first. When expenditures are incurred for purposes for which unrestricted (committed and unassigned) resources are available, and amounts in any of these unrestricted classifications could be used, it is the County's general policy to spend committed resources first and then unassigned amounts.

R. *Property Tax Revenues* - Numerous statutes exist under which the Board of Supervisors may levy property taxes. The selection of authorities is made based on the objectives and responsibilities of the County. Restrictions associated with property tax levies vary with the statutory authority. The amount of increase in certain property taxes is limited by state law. Generally, this restriction provides that these tax levies shall produce no more than 110.00% 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.

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

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

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FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PAGE ELEVEN

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

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

T. Changes in Accounting Standards - Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 87, *Leases*, was implemented during fiscal year 2022. The objective of this statement is to better meet the information needs of financial statement users by improving accounting and financial reporting for leases by governments. It established a single model for lease accounting based on the foundational principle that leases are financings of the right to use an underlying asset. This guidance is intended to enhance the accountability, consistency and comparability of lease activities reported by governments.

U. Recent Accounting Pronouncement - In May 2020, GASB issued GASB Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangement*, which changes the treatment of the capitalization criteria and recognition of the subscription asset. The new standard is effective for the year ending September 30, 2023. The County is evaluating the effect the guidance will have on their financial statements and related disclosures.

NOTE 2 - PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT

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

<u>Explanation</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Exhibit B	
<i>Correction of Error:</i>	
To implement GASB 87 lease assets and lease liabilities.	<u>\$ 25,011</u>

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FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PAGE TWELVE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

NOTE 3 - DEPOSITS

Deposits - The carrying amount of the County's total deposits with financial institutions at September 30, 2022, was \$80,595,676 and the bank balance was \$83,566,795 which includes restricted assets. The collateral for public entities' deposits in financial institutions is held in the name of the State Treasurer under a program established by the Mississippi State Legislature and is governed by Section 27-105-5, *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.

Cash with Fiscal Agents - The carrying amount of the County's cash with fiscal agents held by financial institutions was \$1,974,277 at September 30, 2022. Included in this amount is \$1,930,965 in the County's 2012 Qualified School Construction Bond Sinking Fund.

NOTE 4 - INTERFUND TRANSACTIONS AND BALANCES

The following is a summary of interfund balances at September 30, 2022:

A. Due From/To Other Funds:

<u>Receivable Fund</u>	<u>Payable Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General fund	Other Governmental Funds	\$ 54,326
Other Governmental Funds	General Fund	158,804
Custodial Funds	General Fund	39,356
Total		<u><u>\$ 252,486</u></u>

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PAGE THIRTEEN

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

NOTE 4 - INTERFUND TRANSACTIONS AND BALANCES (Cont.)

The receivables represent the tax revenue collected in September 2022, but not settled until October 2022 and the payroll that was due to the payroll clearing fund as of year-end that had not yet been paid. All interfund balances are expected to be repaid within one year from the date of the financial statements.

B. Transfers In/Out:

<u>Transfers In</u>	<u>Transfers Out</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Other Governmental Funds	General Fund	\$ 593,870
Total		\$ 593,870

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

NOTE 5 - INTERGOVERNMENTAL RECEIVABLES

Intergovernmental receivables at September 30, 2022, consisted of the following:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Governmental Activities:	
Legislative tag credit	\$ 581,111
Department of Corrections	29,180
Total governmental activities	\$ 610,291

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FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
PAGE FOURTEEN
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

NOTE 6 - RESTRICTED ASSETS

Restricted assets at September 30, 2022, consisted of amounts held by fiscal agent and bond proceeds for the following projects:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Governmental Activities:	
Qualified School Construction Bonds	\$ 1,930,965
Public Improvement Welfare Project	39,308
Public Improvement DHS Project	4,004
Amounts held in custody for others	<u>204,346</u>
<i>Total governmental activities</i>	<u>\$ 2,178,623</u>

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FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PAGE FIFTEEN

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

NOTE 7 - CAPITAL ASSETS

The following is a summary of capital assets activity for the year ended September 30, 2022:

	Balance			Balance
	Oct. 1, 2021	Additions	Deletions	Sep. 30, 2022
Governmental Activities:				
Non-depreciable capital assets:				
Land	\$ 1,624,098	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,624,098
Construction in progress	7,478,147	7,457,967	737,853	14,198,261
Total non-depreciable capital assets	<u>9,102,245</u>	<u>7,457,967</u>	<u>737,853</u>	<u>15,822,359</u>
Depreciable capital assets:				
Infrastructure	65,073,420	-	-	65,073,420
Buildings	67,865,557	321,530	-	68,187,087
Improvements other than buildings	2,678,923	737,853	-	3,416,776
Mobile equipment	18,664,472	768,903	513,574	18,919,801
Furniture and equipment	4,061,867	240,358	44,386	4,257,839
Intangible right-to-use assets	-	736,046	-	736,046
Leased property under capital leases	268,274	-	268,274	-
Total depreciable capital assets	<u>158,612,513</u>	<u>2,804,690</u>	<u>826,234</u>	<u>160,590,969</u>

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FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PAGE SIXTEEN

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

NOTE 7 - CAPITAL ASSETS (Cont.)

	Balance			Balance
	Oct. 1, 2021	Additions	Deletions	Sep. 30, 2022
Governmental Activities (Cont.):				
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Infrastructure	\$ 41,795,630	\$ 611,291	\$ -	\$ 42,406,921
Buildings	24,402,914	1,317,107	-	25,720,021
Improvements other than buildings	1,217,645	112,242	-	1,329,887
Mobile equipment	13,273,947	807,239	418,592	13,662,594
Furniture and equipment	2,858,355	401,771	40,441	3,219,685
Intangible right-to-use assets	-	154,112	-	154,112
Leased property under capital leases	48,290	-	48,290	-
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>83,596,781</u>	<u>3,403,762</u>	<u>507,323</u>	<u>86,493,220</u>
Total depreciable capital assets, net	<u>75,015,732</u>	<u>(599,072)</u>	<u>318,911</u>	<u>74,097,749</u>
 Governmental activities capital assets, net	 <u>\$ 84,117,977</u>	 <u>\$ 6,858,895</u>	 <u>\$ 1,056,764</u>	 <u>\$ 89,920,108</u>

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FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PAGE SEVENTEEN

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

NOTE 7 - CAPITAL ASSETS (Cont.)

Depreciation expense was charged to the following functions:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Governmental Activities:	
General government	\$ 1,147,565
Public safety	1,139,208
Public works	1,012,334
Health and welfare	2,204
Culture and recreation	81,577
Conservation of natural resources	20,874
	<hr/>
Total governmental activities depreciation expense	\$ 3,403,762
	<hr/> <hr/>

Commitments with respect to unfinished capital projects at September 30, 2022, consisted of the following:

<u>Description of Commitment</u>	<u>Remaining Financial Commitment</u>	<u>Expected Date of Completion</u>
Emergency Road and Bridge Repair	\$ 2,096,568	2023

NOTE 8 - CLAIMS AND JUDGMENTS

Risk Financing

The County finances its exposure to risk of loss related to workers' compensation for injuries to its employees through the Mississippi Public Entity Workers' Compensation Trust, a public entity risk pool. The County pays premiums to the pool for its workers' compensation insurance coverage, and the participation agreement provides that the pool will be self-sustaining through member premiums. The retention for the pool is \$1,000,000 for each accident and completely covers statutory limits set by the Workers' Compensation Commission. Risk of loss is remote for claims exceeding the pool's retention liability. However, the pool also has catastrophic reinsurance coverage for statutory limits above the pool's retention, provided by Safety National Casualty Corporation, effective from January 1, 2022, to January 1, 2023. The pool may make an overall supplemental assessment or declare a refund depending on the loss experience of all the entities it insures.

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PAGE EIGHTEEN

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

NOTE 9 - LEASES

The County is a lessee for various non-cancellable leases of equipment and vehicles. For leases that have a maximum possible term of 12 months or less at commencement, the County recognizes expense based on the provisions of the lease contract. For all other leases, other than short term, the County recognized a lease liability and an intangible right-to-use lease asset.

At lease commencement, the County initially measures the lease liability at the present value of payments expected to be made during the lease term. Subsequently, the lease liability is reduced by the principal portion of lease payments made. The lease asset is initially measured as the initial amount of the lease liability, less lease payments made at or before the lease commencement date, plus any initial direct costs ancillary to placing the underlying asset into service, less any lease incentives received at or before the lease commencement date. Subsequently, the lease asset is amortized in amortization expense on an effective interest rate method over the shorter of the lease term or the useful life of the underlying asset.

The County generally uses its incremental borrowing rate as the discount rate for leases unless the rate that the lessor charges is known. The County's incremental borrowing rate is determined using the daily treasury rate that is in effect at the start of the lease adjusted by 1.00% based on the quality of the County's credit.

The lease term includes the non-cancellable period of the lease plus any additional periods covered by either the County or lessor option to extend for which it is reasonably certain to be exercised or terminate for which it is reasonably certain to not be exercised. Periods in which both the County and the lessor have a unilateral option to terminate (or if both parties have to agree to extend) are excluded from the lease term.

As lessee:

The intangible right-to-use assets at September 30, 2022, are as follows:

	Balance				Balance
	Oct. 1, 2021	Additions	Amortization		Sep. 30, 2022
Copier leases, net	\$ -	\$ 271,568	\$ 68,681	\$	202,887
Vehicles, net	-	464,478	85,431		379,047
Total	\$ -	\$ 736,046	\$ 154,112	\$	581,934

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FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PAGE NINETEEN

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

NOTE 9 - LEASES (Cont.)

See Note 7 for further details regarding intangible right-to-use assets, which represents leased assets.

The County has entered into various 48 - 60 month leases of copiers and vehicles from various commercial entities for a total fixed \$8,708 per month and \$10,886 per month, respectively. The lease agreements can only be cancelled if both parties agree. There are no options to extend the lease agreements and no variable payment options.

The lease obligations outstanding as of September 30, 2022, were as follows:

	<u>Discount Rate</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Monthly Payment</u>	<u>Amount Outstanding</u>
Copier leases	1.71% - 4.47%	48 - 60 months	Various	Various	\$ 8,708	\$ 202,887
Vehicles	1.71% - 3.78%	48 months	Various	Various	10,886	379,047
Total						<u>\$ 581,934</u>

The following is a schedule by year of the total payments due:

<u>Year Ending September 30,</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>
2023	\$ 198,991	\$ 14,635
2024	181,586	9,455
2025	135,914	4,645
2026	65,258	935
2027	185	-
Total	<u>\$ 581,934</u>	<u>\$ 29,670</u>

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FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PAGE TWENTY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

NOTE 10 - LONG-TERM DEBT

General Obligation Bonds

The County issues general obligation bonds to provide funds for the acquisition and construction of major capital facilities. General obligation bonds are direct obligations and pledge the full faith and credit of the County. The County has no special assessment bonds at September 30, 2022. Bonds are generally issued as serial bonds with essentially level principal and interest payments maturing each year with maturities that range from 5 to 30 years. Upon default, the Trustee shall notify the owners of all bonds then outstanding of such event of default by registered or certified mail, may pursue any available remedy at law or in equity or by statute to enforce the payment of principal and interest on the bonds outstanding, and may declare the principal and accrued interest on all bonds to be due and payable immediately.

General obligation bonds outstanding at September 30, 2022 are as follows:

<u>Description and Purpose</u>	<u>Amount Outstanding</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Final Maturity Date</u>
Governmental Activities:			
General obligation bonds:			
G.O. refunding bond, Series 2014	\$ 8,165,000	2.00 - 4.00%	03/2029
G.O. bond, Series 2012 (Qualified School Construction Bond)	3,000,000	0.00%	08/2027
G.O. refunding bond, Series 2016	2,710,000	2.00 - 3.00%	03/2024
G.O. bond, Series 2022	<u>15,000,000</u>	2.98%	06/2037
Total general obligation bonds	<u><u>\$ 28,875,000</u></u>		

Notes from Direct Borrowings and Direct Placements

The County issues notes to provide funds for the acquisition and construction of major capital facilities and equipment purchases. These notes from direct borrowings and direct placements are direct obligations and pledge the full faith and credit of the County and have been issued for governmental activities. Notes from direct borrowings and direct placements are generally issued with a five-year maturity. The County has no anticipation notes at September 30, 2022. Upon default, the notes from direct borrowings and direct placements become immediately due in full.

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FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
PAGE TWENTY-ONE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

NOTE 10 - LONG-TERM DEBT (Cont.)

Notes from direct borrowings and direct placements outstanding at September 30, 2022 are as follows:

<u>Description and Purpose</u>	<u>Amount Outstanding</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Final Maturity Date</u>
Governmental Activities:			
Notes from direct borrowings and direct placements:			
Brooklyn Volunteer Fire Department	\$ 10,508	2.97%	11/2022
Dixie Volunteer Fire Department	55,239	2.33%	02/2025
Carnes Volunteer Fire Department	<u>54,908</u>	1.70%	04/2025
Total notes from direct borrowings and direct placements	<u>\$ 120,655</u>		

Governmental Activities:

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

<u>Year Ending September 30,</u>	<u>General Obligation Bonds</u>	
	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>
2023	\$ 2,207,000	\$ 822,842
2024	2,309,000	717,694
2025	2,348,000	648,366
2026	2,419,000	577,423
2027	5,495,000 *	496,355
2028-2032	8,329,000	1,431,228
2033-2037	<u>5,768,000</u>	<u>519,995</u>
Total	<u>\$ 28,875,000</u>	<u>\$ 5,213,903</u>

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

(Table Continued on Next Page)

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PAGE TWENTY-TWO

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

NOTE 10 - LONG-TERM DEBT (Cont.)

<u>Year Ending September 30,</u>	Notes from Direct Borrowings and Direct Placements	
	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>
2023	\$ 46,493	\$ 2,528
2024	36,711	1,496
2025	37,451	755
Total	\$ 120,655	\$ 4,779

As more fully explained in Note 11, debt has been issued by the County that qualifies as Qualified School Construction bonds. Debt currently outstanding is as follows:

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

Legal Debt Margin

The amount of debt, excluding specific exempted debt that can be incurred by the County is limited by state statute. Total outstanding debt during a year can be no greater than 15.00% 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 20.00% 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, 2022, the amount of outstanding debt was equal to 3.38% of the latest property assessments.

Prior Year Defeasance of Debt

In prior years, the County defeased certain general obligation bonds by placing the proceeds of new bonds in an irrevocable trust to provide for all future debt service payments on the old bonds. Accordingly, the trust account assets and the liability for the defeased bonds are not included in the County's financial statements. On September 30, 2022, \$10,825,000 of bonds outstanding were considered defeased.

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FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
PAGE TWENTY-THREE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

NOTE 10 - LONG-TERM DEBT (Cont.)

The following is a summary of changes in long-term liabilities and obligations for the year ended September 30, 2022:

	<u>Balance Oct. 1, 2021</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	<u>Balance Sep. 30, 2022</u>	<u>Amount Due Within One Year</u>
Governmental Activities:					
Compensated absences	\$ 579,864	\$ 32,017	\$ -	\$ 611,881 B	\$ -
Claims and judgements	473,025	-	67,575	405,450	67,575
General obligation bonds	12,275,000	15,000,000	1,400,000	25,875,000 A	2,207,000
General obligation bonds - qualified school construction bond	3,000,000	-	-	3,000,000 B	-
Add:					
Premiums	470,711	-	96,454	374,257 A	-
Total general obligation bonds	15,745,711	15,000,000	1,496,454	29,249,257	2,207,000
Leases payable	-	736,046	154,112	581,934 A	198,991
Capital leases	244,995	-	244,995	-	-
Notes from direct borrowings and direct placements	166,062	-	45,407	120,655 A	46,493
Total governmental activities	<u>\$ 17,209,657</u>	<u>\$ 15,768,063</u>	<u>\$ 2,008,543</u>	<u>\$ 30,969,177</u>	<u>\$ 2,520,059</u>

- A. Capital debt
- B. Non-capital debt

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

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PAGE TWENTY-FOUR

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

NOTE 11 - QUALIFIED SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BONDS

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

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

Pursuant to the bond documents, these bonds are to be repaid in full August 2027, from the proceeds of the annual minimum sinking fund deposit schedule. The County was originally scheduled to make 15 equal annual payments of \$200,000 into a sinking fund, with a maximum permitted yield of 3.34%. These sinking fund requirements were adjusted during fiscal year 2013 to reflect annual payments of \$210,000 for years 2014 - 2022 and \$211,000 for years 2023 - 2027. The amount accumulated in the sinking fund at the end of the 15-year period will be sufficient to retire the debt. The amount on deposit at September 30, 2022 was \$1,930,965.

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

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

<u>Year Ending September 30,</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2023	\$ 211,000
2024	211,000
2025	211,000
2026	211,000
2027	211,000
Total	\$ 1,055,000

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PAGE TWENTY-FIVE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

NOTE 12 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN

General Information about the Pension Plan

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

Benefits Provided - Membership in PERS is a condition of employment granted upon hiring for qualifying employees and officials of the State of Mississippi, state universities, community and junior colleges, and teachers and employees of the public school districts. For those persons employed by political subdivisions and instrumentalities of the State of Mississippi, membership is contingent upon approval of the entity's participation in PERS by the PERS' Board of Trustees. If approved, membership for the entity's employees is a condition of employment and eligibility is granted to those who qualify upon hiring. Participating members who are vested and retire at or after age 60 or those who retire regardless of age with at least 30 years of creditable service (25 years of creditable service for employees who became members of PERS before July 1, 2011) are entitled, upon application, to an annual retirement allowance payable monthly for life in an amount equal to 2.00% of their average compensation for each year of creditable service up to and including 30 years (25 years for those who became members of PERS before July 1, 2011), plus 2.50% for each additional year of creditable service with an actuarial reduction in the benefit for each year of creditable service below 30 years or the number of years in age that the member is below 65, whichever is less. Average compensation is the average of the employee's earnings during the four highest compensated years of creditable service. Benefits vest upon completion of eight years of membership service (four years of membership service for those who became members of PERS before July 1, 2007). PERS also provides certain death and disability benefits. A Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) payment is made to eligible retirees and beneficiaries. The COLA is equal to 3.00% of the annual retirement allowance for each full fiscal year of retirement up to the year in which the retired member reaches age 60 (55 for those who became members of PERS before July 1, 2011), with 3.00% compounded for each fiscal year thereafter. Plan provisions are established and may be amended only by the State of Mississippi Legislature.

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FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PAGE TWENTY-SIX

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

NOTE 12 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN (Cont.)

Contributions - At September 30, 2022, PERS members were required to contribute 9.00% of their annual covered salary, and the County is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The employer's rate at September 30, 2022 was 17.40% of annual covered payroll. The contribution requirements of PERS members and employers are established and may be amended only by the State of Mississippi Legislature. The County's contributions (employer share only) to PERS for the years ending September 30, 2022, 2021, and 2020 were \$2,665,880, \$2,585,059, and \$2,502,558, respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year.

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions - At September 30, 2022, the County reported a liability of \$45,448,675 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2022, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The County's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the County's long-term share of contribution to the pension plan relative to projected contributions of all participating entities, actuarially determined. The County's proportionate share used to calculate the September 30, 2022 net pension liability was .2208% which was based on a measurement date of June 30, 2022. This was an increase of .0091% from its proportionate share used to calculate the September 30, 2021 net pension liability, which was based on a measurement date of June 30, 2021.

For the year ended September 30, 2022, the County recognized pension expense of \$3,735,719. At September 30, 2022, the County reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 470,996
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	1,909,749
Changes of assumptions	1,150,475

(Table Continued on Next Page)

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
PAGE TWENTY-SEVEN
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

NOTE 12 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN (Cont.)

	<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>
Changes in the proportion and differences between the County's contributions and proportionate share of contributions	\$ 8,955,058
County contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>719,301</u>
Total	<u><u>\$ 13,205,579</u></u>

\$719,301 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from County contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction to the net pension liability in the year ended September 30, 2023. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

<u>Year Ending September 30,</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2023	\$ 3,472,203
2024	3,472,203
2025	3,311,836
2026	<u>2,230,036</u>
Total	<u><u>\$ 12,486,278</u></u>

No deferred inflows related to pensions were reported in the year ended September 30, 2022.

Actuarial Assumptions - The total pension liability as of June 30, 2022 was determined by an actuarial valuation prepared as of June 30, 2021, and by the investment experience for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. The following actuarial assumptions are applied to all periods in the measurement:

Inflation	2.40%
Salary increases	2.65% - 17.90%, including inflation
Investment rate of return	7.55%, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
PAGE TWENTY-EIGHT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

NOTE 12 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN (Cont.)

Mortality rates for service retirees were based on the PubS.H-2010(B) Retiree Table with the following adjustments: For males, 95.00% of male rates up to age 60, 110.00% for ages 61 to 75 and 101.00% for ages above 77. For females, 84.00% of female rates up to age 72 and 100.00% for ages above 76. Mortality rates for disability retirees were based on the PubG.H-2010 Disabled Table adjusted 134.00% for males and 121.00% for females. Mortality rates for Contingent Annuitants were based on the PubS.H-2010(B) Contingent Annuitant Table, adjusted 97.00% for males and 110.00% for females. Mortality rates will be projected generationally using the MP-2020 projection scale to account for future improvements in life expectancy.

The actuarial assumptions used for the purposes of determining the total pension liability were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the four-year period from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2020. The experience report is dated April 20, 2021.

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a lognormal distribution analysis in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected nominal returns, net of pension plan investment expense and the assumed rate of inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. The most recent target asset allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Domestic Equity	25.00%	4.60%
International Equity	20.00	4.50
Global Equity	12.00	4.85
Fixed Income	18.00	1.40
Real Estate	10.00	3.65
Private Equity	10.00	6.00
Private Infrastructure	2.00	4.00
Private Credit	2.00	4.00
Cash equivalents	1.00	(0.10)
Total	<u>100.00%</u>	

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FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PAGE TWENTY-NINE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

NOTE 12 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN (Cont.)

Discount rate - The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.55%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rate (9.00%) and that employer contributions will be made at the current employer contribution rate (17.40%). Based on those assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

Sensitivity to the County's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate - The following presents the County's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.55%, as well as what the County's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (6.55%) or 1-percentage-point higher (8.55%) than the current rate:

	1.00% Decrease (6.55%)	Discount Rate (7.55%)	1.00% Increase (8.55%)
County's proportionate share of the net pension liability	<u>\$ 59,315,162</u>	<u>\$ 45,448,675</u>	<u>\$ 34,016,461</u>

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

NOTE 13 - CONTINGENCIES

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

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FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PAGE THIRTY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

NOTE 13 - CONTINGENCIES (Cont.)

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

NOTE 14 - EFFECT OF DEFERRED AMOUNTS ON NET POSITION

The governmental activities' unrestricted deficit net position amount of \$2,477,706 includes the effect of deferred outflows of resources related to pensions. A portion of the deferred outflow of resources related to pensions in the amount of \$719,301 resulting from County contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended September 30, 2023. The \$12,486,278 balance of the deferred outflow of resources related to pensions at September 30, 2022, will be recognized in pension expense over the next four years.

The governmental activities' net investment in capital assets net position of \$63,110,730 includes the effect of deferring the recognition of expenditures resulting from an advance refunding of County debt. \$142,466 of the \$13,348,045 balance of deferred outflows of resources at September 30, 2022, will be recognized as an expense and will decrease the net investment in capital assets net position over the next two years.

NOTE 15 - JOINT VENTURES

The County participates in the following joint ventures:

Forrest County is a participant with the City of Hattiesburg in a joint venture, authorized by Chapter 956, House Bill 1865, of the Local and Private Laws of 1994, to operate the Forrest County Industrial Park Commission. The joint venture was created to develop and operate an industrial park complex for the citizens of Forrest County and the City of Hattiesburg. The Forrest County Board of Supervisors appoints five of the ten members of the board. By contractual agreement, the County's appropriation to the joint venture was \$240,000 in fiscal year 2022. Complete financial statements for the Forrest County Industrial Park Commission can be obtained from Post Office Box 1898, Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39403.

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FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PAGE THIRTY-ONE FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

NOTE 15 - JOINT VENTURES (Cont.)

Forrest County is a participant with Jones County, the Cities of Hattiesburg and Laurel, and the State of Mississippi in a joint venture, authorized by Section 61-3-5, Miss. Code Ann. (1971), to operate the Hattiesburg-Laurel Regional Airport Authority. The joint venture was created to develop and maintain the airport for the members of the authority. The Forrest County Board of Supervisors appoints one of the five members of the board of commissioners. By contractual agreement, the County's appropriation to the joint venture was \$245,840 in fiscal year 2022. Complete financial statements for the Hattiesburg-Laurel Regional Airport Authority can be obtained from 1002 Terminal Drive, Moselle, Mississippi 39459.

Forrest County is a participant with the Cities of Hattiesburg and Petal in a joint venture, authorized by Section 39-3-8, *Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated*, to operate the Library of Hattiesburg, Petal and Forrest County. The joint venture was created to provide free public library service to the citizens of Forrest County and the Cities of Hattiesburg and Petal. The Forrest County Board of Supervisors appoints six of the fifteen members of the board of directors. By contractual agreement, the County's appropriation to the joint venture was \$851,768 in fiscal year 2022. Complete financial statements for the Library of Hattiesburg, Petal and Forrest County can be obtained from 329 Hardy Street, Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39401.

NOTE 16 - JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS

The County participates in the following jointly governed organizations:

Pearl River Community College operates in a district composed of the Counties of Forrest, Hancock, Jefferson Davis, Lamar, Marion and Pearl River. The Forrest County Board of Supervisors appoints two of the sixteen members of the college board of trustees. The County appropriated \$1,675,351 for maintenance and support of the college in fiscal year 2022.

Southeast Mississippi Air Ambulance District provides air ambulance service to the Counties of Covington, Forrest, Greene, Jefferson Davis, Lamar, Marion, Pearl River, Perry and Walthall. The Forrest County Board of Supervisors appoints one of the nine members of the board of directors. There is no ongoing financial interest or responsibility for the appointing authorities. The County contributed \$317,871 for support of the district in fiscal year 2022.

Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District operates in a district composed of the Counties of Covington, Forrest, George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson Davis, Jones, Lamar, Marion, Pearl River, Perry, Stone, and Wayne. The Forrest County Board of Supervisors appoints one of the twenty-seven members of the board of directors. The County contributes a small percentage of the district's total revenue. The County appropriated \$92,334 to the agency in fiscal year 2022.

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PAGE THIRTY-TWO

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

NOTE 16 - JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS (Cont.)

Pearl River Valley Opportunity, Inc. operates in a district composed of the Counties of Covington, Forrest, Jefferson Davis, Jones, Lamar, Marion, Pearl River, and Perry. The entity was created to administer programs conducted by community action agencies, limited purpose agencies and related programs authorized by federal law. The Forrest County Board of Supervisors appoints one of the twenty-four members of the board of directors. The primary source of funding for the entity is derived from federal funds. Each County provides a modest amount of financial support when matching funds are required for federal grants. The County appropriated \$30,000 to the support of the organization in fiscal year 2022.

Pine Belt Mental Health Care Resources operates in a district composed of the Counties of Covington, Forrest, Greene, Jefferson Davis, Jones, Lamar, Marion, Perry, and Wayne. The Forrest County Board of Supervisors appoints one of the nine members of the board of commissioners. The County appropriated \$225,000 for support of the agency in fiscal year 2022.

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

Pearl and Leaf Rivers Rails-to-Trails Recreational District operates in a district composed of the Counties of Forrest, Jefferson Davis, and Lamar and the Cities of Bassfield, Hattiesburg, Prentiss, and Sumrall. The Forrest County Board of Supervisors appoints one of seven members of the board of directors. The County appropriated \$169,918 to the support of the district in fiscal year 2022.

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

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FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
PAGE THIRTY-THREE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

NOTE 17 - TAX ABATEMENTS

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

The Forrest County Board of Supervisors negotiates property tax abatements on an individual basis. All abatements are for five and/or ten years and are for economic development purposes. The County had tax abatement agreements with thirty entities as of September 30, 2022.

The County had one type of abatement which provides for the abatement of school or state tax levies:

Sections 27-31-101 and 27-31-105, Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated - All allowable property tax levies.

There are thirty companies that have tax abatements under this statute in the amount of \$2,737,501.

NOTE 18 - SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Events that occur after the Statement of Net Position date but before the financial statements are available to be issued must be evaluated for recognition or disclosure. The effects of subsequent events that provide evidence about conditions that existed at the Statement of Net Position date are recognized in the accompanying financial statements. Subsequent events, which provide evidence about conditions that existed after the Statement of Net Position date, require disclosure in the accompanying notes. Management of Forrest County, Mississippi evaluated the activity of the County through June 27, 2023 (the date the financial statements were available to be issued), and determined that no subsequent events have occurred requiring disclosure in the notes to the financial statements.

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REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

SCHEDULE 1

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

**BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL (NON-GAAP BASIS)
GENERAL FUND - UNAUDITED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

	Original Budget
REVENUES	
Property taxes	\$ 29,405,454
Licenses, commissions and other revenue	1,438,080
Fines and forfeitures	489,200
Intergovernmental revenues	2,413,100
Charges for services	1,137,100
Interest income	151,700
Miscellaneous revenues	305,200
Total revenues	<u>35,339,834</u>
EXPENDITURES	
Current:	
General government	18,208,482
Public safety	12,269,001
Public works	245,840
Health and welfare	1,114,980
Culture and recreation	2,389,618
Education	125,000
Conservation of natural resources	95,135
Economic development and assistance	1,088,557
Debt service	858,300
Total expenditures	<u>36,394,913</u>
Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>(1,055,079)</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	
Transfers in	645,000
Transfers out	(1,115,000)
Other financing sources	-
Other financing uses	(12,000)
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>(482,000)</u>
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	(1,537,079)
Fund balances - beginning	<u>29,294,352</u>
Fund balances - ending	<u>\$ 27,757,273</u>

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

Final Budget	Actual (Budgetary Basis)	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
\$ 29,648,204	\$ 29,457,968	\$ (190,236)
1,498,925	1,624,011	125,086
489,200	445,910	(43,290)
2,791,068	3,036,531	245,463
1,709,600	1,739,704	30,104
152,000	101,109	(50,891)
296,200	433,942	137,742
<u>36,585,197</u>	<u>36,839,175</u>	<u>253,978</u>
18,241,943	16,449,238	1,792,705
12,631,581	12,269,598	361,983
541,240	502,531	38,709
1,150,480	1,030,203	120,277
2,324,483	873,860	1,450,623
125,000	-	125,000
100,189	77,922	22,267
1,268,557	1,254,610	13,947
-	-	-
<u>36,383,473</u>	<u>32,457,962</u>	<u>3,925,511</u>
201,724	4,381,213	4,179,489
675,617	-	(675,617)
(1,330,500)	(439,000)	891,500
9,000	33,819	24,819
(12,000)	-	12,000
<u>(657,883)</u>	<u>(405,181)</u>	<u>252,702</u>
(456,159)	3,976,032	4,432,191
<u>33,270,475</u>	<u>33,270,475</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>\$ 32,814,316</u>	<u>\$ 37,246,507</u>	<u>\$ 4,432,191</u>

SCHEDULE 2

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

**BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL (NON-GAAP BASIS)
EMERGENCY ROAD AND BRIDGE REPAIR FUND - UNAUDITED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

	<u>Original Budget</u>
REVENUES	
Interest income	\$ 8,000
Total revenues	<u>8,000</u>
EXPENDITURES	
Current:	
Public works	<u>11,700,000</u>
Total expenditures	<u>11,700,000</u>
Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>(11,692,000)</u>
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	(11,692,000)
Fund balances - beginning	<u>12,292,829</u>
Fund balances - ending	<u>\$ 600,829</u>

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

Final Budget	Actual (Budgetary Basis)	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
<u>\$ 8,000</u>	<u>\$ 23,255</u>	<u>\$ 15,255</u>
<u>8,000</u>	<u>23,255</u>	<u>15,255</u>
<u>21,700,000</u>	<u>7,962,884</u>	<u>13,737,116</u>
<u>21,700,000</u>	<u>7,962,884</u>	<u>13,737,116</u>
<u>(21,692,000)</u>	<u>(7,939,629)</u>	<u>13,752,371</u>
<u>(21,692,000)</u>	<u>(7,939,629)</u>	<u>13,752,371</u>
<u>4,353,200</u>	<u>4,353,200</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>\$ (17,338,800)</u>	<u>\$ (3,586,429)</u>	<u>\$ 13,752,371</u>

SCHEDULE 3

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

**BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL (NON-GAAP BASIS)
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUND - UNAUDITED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

	Original Budget
REVENUES	
Intergovernmental revenues	\$ 7,200,000
Interest income	50,000
Total revenues	<u>7,250,000</u>
EXPENDITURES	
Current:	
General government	7,000,000
Total expenditures	<u>7,000,000</u>
Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>250,000</u>
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	250,000
Fund balances - beginning	<u>6,770,458</u>
Fund balances - ending	<u><u>\$ 7,020,458</u></u>

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

Final Budget	Actual (Budgetary Basis)	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
\$ 7,273,932	\$ 7,273,932	\$ -
50,000	18,483	(31,517)
<u>7,323,932</u>	<u>7,292,415</u>	<u>(31,517)</u>
5,200,000	548,204	4,651,796
<u>5,200,000</u>	<u>548,204</u>	<u>4,651,796</u>
2,123,932	6,744,211	4,620,279
2,123,932	6,744,211	4,620,279
13,514,669	13,514,669	-
<u>\$ 15,638,601</u>	<u>\$ 20,258,880</u>	<u>\$ 4,620,279</u>

SCHEDULE 4

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

**SCHEDULE OF THE COUNTY'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY
LAST 10 FISCAL YEARS* - UNAUDITED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
County's proportion of the net pension liability (asset)	0.2208%	0.2117%	0.2191%	0.2221%	0.2187%	0.2159%	0.2124%	0.2030%
County's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset)	\$ 45,448,675	\$ 31,290,185	\$ 42,415,214	\$ 39,071,772	\$ 36,376,308	\$ 35,889,908	\$ 37,939,944	\$ 31,379,796
Covered payroll	15,201,741	14,074,736	14,592,322	14,464,851	13,966,178	13,848,470	13,589,327	12,689,638
County's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered payroll	298.97%	222.31%	290.67%	270.12%	260.46%	259.16%	279.19%	247.29%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	59.93%	70.44%	58.97%	61.59%	62.54%	61.49%	57.47%	61.70%

* The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the twelve months ended at the measurement date of June 30 of the fiscal year presented. This schedule is presented to illustrate the requirement to show information for 10 years. However, GASB Statement No. 68 was implemented for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2015, and, until a full 10 year trend is compiled, the County has only presented information for the years in which information is available.

SCHEDULE 5

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

**SCHEDULE OF COUNTY CONTRIBUTIONS
LAST 10 FISCAL YEARS* - UNAUDITED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Contractually required contribution	\$ 2,665,880	\$ 2,585,059	\$ 2,502,558	\$ 2,365,853	\$ 2,204,355	\$ 2,188,984	\$ 2,105,376	\$ 1,997,469
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	<u>2,665,880</u>	<u>2,585,059</u>	<u>2,502,558</u>	<u>2,365,853</u>	<u>2,204,355</u>	<u>2,188,984</u>	<u>2,105,376</u>	<u>1,997,469</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>							
Covered payroll	\$ 15,321,149	\$ 14,856,661	\$ 14,382,517	\$ 14,660,518	\$ 13,995,905	\$ 13,898,311	\$ 13,367,467	\$ 12,682,343
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	17.40%	17.40%	17.40%	16.14%	15.75%	15.75%	15.75%	15.75%

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

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

NOTE 1 - BUDGETARY INFORMATION

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

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

Basis of Presentation - The Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Budget and Actual (Non-GAAP Basis) presents the original legally adopted budget, the final legally adopted budget, actual amounts on a budgetary (Non-GAAP Basis) and variances between the final budget and the actual amounts. The schedule is presented for the General Fund and each major Special Revenue Fund. The Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Budget and Actual (Non-GAAP Basis) is a part of required supplementary information.

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

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

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FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

PAGE TWO

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

NOTE 1 - BUDGETARY INFORMATION (Cont.)

The following schedule reconciles the budgetary basis schedules to the GAAP basis financial statements for the General Fund, the Emergency Road and Bridge Repair Fund and the American Rescue Plan Act Fund:

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Emergency Road and Bridge Repair Fund</u>	<u>American Rescue Plan Act Fund</u>
Budget (cash basis)	\$ 3,976,032	\$ (7,939,629)	\$ 6,744,211
Increase (decrease):			
Net adjustments for revenue accruals	786,631	-	(6,500,728)
Net adjustments for expenditure accruals	<u>(1,462,532)</u>	<u>1,053,331</u>	<u>(225,000)</u>
GAAP Basis	<u>\$ 3,300,131</u>	<u>\$ (6,886,298)</u>	<u>\$ 18,483</u>

NOTE 2 - PENSION SCHEDULES

A. Changes of Assumptions:

2015

The expectation of retired life mortality was changed to the RP-2014 Healthy Annuitant Blue Collar Table projected to 2016 using Scale BB rather than the RP-2000 Mortality Table, which was used prior to 2015.

The expectation of disabled mortality was changed to the RP-2014 Disabled Retiree Table, rather than the RP-2000 Disabled Mortality Table, which was used prior to 2015.

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

Assumed rates of salary increase were adjusted to more closely reflect actual and anticipated experience.

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

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

**NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
PAGE THREE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

NOTE 2 - PENSION SCHEDULES (Cont.)

A. Changes of Assumptions (Cont.):

2016

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

2017

The expectation of retired life mortality was changed to the RP-2014 Healthy Annuitant Blue Collar Mortality Table projected with Scale BB to 2022. Small adjustments were also made to the Mortality Table for disabled lives.

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

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

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

2019

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

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

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

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

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

PAGE FOUR

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

NOTE 2 - PENSION SCHEDULES (Cont.)

A. Changes of Assumptions (Cont.):

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

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

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

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

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

2021

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

- For males, 95.00% of male rates up to age 60, 110.00% for ages 61 to 75, and 101.00% for ages above 77.
- For females, 84.00% of female rates up to age 72, 100.00% for ages above 76.
- Projection scale MP-2020 will be used to project future improvements in life expectancy generationally.

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

- For males, 134.00% of male rates at all ages.
- For females, 121.00% of female rates at all ages.
- Projection scale MP-2020 will be used to project future improvements in life expectancy generationally.

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FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

**NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
PAGE FIVE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

NOTE 2 - PENSION SCHEDULES (Cont.)

A. Changes of Assumptions (Cont.):

The expectation of contingent annuitant mortality was based on the PubS.H-2010(B) Contingent Annuitant Table with the following adjustments:

- For males, 97.00% of male rates at all ages.
- For females, 110.00% of female rates at all ages.
- Projection scale MP-2020 will be used to project future improvements in life expectancy generationally.

The price inflation assumption was reduced from 2.75% to 2.40%.

The wage inflation assumption was reduced from 3.00% to 2.65%.

The investment rate of return assumption was changed from 7.75% to 7.55%.

The assumed load for administrative expenses was increased from 0.25% to 0.28% of payroll.

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

The percentage of active member disabilities assumed to be in the line of duty was increased from 9.00% to 12.00%.

The percentage of active member deaths assumed to be in in the line of duty was decreased from 6.00% to 4.00%.

B. Changes in Benefit Provisions:

2016

Effective July 1, 2016, the interest rate on employee contributions shall be calculated based on the money market rate as published by the Wall Street Journal on December 31 of each preceding year with a minimum rate of one percent and a maximum rate of five percent.

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FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

PAGE SIX

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

NOTE 2 - PENSION SCHEDULES (Cont.)

C. Method and assumptions used in calculations of actuarially determined contributions.

The actuarially determined contribution rates in the schedule of employer contributions are calculated as of June 30, two years prior to the end of the fiscal year in which contributions are reported (June 30, 2020 valuation for the June 30, 2022 fiscal year end). The following actuarial methods and assumptions were used to determine the most recent contribution rate reported in that schedule:

Actuarial cost method	Entry age
Amortization method	Level percentage of payroll, open
Remaining amortization period	27.7 years
Asset valuation method	5-year smoothed market
Price inflation	2.75%
Salary increase	3.00% to 18.25%, including inflation
Investment rate of return	7.75%, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

SCHEDULE 6

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

<u>Federal Grantor/Pass-Through Grantor/Program Title</u>	<u>Federal Assistance Listing Number</u>	<u>Pass Through Entity Identifying Number</u>	<u>Federal Expenditures</u>
<i>U.S. Department of Agriculture</i>			
Passed-through the Mississippi Office of State Treasurer Forest Service Schools and Roads Cluster: Schools and Roads - Grants to States	10.665	N/A	<u>\$ 157,078</u>
<i>U.S. Department of the Interior</i>			
Payments in Lieu of Taxes (Direct Program)	15.226	N/A	<u>63,080</u>
<i>U.S. Department of Justice</i>			
Passed-through the Mississippi Department of Health Violence Against Women Formula Grants	16.588	N/A	49,320
Passed-through the Mississippi Department of Public Safety Project Safe Neighborhoods	16.609	N/A	16,037
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program	16.738	N/A	<u>17,151</u>
Total U.S. Department of Justice			<u>82,508</u>
<i>U.S. Department of the Treasury</i>			
Passed-through the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency COVID-19 - Coronavirus Relief Fund	21.019	N/A	183,542
COVID-19 - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (Direct Program)	21.027	N/A	<u>548,204</u>
Total U.S. Department of the Treasury			<u>731,746</u>

The accompanying notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards are an integral part of this schedule.

SCHEDULE 6
PAGE TWO

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

<u>Federal Grantor/Pass-Through Grantor/Program Title</u>	<u>Federal Assistance Listing Number</u>	<u>Pass Through Entity Identifying Number</u>	<u>Federal Expenditures</u>
<i>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services</i>			
Maternal and Child Health Federal Consolidated Programs (Direct Program)	93.110	N/A	<u>\$ 145,327</u>
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Projects of Regional and National Significance (Direct Program)	93.243	N/A	<u>97,749</u>
Total U.S. Department of Health and Human Services			<u>243,076</u>
<i>Executive Office of the President</i>			
Passed through the Mississippi Department of Public Safety High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program	95.001	N/A	<u>56,760</u>
<i>U.S. Department of Homeland Security</i>			
Passed through the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation Grant	97.039	N/A	229,728
Passed through the Mississippi Department of Public Safety Homeland Security Grant Program	97.067	N/A	<u>34,500</u>
Total U.S. Department of Homeland Security			<u>264,228</u>
<i>Total Expenditures of Federal Awards</i>			<u><u>\$ 1,598,476</u></u>

The accompanying notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards are an integral part of this schedule.

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

NOTE 1 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (the Schedule) includes the federal grant activity of Forrest County, Mississippi (the County) under programs of the federal government for the year ended September 30, 2022. The information in this Schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 *U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of the County, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net position, or cash flows of the County.

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

NOTE 2 - DE MINIMIS COST RATE

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

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OTHER INFORMATION

SCHEDULE 7

**SCHEDULE OF SURETY BONDS FOR COUNTY OFFICIALS - UNAUDITED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

Name	Position	Surety Company	Bond Amount
David Hogan	Supervisor District 1	FCCI Insurance Group	\$ 100,000
Sharon Thompson	Supervisor District 2	FCCI Insurance Group	100,000
Burkett Ross	Supervisor District 3	FCCI Insurance Group	100,000
Roderick Woullard	Supervisor District 4	Western Surety Co.	100,000
Chris Bowen	Supervisor District 5	FCCI Insurance Group	100,000
Lance Reid	Chancery Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	100,000
Jennifer Slade	County Administrator	RLI Surety	50,000
Penny Steed	Chief Financial Officer	FCCI Insurance Group	100,000
Rochelle Campbell	Purchase Clerk	Western Surety Co.	100,000
Ashleigh Fontaine	Assistant Purchasing Clerk	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Beverly Temple	Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Brian Allen Dewease	Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Daniel L. Lee	Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
DeAnn Dean Clay	Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Diane Zachary	Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Douglas Bolton	Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Jeffery Craig Sammons	Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Jeffery Harold Jeter	Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Joel G Jr. Hill	Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Latrice Sutton	Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Laurinda Person	Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Megan Polk	Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Melissa Kiser	Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Michael Turnage	Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Nathaneal Robertson	Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Nickie Graham	Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
O.B. Jr. Cooley	Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Paulette Jones Wallace	Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Ronald Sellers	Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Shali Carter	Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Shannon S Abney	Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Susan Tew	Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Joseph Kyle Mims	Road Manager	RLI Surety	50,000
Robert Taylor Jr.	Assistant Road Manager	RLI Surety	50,000
Johnnie Royce Fairchild, Jr.	Inventory Control	Western Surety Co.	75,000
Charlie Sims	Sheriff	FCCI Insurance Group	100,000
Elbert Michael Harris	Constable	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Jennifer Brown-Travis	Constable	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
John Tyner	Constable/Assistant Receiving Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Tommy Cook	Constable	Travelers' Casualty and Surety Co.	50,000
Adam Woodard	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Adrian Jones	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Alton Thomas Taylor Jenkins	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Alyssa Changlee	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Andy Davis	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Anthony Scott Smith	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Ashleigh Davis	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Ashley Sullivan Hartfiled	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Avery Hatten	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Blake Smith	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Bradley Joel Miller	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Carl Pyles	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Carl Swann	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Carlton R. Sims Jr.	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Charles Letchworth	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Charles N. Moseley	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Charles Scott Morrison	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000

See independent auditor's report.

SCHEDULE 7
PAGE TWO

**SCHEDULE OF SURETY BONDS FOR COUNTY OFFICIALS - UNAUDITED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

Name	Position	Surety Company	Bond Amount
Cheri C. Socha	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	\$ 50,000
Chiquita Caines	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Christopher Selman	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Connie S. Keene	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Daniel Benoit	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Daniel Clay Sullivan	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Danny Keith Leroy	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
David E. Ward	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
David Scott Lees	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Debra A. Brown	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Debra Russell	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
DeReginald Keon Wililamson	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Derek Jones	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Don Allen Parker	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Edward Biter	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Evan Henderson	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Felicia S. Simpson	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Gary Collins	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Gregory Stuart Holliman	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Herbert Donell Brannon	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Hayden Eoff	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
James Glen Moore	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
James Humphrey	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
James Michael Honeysucker	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Jamie Douglas Hopkins	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Jared Hagan	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Jason Simon	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Jennifer L Longest	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Jennifer Washington	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Jeremy Jackson	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Jimmy Rick Monday	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
John Matthew Burt	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Jon Randall Howard	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Jon Howell	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Joseph H. Corley	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Joshua Clay Jones	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Justin James Mayer	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Katherine Byrd	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Kenny Woodard	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Kent Banks	Sheriff Deputy / Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Larry Allen	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Marion D. Sims	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Matthew Steven Shepherd	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Michael Pol	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Michael T. Clark	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Michael Wayne Barnes	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Nathanael E Robertson	Sheriff Deputy/Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Nicholas Aaron Latham	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Richard Laubshcher, Jr.	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Robert Alexander Smith	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Robert Carson Jr.	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000

See independent auditor's report.

SCHEDULE 7
PAGE THREE

**SCHEDULE OF SURETY BONDS FOR COUNTY OFFICIALS - UNAUDITED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

Name	Position	Surety Company	Bond Amount
Robert Earl Gray	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	\$ 50,000
Robert Michael Clark	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Scott Murphy	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Shane Peek	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Shawn W Jarrell	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Shelby N. Barfield	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Stanford Johnson	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Steven Ray Ducksworth	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Stecen R. Smith	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Tabatha Woods	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Tahniqua Netterville	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Terold D Martin Sr.	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Terrell B. Carson	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Terry Kyle Adkins	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Thomas Michael Hall Jr.	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Timeka Hudson	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Timothy L. Hartfield	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Travis William Breland	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Wendy Carmichael	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Wesley M. Harris	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
William Blaine Stansell	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
William John III	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
William Trower Russell, III	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Zachary S. Ruple	Sheriff Deputy	RLI Surety	50,000
Gwen Wilks	Circuit Clerk	FCCI Insurance Group	100,000
Brianna K. Hogge	Deputy Circuit Clerk	Western Surety Co.	100,000
Brittney Hartfield	Deputy Circuit Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Chasity Nicole Pierce	Deputy Circuit Clerk / Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Brittney Hartfield	Deputy Circuit Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Goldie L. Berry	Deputy Circuit Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Kayla Dawn LaBove	Deputy Circuit Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Rebecca Price	Deputy Circuit Clerk	Western Surety Co.	100,000
Burnice (Wes) Curry	Justice Court Judge	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Gay Polk-Payton	Justice Court Judge	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Zachary Monreo Vaugh	Justice Court Judge	FCCI Insurance Group	100,000
Robert Davis	Justice Court Judge	FCCI Insurance Group	100,000
Angela F. Moffett	Justice Court Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Amanda Barrentine	Deputy Justice Court Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
April Chmiel	Deputy Justice Court Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Cheryl Holder	Deputy Justice Court Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Gloria N. Chestang	Deputy Justice Court Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Hope DeAnn Bailey	Deputy Justice Court Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Juanita Wilson	Deputy Justice Court Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Keiaundria Lester	Deputy Justice Court Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Keitha Sparkman Scott	Deputy Justice Court Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Kendria L. Jackson	Deputy Justice Court Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Lacrecia Travis	Deputy Justice Court Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Silvia Thorton	Deputy Justice Court Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Temeraka Garner	Deputy Justice Court Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Billy Hudson	Tax Collector	FCCI Insurance Group	100,000
Alice E. Downs	Deputy Tax Collector	RLI Surety	50,000
Charla Dunlap	Deputy Tax Collector	RLI Surety	50,000
Cynthia Denise Lowery	Deputy Tax Collector	RLI Surety	50,000
Edgar R. Myers	Deputy Tax Collector	RLI Surety	50,000
Elsie Bass	Deputy Tax Collector	RLI Surety	50,000
Lori L Ellington	Deputy Tax Collector	RLI Surety	50,000

See independent auditor's report.

SCHEDULE 7
PAGE FOUR

**SCHEDULE OF SURETY BONDS FOR COUNTY OFFICIALS - UNAUDITED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

Name	Position	Surety Company	Bond Amount
Marlee Jean Miller	Deputy Tax Collector	RLI Surety	\$ 50,000
Paula D. Johnson	Deputy Tax Collector	RLI Surety	50,000
Robbie Conway	Deputy Tax Collector/Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Sandra C. Wilson	Deputy Tax Collector	RLI Surety	50,000
Stephanie R. Smith	Deputy Tax Collector	RLI Surety	50,000
Tracy L. Parker	Deputy Tax Collector	RLI Surety	50,000
Tyler Nobles	Deputy Tax Collector	RLI Surety	50,000
Zachary Howell	Deputy Tax Collector	RLI Surety	50,000
Mary Ann Palmer	Tax Assessor	FCCI Insurance Group	50,000
Addie Cognevich	Deputy Tax Assessor	RLI Surety	50,000
Bryan Hunter	Deputy Tax Assessor / Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Surety	50,000
Daniel Patrick Frank	Deputy Tax Assessor	RLI Surety	50,000
Landon Andrews	Deputy Tax Assessor	RLI Surety	25,000
Randy Lee Wright	Deputy Tax Assessor	RLI Surety	25,000
Richard A. Tew	Deputy Tax Assessor	RLI Surety	25,000
Sandra Brady	Deputy Tax Assessor	RLI Surety	25,000
Travis Clark	Deputy Tax Assessor	RLI Surety	25,000

See independent auditor's report.

SPECIAL REPORTS



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

Members of the Board of Supervisors
Forrest County, Mississippi

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Forrest County, Mississippi (the County), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated June 27, 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 generally accepted in the United States of America to be reported with the financial data of the County's primary government unless the County also issues financial statements for the financial reporting entity that include the financial data for its component units.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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



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Members of the Board of Supervisors
Forrest County, Mississippi

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

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We identified a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs as item 2022-001 that we consider to be a material weakness.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

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

We noted certain matters that we reported to the management of Forrest County, Mississippi in the Limited Internal Control and Compliance Review Management Report dated June 27, 2023, included within this document.

Forrest County, Mississippi's Response to Finding

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

Members of the Board of Supervisors
Forrest County, Mississippi

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the 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. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.


Hattiesburg, Mississippi
June 27, 2023



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

Members of the Board of Supervisors
Forrest County, Mississippi

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited Forrest County, Mississippi’s compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of Forrest County, Mississippi’s major federal programs for the year ended September 30, 2022. Forrest County, Mississippi’s major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditor’s results section of the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs.

In our opinion, Forrest County, Mississippi complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended September 30, 2022.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS); the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*); and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.



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Members of the Board of Supervisors
Forrest County, Mississippi

We are required to be independent of Forrest County, Mississippi and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of Forrest County, Mississippi's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to Forrest County, Mississippi's federal programs.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on Forrest County, Mississippi's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material, if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about Forrest County, Mississippi's compliance with the requirements of each major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, we

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding Forrest County, Mississippi's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

Members of the Board of Supervisors
Forrest County, Mississippi

- Obtain an understanding of Forrest County, Mississippi's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Forrest County, Mississippi's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

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

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that were not identified.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

Members of the Board of Supervisors
Forrest County, Mississippi

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



Hattiesburg, Mississippi
June 27, 2023



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

Members of the Board of Supervisors
Forrest County, Mississippi

We have examined Forrest County, Mississippi’s (the County) compliance with establishing and maintaining a central purchasing system and inventory control system in accordance with *Sections 31-7-101 through 31-7-127, Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated* and compliance with the purchasing requirements in accordance with bid requirements of *Section 31-7-13, Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated* during the year ended September 30, 2022. The Board of Supervisors of Forrest County, Mississippi is responsible for the County’s compliance with those requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the County’s compliance based on our examination.

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

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

In our opinion, Forrest County, Mississippi, complied, in all material respects, with state laws governing central purchasing, inventory and bid requirements for the year ended September 30, 2022.

- 88 -



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Members of the Board of Supervisors
Forrest County, Mississippi

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

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


Hattiesburg, Mississippi
June 27, 2023

SCHEDULE 8

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

SCHEDULE OF PURCHASES FROM OTHER THAN THE LOWEST BIDDER
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

<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>
5/23/2022	Body Cameras	\$184,900	Motorola Solutions	Utility Associates, Inc. - \$179,750.	Compatible with current uniforms, longer battery life, and higher heat tolerance.

See independent auditor's report.

SCHEDULE 9

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

**SCHEDULE OF EMERGENCY PURCHASES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Item Purchased</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Reason for Emergency Purchase</u>
10/12/2021	Tile for Circuit Court Office	\$ 7,812	Appliances Etc, LLC	To replace the flooring due to a pipe bursting.
11/30/2021	Air Compressor	265	Economy Supply	Old air compressor was broken.
2/24/2022	Water Heater	43,032	Coburn Supply	One of the hot water heaters was inoperable.
6/13/2022	Heat and AC Unit	3,262	Hughes Supply	The unit quit working.
6/22/2022	Stihl Pole Saw	675	Albritton Chain Saw & Lawn Equipment, Inc.	Old stihl saw was damaged beyond repair.
8/3/2022	Parts to repair AC Unit at the Tax Collector Building	10,240	Mingledorff's	Blower motor was not working in extreme heat.
8/5/2022	Industrial Fans (2)	738	Lewis Printing & Office Supply	Additional fans were needed during extreme heat.
9/8/2022	Evaporator coil	11,836	Terry Service, Inc.	Major leak in coil.

See independent auditor's report.

SCHEDULE 10

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

**SCHEDULE OF PURCHASES MADE NONCOMPETITIVELY FROM A SOLE SOURCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Item Purchased</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Vendor</u>
9/7/2022	Luminex II Writer with wide keys	\$5,665	Stenograph, LLC



LIMITED INTERNAL CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE REVIEW MANAGEMENT REPORT

Members of the Board of Supervisors
Forrest County, Mississippi

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of Forrest County, Mississippi for the year ended September 30, 2022, we considered Forrest County, Mississippi's internal control to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on internal control.

In addition, for areas not considered material to Forrest County, Mississippi's financial reporting, we have performed some additional limited internal control and state legal compliance review procedures as identified in the state legal compliance audit program issued by the Office of the State Auditor. Our procedures were substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion on the County's compliance with these requirements. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. This report does not affect our report dated June 27, 2023, on the financial statements of Forrest County, Mississippi.

Due to the reduced scope, these review procedures and compliance tests cannot and do not provide absolute assurance that all state legal requirements have been complied with. Also, our consideration of internal control would not necessarily disclose all matters within the internal control that might be weaknesses. In accordance with *Section 7-7-211, 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 immaterial instances of noncompliance with state laws and regulations that are opportunities for strengthening internal controls and operating efficiency.

- 93 -



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Members of the Board of Supervisors
Forrest County, Mississippi

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

Board of Supervisors.

Finding 1: Public officials should ensure compliance with state law over the inspections of roads and bridges.

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

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

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

Official Response: Acknowledged.

Repeat Finding: Yes

Constables and Justice Court Judges.

Finding 2: Public officials should ensure compliance with state laws over the filing of a statement of economic interest each year by May 1st.

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

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Members of the Board of Supervisors
Forrest County, Mississippi

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

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

Recommendation: We recommend the elected officials who have not filed a Statement of Economic Interest each year, do so as required by *Section 25-4-25, Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated*.

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

Repeat Finding: Yes.

Board of Supervisors and Chancery Clerk.

Finding 3: Public officials and employees should ensure compliance with state law over surety bonding requirements.

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

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

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

- Two employee's bonds lapsed during the year.

Members of the Board of Supervisors
Forrest County, Mississippi

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

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

Official Response: Corrected as of fiscal year 2023.

Repeat Finding: Yes.

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

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


Hattiesburg, Mississippi
June 27, 2023

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

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

SECTION 1: SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

Financial Statements:

- | | | |
|----|--|---------------|
| 1. | Type of auditor's report issued on the financial statements: | |
| | Governmental activities | Unmodified |
| | General fund | Unmodified |
| | Emergency Road and Bridge Repair Fund | Unmodified |
| | American Rescue Plan Act Fund | Unmodified |
| | G.O. Bond, Series 2022 Fund | Unmodified |
| | Aggregate remaining fund information | Unmodified |
| | Aggregate discretely presented component units | Adverse |
| 2. | Internal control over financial reporting: | |
| | A. Material weakness identified? | Yes |
| | B. Significant deficiency identified? | None reported |
| 3. | Noncompliance material to the financial statements noted? | No |

Federal Awards:

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

Assistance Listing Number Name of Federal Program or Cluster

- | | | |
|----|--|-------------------------------------|
| | 21.027 | COVID-19 - American Rescue Plan Act |
| | 97.039 | Hazard Mitigation Grant |
| 8. | Dollar threshold used to distinguish between type A and type B programs: | \$750,000 |

FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

PAGE TWO

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

SECTION 1: SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS (Cont.)

Federal Awards (Cont.)

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| 9. | Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee? | No |
| 10. | Prior fiscal year audit finding and questioned costs relative to federal awards which would require the auditee to prepare a summary schedule of prior audit findings in accordance with 2 CFR 200.511(b)? | Yes |

SECTION 2: FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS

2022-001 The financial statements do not include the financial data for the County's legally separate component units.

Finding Type: Material Weakness

Repeat Finding: Yes

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

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

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

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

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FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
PAGE THREE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

SECTION 2: FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS (Cont.)

2022-001 The financial statements do not include the financial data for the County's legally separate component units (Cont.)

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

Views of Responsible Officials - See Auditee Corrective Action Plan.

SECTION 3: FEDERAL AWARD FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

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

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AUDITEE CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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DISTRICT 1, PRESIDENT

SHARON A. THOMPSON
DISTRICT 2

BURKETT ROSS
DISTRICT 3

RODERICK WOULLARD
DISTRICT 4, VICE PRESIDENT

CHRIS BOWEN
DISTRICT 5



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DAVID B. MILLER
ATTORNEY

JENNIFER SLADE
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

AUDITEE CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

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

Audit Period: September 30, 2022

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

Corrective Action Plan for Financial Statement Finding

2022-001

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

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

Expected Date of Completion: Unknown

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DAVID HOGAN
DISTRICT 1, PRESIDENT

SHARON A. THOMPSON
DISTRICT 2

BURKETT ROSS
DISTRICT 3

RODERICK WOULLARD
DISTRICT 4, VICE PRESIDENT

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SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS

Year Ended September 30, 2022

The following is an update of the prior audit findings.

2021-001

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

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

Current Status - Not corrected. See Finding 2022-001.