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**PERRY COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**Audited Financial Statements and Special Reports**

**For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**



PERRY COUNTY  
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# **PERRY COUNTY**

## **FINANCIAL SECTION**

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PRIVATE COMPANIES PRACTICE SECTION

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Members of the Board of Supervisors  
Perry County, Mississippi

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

#### Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Perry County, Mississippi, (the County) as of and for the year ended September 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Perry County, Mississippi, as of September 30, 2023, 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 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 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 audit opinions.

#### 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, 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 Budgetary Comparison Schedules and corresponding notes, the Schedule of the County's Proportionate Share of the

Net Pension Liability, and the Schedule of the County's 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 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.

### **Omission of Required Supplementary Information**

Perry County, Mississippi has omitted the Management's Discussion and Analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of the financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

### **Supplementary Information**

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise Perry 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* and the Reconciliation of the Operating Costs of Solid Waste are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements.

Such information 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. This 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 GAAS. In our opinion, the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and the Reconciliation of Operating Costs of Solid Waste are 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.

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 October 18, 2024, on our consideration of Perry 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 Perry 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 Perry County, Mississippi's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

*Bridgers, Goodman, Baird & Clarke, PLLC*

Bridgers, Goodman, Baird & Clarke, PLLC  
Certified Public Accountants  
Vicksburg, Mississippi

October 18, 2024



## **PERRY COUNTY**

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**PERRY COUNTY**  
**Statement of Net Position**  
**September 30, 2023**

**Exhibit 1**

	<u>Primary Government</u> <u>Governmental</u> <u>Activities</u>
<b>Assets</b>	
Cash	\$ 18,682,195
Property tax receivable	8,195,866
Fines receivable, net of allowance for uncollectibles of \$1,405,636	364,052
Lease receivable	797,164
Intergovernmental receivables	130,429
Land and construction in progress	4,228,651
Other capital assets, net	<u>35,878,334</u>
Total Assets	<u>68,276,691</u>
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	
Deferred outflows related to pension	2,299,307
Deferred amount on refunding	<u>30,106</u>
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>2,329,413</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Claims payable	247,750
Intergovernmental payables	285,469
Accrued interest payable	42,950
Other payables	11,658
Unearned revenue	2,982,704
Long-term liabilities	
Due within one year:	
Capital related debt	942,859
Non-capital debt	301,000
Due in more than one year:	
Capital related debt	3,082,502
Non-capital debt	3,425,107
Net pension liability	<u>10,511,993</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>21,833,992</u>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	
Deferred inflows related to pension	42,313
Deferred inflows related to leases	668,792
Deferred revenues - property taxes	<u>8,195,866</u>
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>8,906,971</u>
<b>Net Position</b>	
Net investment in capital assets	36,111,730
Restricted:	
Expendable:	
General government	348,411
Public safety	745,242
Public works	5,297,625
Culture and recreation	440,293
Economic development	584,930
Unemployment compensation	189,253
Debt service	517,151
Unrestricted	<u>(4,369,494)</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 39,865,141</u>

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

**PERRY COUNTY**  
**Statement of Activities**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

**Exhibit 2**

Functions/Programs	Program Revenues				Net (Expense) Revenue and
	Expenses	Charges for	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Changes in Net Position
					Primary Government Governmental Activities
<b>Primary government:</b>					
Governmental activities:					
General government	\$ 4,094,666	661,353	768,862	-	(2,664,451)
Public safety	2,325,599	148,858	97,728	-	(2,079,013)
Public works	7,903,511		4,877,007	24,522	(3,001,982)
Health and welfare	122,908	-	17,595	-	(105,313)
Culture and recreation	164,958	11,990	221,750	-	68,782
Conservation of natural resources	31,834	-	-	-	(31,834)
Economic development and assistance	177,162	-	-	-	(177,162)
Interest on long-term debt	185,062	-	-	-	(185,062)
Pension expense	1,585,849	-	-	-	(1,585,849)
Total Governmental Activities	16,591,549	822,201	5,982,942	24,522	(9,761,884)
<b>General revenues:</b>					
Property taxes				\$	7,706,002
Road & bridge privilege taxes					137,732
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs					905,617
Unrestricted interest income					379,662
Miscellaneous					765,477
Total General Revenues					9,894,490
<b>Changes in Net Position</b>					132,606
<b>Net Position - Beginning</b>					39,732,535
<b>Net Position - Ending</b>				\$	39,865,141

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

**PERRY COUNTY**  
**Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds**  
**September 30, 2023**

**Exhibit 3**

	Major Funds			
	General	American	Other	Total
	Fund	Rescue FY21	Governmental	Governmental
	Fund	Fund	Funds	Funds
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Cash	\$ 7,446,873	1,726,245	9,509,077	18,682,195
Property tax receivable	4,920,436	-	3,275,430	8,195,866
Fines receivable, net of allowance for uncollectibles of \$1,405,636	364,052	-	-	364,052
Lease receivable	797,164	-	-	797,164
Intergovernmental receivables	130,429	-	-	130,429
Advances to other funds	-	-	1,836	1,836
Due from other funds	-	-	48,400	48,400
Total Assets	<u>13,658,954</u>	<u>1,726,245</u>	<u>12,834,743</u>	<u>28,219,942</u>
<b>LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND FUND BALANCES</b>				
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Claims payable	111,249	-	136,501	247,750
Intergovernmental payables	285,469	-	-	285,469
Advances from other funds	1,338	-	498	1,836
Due to other funds	48,400	-	-	48,400
Other payables	11,658	-	-	11,658
Unearned revenue	-	1,676,893	1,305,811	2,982,704
Total Liabilities	<u>458,114</u>	<u>1,676,893</u>	<u>1,442,810</u>	<u>3,577,817</u>
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>				
Unavailable revenue - property taxes	4,920,436	-	3,275,430	8,195,866
Unavailable revenue - fines	364,052	-	-	364,052
Leases	668,792	-	-	668,792
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>5,953,280</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,275,430</u>	<u>9,228,710</u>
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>				
Restricted for:				
General government	-	49,352	299,059	348,411
Public safety	-	-	745,242	745,242
Public works	-	-	5,297,625	5,297,625
Culture and recreation	-	-	440,293	440,293
Economic development	-	-	584,930	584,930
Unemployment compensation	-	-	189,253	189,253
Debt service	-	-	560,101	560,101
Unassigned	7,247,560	-	-	7,247,560
Total Fund Balances	<u>7,247,560</u>	<u>49,352</u>	<u>8,116,503</u>	<u>15,413,415</u>
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances	\$ <u>13,658,954</u>	<u>1,726,245</u>	<u>12,834,743</u>	<u>28,219,942</u>

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

**PERRY COUNTY****Exhibit 3-1****Reconciliation of Governmental Funds Balance Sheet to the Statement of Net Position  
September 30, 2023**

	<u>Amount</u>
Total fund balance - Governmental Funds	\$ 15,413,415
Amounts reported for governmental services in the Statement of Net Position are different because:	
Capital assets are used in governmental activities and are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds, net of accumulated depreciation of \$46,900,463.	40,106,985
Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current period expenditures and, therefore, are deferred in the funds.	364,052
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds.	(7,751,468)
Accrued interest payable is not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, is not reported in the funds.	(42,950)
Deferred amount on refunding	30,106
Pension obligations are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.	(10,511,993)
Deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to pension are applicable to future periods and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.	
Deferred outflows of resources related to pensions	2,299,307
Deferred inflows of resources related to pensions	(42,313)
Total Net Position - Governmental Activities	<u>\$ 39,865,141</u>

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

**PERRY COUNTY**

**Exhibit 4**

**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances for Governmental Funds  
For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

	Major Funds			
	General	American	Other	Total
	Fund	Rescue FY21	Governmental	Governmental
	Fund	Fund	Funds	Funds
REVENUES				
Property taxes	4,545,885	-	3,160,117	7,706,002
Road and bridge privilege taxes	-	-	137,732	137,732
Licenses, commissions and other revenue	230,629	-	3,580	234,209
Fines and forfeitures	189,418	-	41,377	230,795
Intergovernmental revenues	1,956,667	470,785	4,485,629	6,913,081
Charges for services	38,178	-	122,670	160,848
Interest income	194,145	44,593	140,924	379,662
Miscellaneous revenues	418,890	-	293,449	712,339
Total Revenues	7,573,812	515,378	8,385,478	16,474,668
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
General government	3,386,683	470,785	248,855	4,106,323
Public safety	2,032,907	-	354,697	2,387,604
Public works	-	-	7,055,199	7,055,199
Health and welfare	122,908	-	-	122,908
Culture and recreation	-	-	167,909	167,909
Conservation of natural resources	31,834	-	-	31,834
Economic development and assistance	-	-	177,162	177,162
Debt service:				-
Principal	99,979	-	1,089,007	1,188,986
Interest and fees	5,867	-	179,392	185,259
Total Expenditures	5,680,178	470,785	9,272,221	15,423,184
Excess of Revenues over (under) Expenditures	1,893,634	44,593	(886,743)	1,051,484
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES ( USES)				
Long-term capital debt issued	-	-	296,891	296,891
Proceeds from sale of capital assets	24,792	-	59,698	84,490
Transfers in	800	-	1,342,500	1,343,300
Transfers out	(1,342,500)	-	(800)	(1,343,300)
Total Other Financing Sources and Uses	(1,316,908)	-	1,698,289	381,381
Net Changes in Fund Balances	576,726	44,593	811,546	1,432,865
Fund Balances- Beginning	6,670,834	4,759	7,304,957	13,980,550
Fund Balances- Ending	7,247,560	49,352	8,116,503	15,413,415

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

**PERRY COUNTY****Exhibit 4-1****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, 2023**

	<u>Amount</u>
Net Change in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds	\$ 1,432,865
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 \$1,527,313 was exceeded by depreciation of \$2,832,403 in the current period.	(1,305,090)
In the Statement of Activities, only gains and losses from the sale of capital assets are reported, whereas in the Governmental Funds, proceeds from the sale of capital assets increase financial resources. Thus, the change in net position differs from the change in fund balances by the amount of the net gain of \$53,138 and the proceeds from the sale of \$84,490 in the current period.	(31,352)
Fine revenue recognized on the modified accrual basis in the funds during the current year is increased because prior year recognition would have been required on the Statement of Activities using the full-accrual basis of accounting.	196,349
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 \$1,188,986 exceeded debt proceeds of \$296,891.	892,095
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. Thus, the change in net position differs from the change in fund balances by a combination of the following items:	
Change in compensated absences	(13,478)
Change in accrued interest payable	4,498
The amortization of deferred refunding charges	(4,301)
Items reported in the Statement of Activities relating to the implementation of GASB 68 are not reported in the governmental funds. These activities include:	
Recognition of pension expense for the current year	(1,585,849)
Recognition of contributions made for the current year	546,869
Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities	\$ <u>132,606</u>

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

**PERRY COUNTY**  
**Statement of Fiduciary Net Position**  
**September 30, 2023**

**Exhibit 5**

	<u><b>Custodial Funds</b></u>
ASSETS	
Cash	\$ <u>2,899</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>2,899</u></u>
NET POSITION	
Restricted for:	
Individuals, organizations and other governments	<u>2,899</u>
Total Net Position	\$ <u><u>2,899</u></u>

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



**PERRY COUNTY**  
**Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

**Exhibit 6**

	<u><b>Custodial Funds</b></u>
<b>ADDITIONS</b>	
Tax collections for other governments	\$ 1,791
Licenses and fees collected for State	<u>200,888</u>
Total Additions	<u><u>202,679</u></u>
<b>DEDUCTIONS</b>	
Payments of tax to other governments	3,711
Payments of licenses and fees to State	<u>218,577</u>
Total Deductions	\$ <u><u>222,288</u></u>
Net increase (decrease) in fiduciary net position	(19,609)
Net Position - Beginning	<u>22,508</u>
Net Position - Ending	\$ <u><u>2,899</u></u>

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

**PERRY COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

**NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES.**

**A. Financial Reporting Entity.**

Perry 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 Perry County to present these financial statements on the primary government and its component units which have significant operational or financial relationships with the County. There are no outside organizations that should be included as component units of the County's reporting entity.

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

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

**B. Basis of Presentation.**

The County's basic financial statements consist of government-wide statements, including a Statement of Net Position 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 the Statement of Activities display information concerning the County as a whole. The statements include all non-fiduciary activities of the primary government. For the most part, the effect of inter-fund activity has been removed from these statements. Governmental activities are generally financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues and other non-exchange 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.

**PERRY COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

**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. Non-major funds are aggregated and presented in a single column as Other Governmental Funds.

**C. 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.

American Rescue FY21 Fund – This fund is used to account for monies from The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 that are to aid in the recovery of the effects associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 expenditures for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects.

**PERRY COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**  
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Debt Service Funds - These funds are used to account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditures 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 expenditures 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.

**D. 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.

**E. Deposits and Investments.**

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

Cash includes cash on hand, demand deposits, certificates of deposit, and other 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 market value. However, the County did not invest in any governmental securities during the fiscal year.

**F. Receivables.**

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

**G. Inter-fund 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." Noncurrent portions of interfund receivables and payables are reported as "advances to/from other funds." Advances between funds, as reported in the fund financial statements, are offset by a nonspendable fund balance account in the General Fund, if applicable, to indicate that they are not available for appropriation and are not expendable available financial resources. However, this is not applicable to advances reported in other governmental funds, which are reported, by definition, as restricted, committed, or assigned. Inter-fund receivables and payables between funds within governmental activities are eliminated in the Statement of Net Position.

**H. Capital Assets.**

**PERRY COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**  
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Capital acquisition and construction are reflected as expenditures in Governmental Fund statements and the related assets are reported as capital assets in the applicable governmental or business-type 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 asset costs, other than infrastructure, 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.

Governmental accounting and financial reporting standards allow governments meeting certain criteria to elect not to report major general infrastructure assets retroactively. Perry County elected to report general infrastructure assets acquired after September 30, 1980, on the government-wide financial statements. Current year general infrastructure assets are reported on the government-wide financial statements as required. General infrastructure assets include all roads and bridges and other infrastructure assets.

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

	<u>Capitalization Thresholds</u>	<u>Estimated Service Life</u>
Land	\$ 0	N/A
Infrastructure	0	20 to 50 years
Buildings	50,000	40 years
Improvements other than buildings	25,000	20 years
Mobile equipment	5,000	5 to 10 years
Furniture and equipment	5,000	3 to 7 years

**I. 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 (expense/expenditure) until then.

Deferred amount on refunding – For current refundings and advance refundings 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.

**PERRY COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**  
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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 9 for additional details.

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

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

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 the revenue becomes available.

Deferred inflows related to pensions – This amount represents the County's proportionate share of the deferred inflows of resources reported by the pension plan in which the County participates. See Note 9 for additional details.

Deferred inflows related to leases – Deferred inflows of resources measured at the initial value of the lease receivable to reflect that the receivable relates to future periods.

**J. 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.

**K. 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 uses the Federal Prime Borrowing Rate in effect at the date of the lease inception to calculate the present value of lease payments when the rate implicit in the lease is not known.

**L. 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 purchases and other commitments.

**PERRY COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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In the government-wide financial statements, long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the applicable governmental activities, Statement of Net Position.

In the fund financial statements, the face amount of the debt issued is reported as other financing sources.

**M. 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 including restricted capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, notes, or other borrowings attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets.

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

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

Net Position Flow Assumption:

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

Fund Financial Statements:

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

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

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

*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

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

**Fund Balance Flow Assumption:**

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

**N. Property Tax Revenues.**

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

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

**O. 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.

**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



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the compensated absence liability payable only if the payable has matured, for example an employee resigns or retires.

**Q. Changes in Accounting Standards.**

GASB 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements*, was implemented during the 2023 fiscal year. Prior to the issuance of this statement there was no accounting or financial reporting guidance specifically for SBITAs. The purposes of the standard are to establish uniform accounting and financial reporting requirements for SBITAs, to improve comparability of financial statements among governments that have entered into SBITAs, and to enhance understandability, relatability, relevance, and consistency of information about SBITAs.

**NOTE 2 – DEPOSITS.**

Deposits:

The carrying amount of the County's total deposits with financial institutions at September 30, 2023, was \$18,685,094 and the bank balance was \$19,017,211. The collateral for public entities' deposits in financial institutions is held in the name of the State Treasurer under a program established by the Mississippi State Legislature and is governed by Section 27-105-5, Miss. Code Ann. (1972). Under this program, the entity's funds are protected through a collateral pool administered by the State Treasurer. Financial institutions holding deposits of public funds must pledge securities as collateral against those deposits. In the event of failure of a financial institution, securities pledged by that institution would be liquidated by the State Treasurer to replace the public deposits not covered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

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

**NOTE 3 – INTER-FUND TRANSACTIONS AND BALANCES.**

The following is a summary of inter-fund balances at September 30, 2023:

A. Due From/To Other Funds

<u>Receivable Fund</u>	<u>Payable Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Other Governmental Funds	General Fund	48,400
Total		<u>\$ 48,400</u>

The receivables represent the tax revenues collected in September 2023, but not settled until October 2023. All interfund balances are expected to be repaid within one year from the date of the financial statements.

**PERRY COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**  
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**B. Advances from/to Other Funds:**

<u>Receivable Fund</u>	<u>Payable Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Other Governmental Funds	General Fund	1,338
Other Governmental Funds	Other Governmental Funds	498
Total		<u>\$ 1,836</u>

The advances represent errors in posting revenue in prior years.

**C. Transfers In/Out:**

<u>Transfers In</u>	<u>Transfers Out</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General Fund	Other Governmental Funds	\$ 800
Other Governmental Funds	General Fund	1,342,500
Total		<u>\$ 1,343,300</u>

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

**NOTE 4 – INTERGOVERNMENTAL RECEIVABLES.**

Intergovernmental receivables at September 30, 2023, consisted of the following:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<b>Governmental Activities:</b>	
Legislative tag credit	\$ 111,261
Emergency management performance grant	17,137
Youth court reimbursement	2,031
Total Governmental Activities	<u>\$ 130,429</u>

**NOTE 5 – CAPITAL ASSETS.**

The following is a summary of capital assets activity for the year ended September 30, 2023:

**PERRY COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**  
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**Governmental activities:**

	Balance Oct. 1, 2022	Additions	Deletions	Adjustments	Balance Sept. 30, 2023
<b>Non-depreciable capital assets:</b>					
Land	\$ 954,522	-	-	-	954,522
Construction in progress	2,068,636	1,205,493	-	-	3,274,129
Total non-depreciable capital assets	3,023,158	1,205,493	-	-	4,228,651
<b>Depreciable capital assets:</b>					
Infrastructure	65,526,268	-	-	-	65,526,268
Buildings	7,472,063	-	-	-	7,472,063
Improvements other than buildings	53,916	-	-	-	53,916
Mobile equipment	7,286,555	301,020	129,046	-	7,458,529
Furniture and equipment	2,263,621	20,800	16,400	-	2,268,021
Total depreciable capital assets	82,602,423	321,820	145,446	-	82,778,797
<b>Less accumulated depreciation for:</b>					
Infrastructure	33,742,844	1,997,000	-	-	35,739,844
Buildings	3,972,808	122,261	-	-	4,095,069
Buildings	24,837	2,157	-	-	26,994
Mobile equipment	4,909,765	522,139	98,484	-	5,333,420
Furniture and equipment	1,531,900	188,846	15,610	-	1,705,136
Total accumulated depreciation	44,182,154	2,832,403	114,094	-	46,900,463
Total depreciable capital assets, net	38,420,269	(2,510,583)	31,352	-	35,878,334
Governmental activities					
Capital assets, net	\$ 41,443,427	(1,305,090)	31,352	-	40,106,985

Depreciation expense was charged to the following functions:

<b>Governmental Activities:</b>	<b>Amount</b>
General government	\$ 150,148
Public safety	120,660
Public works	2,559,076
Culture and recreation	2,519
Total governmental activities depreciation expense	\$ 2,832,403

Commitments with respect to unfinished capital projects at September 30, 2023, consisted of the following:

Description of Commitment	Remaining Financial Commitment	Expected Date of Completion
Tallahala Creek Bridge on Old River Road - ERBR-56(01)	85,000	12/2024
North Kittrell Loop - LSBP-56(11)	407,384	02/2025
Cochran Road - SAP-56(68)	800,000	Apr-25

**PERRY COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**  
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**NOTE 6 – 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, 2023, to January 1, 2024. The pool may make an overall supplemental assessment or declare a refund depending on the loss experience of all the entities it insures.

**NOTE 7 – LEASES.**

As Lessor:

On February 7, 2011, Perry County entered into a non-cancellable lease agreement with Hood Industries, Inc. for the lease of land owned by the County for the purpose of operating a hardwood mill. The lease stipulated that the lessee would pay \$5,000 per month in lease payments commencing March 1, 2011 for two (2) consecutive terms of five (5) years each. On August 26, 2019, Perry County and Hood Industries, Inc. agreed to extend the lease for an additional four (4) consecutive terms of five (5) years each. The County is to receive \$60,000 in rent annually with an implicit interest rate of 3.25%. Total income received was \$65,000 for the year ended September 30, 2023.

Remaining amounts to be received associated with this lease are as follows:

<u>Year Ending September 30</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>
2024	\$ 34,605	25,395
2025	35,746	24,254
2026	36,925	23,075
2027	38,144	21,856
2028	39,402	20,598
2029-2033	217,385	82,615
2034-2038	255,686	44,314
2039-2043	139,271	5,729
Total	<u>797,164</u>	<u>247,836</u>

**NOTE 8 – LONG TERM DEBT**

Debt outstanding as of September 30, 2023, consisted of the following:

**Governmental Activities:**

**PERRY COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**  
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Description and Purpose	Amount Outstanding	Interest Rate	Final Maturity Date
<b>A. General Obligation Bonds:</b>			
2021 Road & Bridge Bonds	\$ 3,587,000	1.90%	09/2034
2020 GO Refunding Bonds	2,639,000	2.30%	06/2030
Total General Obligation Bonds	<u>\$ 6,226,000</u>		
<b>B. Financed Purchases:</b>			
2019 Ford F-150	3,306	3.29%	03/2024
IBM Server	17,253	2.24%	09/2025
RMS System	35,970	1.96%	12/2025
(2) 2020/2021 Ford Explorers	32,921	1.94%	06/2025
(2) 2022 F-150's	64,179	2.41%	04/2027
(3) 2021 Ford Explorer	60,843	2.09%	04/2025
New Holland Tractor	3,851	3.35%	02/2024
Kubota Tractor	3,368	3.52%	02/2024
2020 Freightliner w/rear loader	31,315	2.60%	09/2024
2019 Dodge Ram	6,074	2.64%	10/2024
2020 International dump truck	23,700	2.64%	02/2025
Two (2) John Deere Tractors	35,946	2.42%	03/2025
Caterpillar 313F GC Excavator	80,193	3.35%	04/2025
2020 Freightliner Garbage Truck	51,401	2.01%	05/2025
Two (2) Kubota Tractors	37,099	2.25%	06/2025
2019 Caterpillar backhoe loader	67,368	2.88%	09/2024
(2) 2020 John Deere tractors	58,388	2.10%	08/2025
Solacom 911 System	102,059	2.22%	09/2025
John Deere 5115M utility vehicle	33,829	2.23%	12/2025
2021 Dodge Ram 4X4 - District 2	13,628	2.23%	02/2026
John Deere 6105E cab tractor	44,560	2.03%	08/2026
2021 Dodge Ram 4X4 - District 1	16,457	2.01%	08/2026
2022 Freightliner w/ rear loader	120,938	2.18%	11/2026
2022 John Deere tractor	58,504	3.09%	07/2026
2022 SA22 JD Samuri boom cutter	57,871	3.15%	06/2027
2022 mini excavator	61,250	4.08%	08/2027
2022 John Deere Utility Tractor	69,291	3.79%	12/2027
2022 John Deere Tractor	58,722	4.74%	01/2028
2022 John Deere 6105 Cab Tractor & Boom Mower	136,077	4.58%	05/2028
Total Financed Purchases	<u>\$ 1,386,361</u>		

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

**PERRY COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

**Governmental Activities:**

Year Ending September 30:	General Obligation Bonds		Financed Purchases	
	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest
2024	\$ 655,000	128,850	588,859	33,252
2025	667,000	114,989	469,322	17,985
2026	685,000	100,876	197,946	8,638
2027	700,000	86,381	104,514	3,171
2028	707,000	71,561	25,720	325
2029-2033	2,512,000	155,286	-	-
2034	300,000	5,700	-	-
Total	\$ 6,226,000	663,643	1,386,361	63,371

Legal Debt Margin - The amount of debt, excluding specific exempted debt that can be incurred by the County is limited by state statute. Total outstanding debt during a year can be no greater than 15% of the assessed value of the taxable property within the County, according to the then last completed assessment for taxation. However, the limitation is increased to 20% whenever counties issue bonds to repair or replace washed out or collapsed bridges on the public roads of the County. As of September 30, 2023, the amount of outstanding debt was equal to 3.97% of the latest property assessments.

The following is a summary of changes in long-term liabilities and obligations for the year ended September 30, 2023:

Governmental Activities:	Balance				Balance	Amount due within one year
	Oct. 1, 2022	Additions	Reductions	Adjustments	Sept. 30, 2023	
Compensated absences	\$ 125,629	13,478	-	-	139,107	
General obligation bonds	6,864,000	-	638,000	-	6,226,000	655,000
Financed purchases	1,640,456	296,891	550,986		1,386,361	588,859
Total	\$ 8,630,085	310,369	1,188,986	-	7,751,468	1,243,859

Compensated absences will be paid by the funds from which the employees' salaries were paid which are generally the General Fund and Road Maintenance Funds.

**NOTE 9 – DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN**

*General Information about the Pension Plan*

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

**PERRY COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

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 2.0 percent of their average compensation for each year of creditable service up to and including 30 years (25 years for those who became members of PERS before July 1, 2011), plus 2.5 percent for each additional year of creditable service with an actuarial reduction in the benefit for each year of creditable service below 30 years or the number of years in age that the member is below 65, whichever is less. Average compensation is the average of the employee's earnings during the four highest compensated years of creditable service. Benefits vest upon completion of eight years of membership service (four years of membership service for those who became members of PERS before July 1, 2007). PERS also provides certain death and disability benefits. A Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) payment is made to eligible retirees and beneficiaries. The COLA is equal to 3.0 percent 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 3.0 percent compounded for each fiscal year thereafter. Plan provisions are established and may be amended only by the State of Mississippi Legislature.

Contributions. At September 30, 2023, PERS members were required to contribute 9% of their annual covered salary, and the County is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The employer's rate at September 30, 2023 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, 2023, 2022, and 2021 were \$546,869, \$504,924, and \$471,987, 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, 2023, the County reported a liability of \$10,511,993 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2023, 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, 2023 net pension liability was 0.041795 percent, which was based on a measurement date of June 30, 2023. This was a decrease of 0.000257 percent from its proportionate share used to calculate the September 30, 2022 net pension liability, which was based on a measurement date of June 30, 2022.

For the year ended September 30, 2023, the County recognized pension expense of \$1,585,849. At September 30, 2023, the County reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

**PERRY COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 262,588	-
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	468,140	-
Changes of assumptions	1,227,175	-
Changes in the proportion and differences between County contributions and proportionate share of contributions	212,989	42,313
County Contributions subsequent to the measurement date	128,415	-
	<u>\$ 2,299,307</u>	<u>42,313</u>

The \$128,415 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, 2024. 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>
2024	\$ 848,454
2025	518,174
2026	758,824
2027	3,127
Total	<u>\$ 2,128,579</u>

Actuarial Assumptions. The total pension liability as of June 30, 2023 was determined by an actuarial valuation prepared as of June 30, 2022, by the investment experience for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. The following actuarial assumptions are applied to all periods in the measurement:

Inflation percentage	2.40%
Salary increases, including inflation	2.65 - 17.90%
Investment rate of return	
net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation	7.00%

Mortality rates for service retirees were based on the PubS.H-2010(B) Retiree Table with the following adjustments: For males, 95% of male rates up to age 60, 110% for ages 61 to 75 and 101% for ages above 77. For females, 84% of the female rates up to age 72 and 100% for ages above 76. Mortality rates for disability retirees were based on the PubG.H-2010 Disabled Table adjusted 134% for males and 121% for females. Mortality rates for Contingent Annuitants were based on the PubS.H-2010(B) Contingent Annuitant Table, adjusted 97% for males and 110% 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 period July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2022. The experience report is dated April 21, 2023.



**PERRY COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a log-normal 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 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 as of June 30, 2023, are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Domestic Equity	27.00 %	4.75 %
International Equity	22.00	4.75
Global Equity	12.00	4.95
Fixed Income	20.00	1.75
Real Estate	10.00	3.25
Private Equity	8.00	6.00
Cash Equivalents	1.00	0.25
	<u>100.00 %</u>	

Discount Rate. The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00 percent. 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 phased in to 22.40 percent over the three fiscal years (17.40 percent to FYE 2024, 19.40 percent for FYE 2025, 21.40 percent for FYE 2026, and 22.40 percent for FYE 2027). 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 7.00 percent, 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 (6.00 percent) or 1-percentage-point higher (8.00 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (6.00%)	Discount Rate (7.00%)	1% Increase (8.00%)
County's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 13,555,483	10,511,993	8,014,473

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 10 – CONTINGENCIES.**

**PERRY COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

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 statement.

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 the ultimate liability resulting from these lawsuits will not have a material adverse effect on the financial condition of the County.

**NOTE 11 – NO COMMITMENT DEBT (NOT INCLUDED IN FINANCIAL STATEMENTS).**

No commitment debt is repaid only by entities for whom the debt was issued and includes a debt that either bears the County's name or for which a moral responsibility may exist that is not an enforceable promise to pay. No commitment debt explicitly states the absence of obligation by the County other than possibly an agreement to assist creditors in exercising their rights in the event of default. Because a default may adversely affect the County's own ability to borrow, the principal amount of such debt outstanding at year end is disclosed as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Balance at Sept. 30, 2023</u>
Industrial revenue bonds	\$ <u>73,000,000</u>

**NOTE 12 - EFFECT OF DEFERRED AMOUNTS ON NET POSITION.**

The governmental activities' unrestricted net position deficit amount of \$(4,369,494) includes the effect of deferred inflows/outflows of resources related to pensions. A portion of the deferred outflow of resources related to pension in the amount of \$128,415 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, 2024. The \$2,170,892 balance of the deferred outflow of resources related to pensions at September 30, 2023, will be recognized in pension expense over the next four years. The \$42,313 balance of the deferred inflow of resources related to pension at September 30, 2023, will be recognized in pension expense over the next three years.

The governmental activities' unrestricted net position deficit amount of \$(4,369,494) includes the effect of recognition of deferring the recognition of revenue resulting from the lease receivable. The \$668,792 balance of deferred inflows of resources at September 30, 2023, will be recognized as revenue and will increase the unrestricted net position over the next 18 years.

The governmental activities' net investment in capital assets net position of \$36,111,730 includes the effect of deferring the recognition of expenditures resulting from a current refunding of County debt. The

**PERRY COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

\$30,106 balance of deferred amount on refunding at September 30, 2023, will be recognized as an expense and will decrease the net investment in capital assets net position over the next seven years.

**NOTE 13 – JOINT VENTURES.**

The County participates in the following joint ventures:

Perry County is a participant with the Counties of Covington, Greene, Jefferson Davis, Jones and Stone; and the Cities of Hattiesburg, Laurel and Petal in a joint venture, authorized by *Section 17-17-307, Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated*, to operate the Pine Belt Regional Solid Waste Authority. The joint venture was created to dispose of solid waste for members of the authority. The Perry County Board of Supervisors appoints three of the 15 members of the board of directors. The authority is funded by user fees based on the volume of solid waste. Complete financial statements for the Pine Belt Regional Solid Waste Authority can be obtained from P.O. Box 1898, Hattiesburg, MS 39403.

Perry County is a participant with the Town of Richton in a joint venture, authorized by *Section 61-3-5, Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated*, to operate the Richton-Perry County Airport. The joint venture was created to provide an airport facility available for use by the general public. The five members of the board of directors are appointed as follows: Perry County, two; Town of Richton, two; jointly by Perry County and the Town of Richton, one. Complete financial statements for the Richton-Perry County Airport can be obtained from City Hall at 208 Front South Street in Richton, Mississippi.

**NOTE 14 – JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS.**

The County participates in the following jointly governed organizations:

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 15-member board of commissioners, one appointed by the Board of Supervisors of each county and one appointed at large. The counties generally provide no financial support to the organization.

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 Perry County Board of Supervisors appoints three of the 24 members of the board of directors. The primary source of funding for the entity is derived from federal funds. The County provides a modest amount of financial support when matching funds are required for federal grants.

Southeast Mississippi Air Ambulance District provides air ambulance services to the Counties of Covington, Forrest, Greene, Jefferson Davis, Marion, Pearl River, Perry, Stone and Walthall. The Perry County Board of Supervisors appoints one of the nine members of the board of directors. The County appropriated \$41,532 for support of the district in fiscal year 2023.

Pine Belt Mental Health Care Resources operates in a district composed of the Counties of Covington, Forrest, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Jefferson Davis, Jones, Lamar, Marion, Pearl River, Perry, Stone and

**PERRY COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

Wayne. The Perry County Board of Supervisors appoints one of the 13 members of the board of commissioners. The County appropriated \$25,459 for support of the entity in fiscal year 2023.

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 Perry County Board of Supervisors appoints one of the 34 members of the board of directors. The County appropriated \$24,572 for support of the district in fiscal year 2023.

Jones County Junior College operates in a district composed of the Counties of Clarke, Covington, Greene, Jasper, Jones, Perry, Smith and Wayne. The Perry County Board of Supervisors appoints two of the 20 members of the college board of trustees. The County appropriated \$410,018 for maintenance and support of the college in fiscal year 2023.

**NOTE 15 – 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 Perry County evaluated the activity of the County through October 18, 2024 (the date the financial statements were available to be issued) and determined that the following subsequent events have occurred that require disclosure in the notes to the financial statements.

Subsequent to September 30, 2023, the County issued the following debt obligations:

<u>Issue Date</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Issue Amount</u>	<u>Type of Financing</u>	<u>Source of Financing</u>
11/7/2023	5.16	53,715	Financed Purchase	Ad valorem taxes
12/21/2023	5.15	154,304	Financed Purchase	Ad valorem taxes
12/21/2023	5.15	154,304	Financed Purchase	Ad valorem taxes
6/1/2024	3.95	6,000,000	General Obligation Bonds	Ad valorem taxes
7/10/2024	4.94	65,010	Financed Purchase	Ad valorem taxes
8/22/2024	4.72	51,999	Financed Purchase	Ad valorem taxes
8/22/2024	4.72	51,999	Financed Purchase	Ad valorem taxes

## **PERRY COUNTY**

### **REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**PERRY COUNTY**  
**Budgetary Comparison Schedule – Budget and Actual (Non-GAAP Basis)**  
**General Fund**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**  
**UNAUDITED**

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual (Budgetary Basis)	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
<b>REVENUES</b>				
Property taxes	\$ 4,541,453	4,541,454	4,541,454	-
Licenses, commissions and other revenue	230,536	230,536	230,536	-
Fines and forfeitures	198,784	195,284	195,284	-
Intergovernmental revenues	1,959,216	1,959,216	1,959,216	-
Charges for services	26,623	38,178	38,178	-
Interest income	165,387	165,387	165,387	-
Miscellaneous revenues	452,366	445,490	445,490	-
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>7,574,365</b>	<b>7,575,545</b>	<b>7,575,545</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
General government	3,436,963	3,436,931	3,436,931	-
Public safety	2,126,637	2,030,080	2,030,080	-
Health and welfare	125,176	125,176	125,176	-
Conservation of natural resources	32,701	32,701	32,701	-
Debt Service	9,204	105,760	105,760	-
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>5,730,681</b>	<b>5,730,648</b>	<b>5,730,648</b>	<b>-</b>
Excess of Revenues over (under) Expenditures	<b>1,843,684</b>	<b>1,844,897</b>	<b>1,844,897</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>				
Sources	177,770	176,592	176,592	-
Uses	(1,493,500)	(1,493,500)	(1,493,500)	-
<b>Total Other Financing Sources and Uses</b>	<b>(1,315,730)</b>	<b>(1,316,908)</b>	<b>(1,316,908)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net Change in Fund Balance</b>	<b>527,954</b>	<b>527,989</b>	<b>527,989</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Fund Balance - Beginning</b>	<b>5,947</b>	<b>6,610,364</b>	<b>6,610,364</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Fund Balance - Ending</b>	<b>\$ 533,901</b>	<b>7,138,353</b>	<b>7,138,353</b>	<b>-</b>

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

**PERRY COUNTY**  
**Budgetary Comparison Schedule – Budget and Actual (Non-GAAP Basis)**  
**American Rescue FY21 Fund**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**  
**UNAUDITED**

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual (Budgetary Basis)	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
<b>REVENUES</b>				
Intergovernmental revenues	-	-	-	-
Interest income	-	44,593	44,593	-
<b>Total Revenues</b>	-	44,593	44,593	-
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
General Government	-	638,542	638,542	-
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	-	638,542	638,542	-
Excess of Revenues over (under) Expenditures	-	(593,949)	(593,949)	-
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>				
Sources (Uses)	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Other Financing Sources and Uses</b>	-	-	-	-
Net Change in Fund Balance	-	(593,949)	(593,949)	-
Fund Balance - Beginning	-	2,320,194	2,320,194	-
Fund Balance - Ending	\$ -	1,726,245	1,726,245	-

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

**PERRY COUNTY**  
**Schedule of the County's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability**  
**Last 10 Fiscal Years\***  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**  
**UNAUDITED**

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
County's proportion of the net pension liability (asset)	0.041795%	0.042052%	0.039655%	0.038470%	0.037652%	0.036424%	0.035849%	0.037125%	0.038333%
County's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset)	\$ 10,511,993	8,655,832	5,861,182	7,447,345	6,623,730	6,058,393	5,959,321	6,631,451	5,925,525
County's covered payroll	\$ 3,098,125	2,895,001	2,645,442	2,561,617	2,429,664	2,325,988	2,299,759	2,374,978	2,394,838
County's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered payroll	339.30%	298.99%	221.56%	290.73%	272.62%	260.47%	259.13%	279.22%	247.43%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	55.70%	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.

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



**PERRY COUNTY**  
**Schedule of the County's Contributions**  
**Last 10 Fiscal Years\***  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**  
**UNAUDITED**

	<u>2023</u>	<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	\$ 546,869	504,924	471,987	446,106	400,981	365,277	361,334	369,838	377,942
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	<u>546,869</u>	<u>504,924</u>	<u>471,987</u>	<u>446,106</u>	<u>400,981</u>	<u>365,277</u>	<u>361,334</u>	<u>369,838</u>	<u>377,942</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ <u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
County's covered payroll	\$ 3,142,918	2,901,862	2,712,569	2,563,828	2,481,319	2,319,220	2,294,181	2,348,175	2,399,626
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	17.40%	17.40%	17.40%	17.40%	16.16%	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.

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

**PERRY COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**  
**NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

**UNAUDITED**

**A. Budgetary Information.**

Statutory requirements dictate how and when the County's budget is to be prepared. Generally, in the month of August, prior to the ensuing fiscal year beginning each October 1, the Board of Supervisors of the County, using historical and anticipated fiscal data and proposed budgets submitted by the Sheriff, Tax Assessor and 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.

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

**C. 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).

The following schedule reconciles the budgetary basis schedules to the GAAP basis financial statements for the General Fund and each major Special Revenue Fund:

	General Fund	American Rescue FY21 Fund
Budget (Cash basis)	\$ 527,989	(593,949)
Increase (Decrease)		
Net adjustments for revenue accruals	(152,733)	470,785
Net adjustments for expenditure accruals	201,470	167,757
GAAP Basis	<u>\$ 576,726</u>	<u>44,593</u>

**PERRY COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**  
**NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

**UNAUDITED**

**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.

**2016**

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

**2017**

- The expectation of retired life mortality was changed to the RP-2014 Healthy Annuitant Blue Collar Mortality Table projected with Scale BB to 2022. Small adjustments were also made to the Mortality Table for disabled lives.
- The wage inflation assumption was reduced from 3.75% to 3.25%.
- Withdrawal rates, pre-retirement mortality rates, disability rates and service retirement rates were also adjusted to more closely reflect actual experience.
- The percentage of active member disabilities assumed to be in the line of duty was increased from 6% to 7%.

**2019**

- The expectation of retired life mortality was changed to the PubS.H-2010(B) Retiree Table with the following adjustments:
  - For males, 112% of male rates from ages 18 to 75 scaled down to 105% for ages 80 to 119.
  - For females, 85% of the female rates from ages 18 to 65 scaled up to 102% for ages 75 to 119.
  - 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

**PERRY COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**  
**NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

**UNAUDITED**

disabled retirees with the following adjustments:

- For males, 137% of male rates at all ages.
- For females, 115% 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% to 9%.

**2021**

- The expectation of retired life mortality was changed to the PubS.H-2010(B) Retiree Table with the following adjustments:
  - For males, 95% of male rates up to age 60, 110% for ages 61 to 75, and 101% for ages above 77.
  - For females, 84% of the female rates up to age 72, 100% 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% of male rates at all ages.
  - For females, 121% of female rates at all ages.
  - Projection scale MP-2020 will be used to project future improvements in life expectancy generationally.
- The expectation of contingent annuitant mortality was based on the PubS.H-2010(B) Contingent Annuitant Table with the following adjustments:
  - For males, 97% of male rates at all ages.
  - For females, 110% 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 more closely reflect actual experience.
- The percentage of active member disabilities assumed to be in the line of duty was increased from 9% to 12%.
- The percentage of active member deaths assumed to be in the line of duty was decreased from 6% to 4%.

**2023**

- The investment rate of return assumption was changed from 7.55% to 7.00%.
- The assumed load for administrative expenses was decreased from 0.28% to 0.26% of payroll.

**PERRY COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**  
**NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

**UNAUDITED**

- Withdrawal rates, disability rates and service retirement rates were adjusted to reflect actual experience more closely.
- The percentage of participants assumed to receive a deferred benefit upon attaining the eligibility requirements for retirement was increased from 60% to 65%.
- For married members, the number of years that a male is assumed to be older than his spouse was changed from 3 years to 2 years.
- The assumed amount of unused sick leave at retirement was increased from 0.50 years to 0.55 years.
- The assumed average number of years of military service that participants will have at retirement was decreased from 0.25 years to 0.20 years.

**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.

**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, 2021 valuation for the June 30, 2023 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	26.7 years
Asset valuation method	5-year smoothed market
Price Inflation	2.40 percent
Salary increase	2.65 percent to 17.90 percent, including inflation
Investment rate of return	7.55 percent, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation

## **PERRY COUNTY**

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**PERRY COUNTY**  
**Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Federal Agency/ Pass-Through Entity/ Program Title or Cluster</b>	<b>Federal Assistance Listing Number</b>	<b>Federal Agency/ Pass-through Entity Identifying Number</b>	<b>Federal Expenditures</b>
<b>United States Department of Agriculture - Forest Service</b>			
Passed-through Mississippi State Treasurer's Office			
Forest service schools and roads cluster			
Schools and roads - grants to states	* 10.665	None	575,361
Total United States Department of Agriculture			575,361
<b>United States Department of Treasury</b>			
Passed-through Mississippi Emergency Management Agency			
COVID-19 Coronavirus Relief Fund	21.019	None	1,068
COVID-19 Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds	21.027	N/A	470,785
Total United States Department of Treasury			471,853
<b>United States Election Assistance Commission</b>			
Passed-through Mississippi Secretary of State			
HAVA Election Security Grants	90.404	None	37,241
Total United States Election Assistance Commission			37,241
<b>United States Department of Homeland Security</b>			
Passed- through Mississippi Emergency Management Agency			
Disaster Grants - Public Assistance (Presidentially Declared Disasters)	97.036	FEMA-4576-DR-MS	10,817
Emergency Management Performance Grants	97.042	None	17,137
Total United States Department of Homeland Security			27,954
<b>Total for All Federal Awards</b>			<b>\$ 1,112,409</b>
* Denotes Major Federal Award Program			

**NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS**

**Note A - Basis of Presentation**

The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards (the "Schedule") includes the federal award activity of Perry County under programs of the federal government for the year ended September 30, 2023. The information in this Schedule is presented in accordance with the 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). Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of Perry County it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net position or cash flows of Perry County.

**Note B - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

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. Negative amounts (if any) shown on the Schedule represent adjustments or credits made in the normal course of business to amounts reported as expenditures in prior years.

**Note C - Indirect Cost Rate**

Perry County has elected to use the 10% de minimis indirect cost rate allowed under Uniform Guidance.

**Note D - Schools and roads - grants to states**

Of the federal expenditures presented in the Schedule, the County provided federal awards totaling \$300,384 to subrecipients during the year ended September 30, 2023.

**PERRY COUNTY**  
**Reconciliation of Operating Costs of Solid Waste**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

Operating Expenditures, Cash Basis

Salaries	\$ 452,100
Expendable Commodities:	
Gasoline and petroleum products	76,037
Repair parts	3,759
Office, field and shop supplies	10,796
Clothing	711
Tires	14,950
Maintenance	40,999
Solid waste disposal fee	109,463
Professional fees, legal advertising and other fees	350
Telephone and utilities	3,203
Rent on other equipment	<u>438</u>
Solid Waste Cash Basis Operating Expenditures	<u><u>712,806</u></u>

Full Cost Expenses:	
Indirect administrative costs	15,580
Depreciation on equipment	95,107
Net effect of other accrued expenses	<u>2,899</u>
Solid Waste Full Cost Operating Expenses	<u><u>\$ 826,392</u></u>



**PERRY COUNTY**

**OTHER INFORMATION**

**PERRY COUNTY**  
**Schedule of Surety Bonds for County Officials**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**  
**UNAUDITED**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>Bond</u>
Bobby R. Bolton	Supervisor District 1	RLI Insurance Company	100,000
William K. Shows	Supervisor District 2	Western Surety Company	100,000
Peter T. Wise	Supervisor District 3	RLI Insurance Company	100,000
Richard O. Lott	Supervisor District 4	RLI Insurance Company	100,000
Marcus D. Williams	Supervisor District 5	Western Surety Company	100,000
Lawrence A. Wilson	Chancery Clerk	RLI Insurance Company	100,000
Sheryl Bradley	Receiving Clerk	Suretec Insurance Company	75,000
Richard P. McConnell	Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Hiram J. Breland	Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Jesse H. Clark	Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Tony G. Stroud	Assistant Receiving Clerk	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Leslie A. Cochran	Tax Assessor-Collector	Western Surety Company	100,000
Janice J. Pittman	Deputy Tax Collector	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Chantal Bolton	Deputy Tax Collector	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Patricia G. Hartfield	Deputy Tax Collector	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Kristen R. Dement	Deputy Tax Collector	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Angela Penton-Pittman	Purchase Clerk	RLI Insurance Company	100,000
Ashly Tingle	Assistant Purchase Clerk	RLI Insurance Company	75,000
Ashly Tingle	Inventory Control Clerk	RLI Insurance Company	75,000
Christy P. Mayo	Circuit Clerk	RLI Insurance Company	100,000
Tabitha S. Freeman	Deputy Circuit Clerk	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Mattie Smith	Deputy Circuit Clerk	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Guy A. Harvison	Constable	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Wayne Penton	Constable	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Laaron Dontae Hartfield	Constable	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
James M. Nobles	Sheriff	Western Surety Company	100,000
Carl Griffin	Justice Court Judge	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
William T. Odom	Justice Court Judge	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Teresa Watford	Justice Court Clerk	RLI Insurance Company	50,000
Shelia Renee Blake	Deputy Justice Court Clerk	RLI Insurance Company	50,000

## **PERRY COUNTY**

## **SPECIAL REPORTS**

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**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  
Perry County, Mississippi

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of Perry County, Mississippi (the County), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated October 18, 2024.

**Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

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

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph 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. However, as described in the Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses and significant deficiencies.

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. We consider the deficiencies described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs as items 2023-001, 2023-002, and 2023-004 to be material weaknesses.

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. We consider the deficiencies described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs as items 2023-003 and 2023-005 to be significant deficiencies.

## **Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Perry 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 Perry County, Mississippi, in the Independent Accountant's Report on Central Purchasing System, Inventory Control System and Purchase Clerk Schedules and the Limited Internal Control and Compliance Review Management Report dated October 18, 2024, included within this document.

## **Perry County's Responses to Findings**

*Government Auditing Standards* requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on Perry County, Mississippi's responses to the findings identified in our audit and described in the accompanying Auditee's Corrective Action Plan. Perry County's responses were not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and accordingly, we express no opinion on the responses.

## **Purpose of this Report**

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

*Bridgers, Goodman, Baird & Clarke, PLLC*

Bridgers, Goodman, Baird & Clarke, PLLC  
Certified Public Accountants  
Vicksburg, Mississippi  
October 18, 2024



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

Members of the Board of Supervisors  
Perry County, Mississippi

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

#### ***Qualified Opinion***

We have audited Perry 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 Perry County, Mississippi's major federal program for the year ended September 30, 2023. Perry County, Mississippi's major federal program is identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs.

#### ***Qualified Opinion on Forest Service Schools and Roads Cluster***

In our opinion, except for the noncompliance described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of our report, Perry County, Mississippi complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on Forest Service Schools and Roads Cluster for the year ended September 30, 2023.

#### ***Basis for Qualified Opinion***

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.

We are required to be independent of Perry 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 the major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of Perry County, Mississippi's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

#### *Matter Giving Rise to Qualified Opinion on Forest Service Schools and Roads Cluster*

As described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs, Perry County, Mississippi did not comply with the requirements regarding Forest Service Schools and Roads Cluster, as described in finding number 2023-006, for activities allowed or unallowed and allowable costs/cost principles. Compliance with such requirements is necessary, in our opinion, for Perry County, Mississippi to comply with the requirements applicable to that program.

#### ***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 Perry 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 Perry 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 Perry County, Mississippi's compliance with the requirements of the 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 Perry County Mississippi's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- Obtain an understanding of Perry 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 Perry 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.

## **Other Matters**

*Government Auditing Standards* requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on Perry County, Mississippi's response to the noncompliance finding identified in our compliance audit described in the accompanying Auditee's Corrective Action Plan. Perry County, Mississippi's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance, and accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

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

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 and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as discussed below, we did identify a certain deficiency in internal control over compliance that we consider to be a material weakness.

*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. We consider the deficiency in internal control over compliance described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs as item 2023-006, to be a material weakness.

*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 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.

*Government Auditing Standards* requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on Perry County, Mississippi's response to the internal control over compliance finding identified in our compliance audit described in the accompanying Auditee's Corrective Action Plan. Perry County, Mississippi's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance, and accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.



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.

*Bridgers, Goodman, Baird & Clarke, PLLC*

Bridgers, Goodman, Baird & Clarke, PLLC

Certified Public Accountants

Vicksburg, Mississippi

October 18, 2024

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

Members of the Board of Supervisors  
Perry County, Mississippi

We have examined Perry County, Mississippi's (the County) compliance with establishing and maintaining a central purchasing system and inventory control system in accordance with Section 31-7-101 through 31-7-127, Miss. Code Ann. (1972) and compliance with the purchasing requirements in accordance with the bid requirements of Section 31-7-13, Miss. Code Ann. (1972) during the year ended September 30, 2023. The Board of Supervisors of Perry 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 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 Perry 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.

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

**Inventory Control Clerk**

1. The Inventory Control Clerk should maintain an accurate inventory control system and comply with requirements for annual inventory.

<b>Repeat Finding</b>	Yes, 2022
<b>Criteria</b>	<p><i>Section 31-7-107, Mississippi Code Annotated (1972)</i>, requires the Inventory Control Clerk to maintain an inventory control system. An effective system of internal control over capital assets requires that certain data elements be captured in capital asset records for all capital assets. Required data elements include the description of the assets, costs, locations, acquisition dates, disposition dates, methods of disposition, and other relevant information. The presence of these data elements in capital asset records helps identify and distinguish county assets from one another, thereby safeguarding county assets from loss or misappropriation. The information is also very important in the financial reporting process.</p> <p>The statute further states, “the inventory control clerk, pursuant to regulations promulgated by the State Auditor, shall perform physical inventories of assets of the county on or before October 1 of each year and shall file with the board of supervisors, in triplicate, a written report of such inventory. The clerk of the board of supervisors shall keep the original of each inventory report so filed by the inventory control clerk as a permanent record of the county and shall forward a copy to the State Department of Audit not later than October 15.”</p>
<b>Condition</b>	<p>During the course of our review of the County’s inventory control system we noted that not all capital asset data elements had been properly recorded.</p> <p>We further noted that the records of the annual inventory had not been kept on hand nor was a report filed with the Office of the State Auditor.</p>
<b>Cause</b>	<p>The Inventory Control Clerk lacked the necessary internal control procedures required to ensure that all items are recorded, properly valued, and properly classified in the County’s capital asset records.</p> <p>The Inventory Clerk did not provide a report of the annual inventory to the Clerk of the Board. The Clerk of the Board did not maintain a copy of the report on file and did not file a copy with the Office of the State Auditor.</p>
<b>Effect</b>	<p>The failure to maintain an effective inventory control system could result in the reporting of inaccurate amounts and increases the possibility of the loss or misappropriation of public funds.</p> <p>Failure to properly perform an annual inventory and file evidence of such could result in the misappropriation of the County’s fixed assets as well as noncompliance with State law.</p>
<b>Recommendation</b>	<p>The Inventory Control Clerk should implement appropriate control procedures to ensure that all assets are recorded, properly valued, and properly classified in the County’s capital asset records. The information in the County’s capital asset records should be reconciled by all department heads through an annual inventory to ensure records are accurate and complete.</p>

The Inventory Clerk should annually perform an inventory of the County's fixed assets and provide a copy to the Clerk of the Board for preservation in the County's records as well as for filing with the Office of the State Auditor. The Clerk of the Board should ensure that the inventory report is filed with his office and then file a copy with the Office of the State Auditor.

**Response**

We will try our best to correct this problem.

In our opinion, except for the noncompliance referred to in the preceding paragraph, Perry County, Mississippi, complied, in all material respects, with state laws governing central purchasing, inventory and bid requirements for the year ended September 30, 2023.

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, Miss. Code Ann. (1972). The information contained on these schedules has been subjected to procedures performed in connection with our aforementioned examination and, in our opinion, is fairly presented when considered in relation to that examination.

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

This report is intended for use in evaluating Perry 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.

*Bridgers, Goodman, Baird & Clarke, PLLC*

Bridgers, Goodman, Baird & Clarke, PLLC  
Certified Public Accountants  
Vicksburg, Mississippi  
October 18, 2024

**Schedule of Purchases Not Made From the Lowest Bidder  
For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

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

**PERRY COUNTY**  
**Schedule of Emergency Purchases**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

**Schedule 2**

Our tests did not identify any emergency purchases.

**Schedule of Purchases Made Noncompetitively from a Sole Source  
For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Item Purchased</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Vendor</u>
12/13/2022	Slag Rock	\$ 1,797	MD Trucking
2/16/2023	Slag Rock	1,886	MD Trucking
2/28/2023	Slag Rock	5,667	MD Trucking
6/27/2023	Slag Rock	1,810	MD Trucking
7/6/2023	Slag Rock	975	MD Trucking
7/25/2023	Slag Rock	2835	MD Trucking

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## LIMITED INTERNAL CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE REVIEW MANAGEMENT REPORT

Members of the Board of Supervisors  
Perry County, Mississippi

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of Perry County, Mississippi for the year ended September 30, 2023, we considered Perry 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 Perry 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 October 18, 2024, on the financial statements of Perry County, Mississippi.

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

The results of our review procedures and compliance tests identified certain immaterial instances of noncompliance with state laws and regulations that are opportunities for strengthening internal controls and operating efficiency. Our findings, recommendations, and your responses are disclosed below:

### Board of Supervisors

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

**Repeat Finding** Yes, 2022, 2021



<b>Criteria</b>	<i>Section 19-3-27, Mississippi Code Annotated (1972),</i> requires a complete and correct record to be maintained for all proceedings of the Board of Supervisors.
<b>Condition</b>	During the course of the audit, it was noted that the interfund transfers were made without board orders being spread on the minutes and without properly disclosing the purpose of the interfund transfers.
<b>Cause</b>	The Board of Supervisors did not comply with state law by spreading all approvals for interfund transfers on the minutes and specifying the reason for each transfer.
<b>Effect</b>	The failure to obtain board approval for interfund transfers could result in erroneous amounts reported and increases the possibility of the loss or misuse of public funds.
<b>Recommendation</b>	The Board of Supervisors should spread complete orders upon the minutes relative to interfund transfers.
<b>Response</b>	Board meeting February 23, 2023 approved, but it did not meet the criteria, we will try to do it better.

**Circuit Clerk**

<b>2.</b>	<u>The Circuit Clerk Should Ensure Compliance with State Law Regarding the Timely Deposit of Funds.</u>
<b>Repeat Finding</b>	No
<b>Criteria</b>	<i>Section 25-1-72, Mississippi Code Annotated (1972),</i> states that, "All county officers who receive funds payable into the county treasury shall deposit such funds into the county depository on the day when they are collected or on the next business day thereafter."
<b>Condition</b>	During the course of our test work, we found that deposits were not made in a timely manner with eight (8) exceptions noted out of twenty (20) items tested.
<b>Cause</b>	These delays are due to inadequate internal controls surrounding the statutory requirements for the depositing of revenue collected in the Circuit Clerk's Office.
<b>Effect</b>	Inadequate controls surrounding the deposits of revenue collections could result in improper revenue recognition and noncompliance with statutory requirements. Failure to implement controls over cash could result in a delay in the timely reconciliation of bank accounts and settlement of funds to the County.
<b>Recommendation</b>	The Circuit Clerk should ensure that the deposits are being made in a timely manner as prescribed by statute.
<b>Response</b>	I will do my best to do this in a more timely manner.

## Sheriff

3. The Sheriff Should Ensure Compliance with State Law Regarding the Timely Deposit of Funds.

**Repeat Finding** No

**Criteria** *Section 25-1-72, Mississippi Code Annotated (1972), states that, "All county officers who receive funds payable into the county treasury shall deposit such funds into the county depository on the day when they are collected or on the next business day thereafter."*

**Condition** During the course of our test work, we noted that eight (8) of the ten (10) deposits were not made in a timely manner with some deposits being held as long as two (2) weeks prior to being deposited.

**Cause** These delays are due to inadequate internal controls surrounding the statutory requirements for the depositing of revenue collected in the Sheriff's Office.

**Effect** Inadequate controls surrounding the deposits of revenue collections could result in improper revenue recognition and noncompliance with statutory requirements. Failure to implement controls over cash could result in a delay in the timely reconciliation of bank accounts, and settlement of funds to the County.

**Recommendation** The Sheriff should ensure that the deposits are being made in a timely manner as prescribed by statute.

**Response** This was the previous administration.

4. The Sheriff should strengthen internal controls over reconciling bank accounts.

**Repeat Finding** No

**Criteria** An effective system of internal controls requires that bank reconciliations be prepared accurately and timely and any identified unreconciled differences be resolved in a timely manner.

**Condition** During the course of our test work, we noted that the Inmate Account bank reconciliations were not being completed.

**Cause** The Sheriff has not established a system of internal control to ensure cash accounts are accurately and timely reconciled.

**Effect** Not performing accurate and timely bank reconciliations creates a weakness in the system of internal controls over cash and may result in the loss or misappropriation of county assets.

**Recommendation** The Sheriff should implement an effective internal control system to ensure that all bank accounts are reconciled monthly in an accurate and timely manner.

**Response** This was the previous administration.

### Chancery Clerk

5. The Chancery Clerk Should Ensure Compliance with State Law over Expenses Claimed.

**Repeat Finding** No

**Criteria** *Section 9-1-43(1), Mississippi Code Annotated (1972), further states, “(1) After making deductions for employer contributions paid by the chancery or circuit clerk to the Public Employees’ Retirement System under Sections 25-11-106.1 and 25-11-123(f)(4), employee salaries and related salary expenses, and expenses allowed as deductions by Schedule C of the Internal Revenue Code, no office of the chancery clerk or circuit clerk of any county in the state shall receive fees as compensation for the chancery clerk’s or circuit clerk’s services in excess of Ninety-nine five hundred Thousand Dollars (\$99,500.00).”*

**Condition** The Clerk did not maintain and provide proper supporting documentation to support all expenses claimed.

Auditors were unable to obtain supporting documentation for professional fees and office expenses totaling **\$2,162.46**.

**Cause** The Clerk did not maintain and provide the necessary documentation to support that all expenses claimed were Schedule C deductions.

**Effect** Failure to maintain and provide all necessary supporting documentation for expenses and claiming expenses that are not allowable could result in the loss or misappropriation of public funds.

**Recommendation** The Clerk should maintain and provide support for all expenses claimed on the AFR.

**Response** No response provided.

6. The Chancery Clerk should strengthen controls over the Land Redemption account.

**Repeat Finding** No

<b>Criteria</b>	An effective system of internal control requires that collections be appropriately and timely settled, and differences be resolved in a timely manner.
<b>Condition</b>	During the course of our cash count, we noted an unidentified overage of <b>\$32,175.31</b> .
<b>Cause</b>	The information provided during our testing of internal controls over the land redemption account failed to show that all collections were timely and accurately settled.
<b>Effect</b>	Failure to properly settle all collections results in a weakness in the system of internal control over land redemption and may result in inappropriate or insufficient settlements to the various parties.
<b>Recommendation</b>	The Clerk should establish and maintain an effective internal control system over the land redemption account to ensure that all collections are timely and properly settled.
<b>Response</b>	No response provided.

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

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.

*Bridgers, Goodman, Baird & Clarke, PLLC*

Bridgers, Goodman, Baird & Clarke, PLLC  
Certified Public Accountants  
Vicksburg, Mississippi

October 18, 2024

## **PERRY COUNTY**

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

**PERRY COUNTY**  
**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

Section 1: Summary of Auditor's Results

**Financial Statements:**

- |    |  |            |
|----|--|------------|
| 1. | Type of auditor's report issued on the financial statements: | Unmodified |
| 2. | Internal control over financial reporting:                   |            |
|    | a. Material weaknesses identified?                           | Yes        |
|    | b. Significant deficiencies identified?                      | Yes        |
| 3. | Noncompliance material to the financial statements noted?    | No         |

**Federal Awards**

- |     |  |               |
|-----|--|---------------|
| 4.  | Internal control over major federal programs:  |               |
|     | a. Material weakness identified?   | Yes           |
|     | b. Significant deficiency identified?  | None reported |
| 5.  | Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for major federal program:   | Qualified     |
|     | ALN 10.665, Forest Service Schools and Roads Cluster   |               |
| 6.  | Any audit finding disclosed that is required to be reported in accordance with CFR 200.516 (a)?  | Yes           |
| 7.  | Identification of major federal programs:  |               |
|     | ALN 10.665, Forest Service Schools and Roads Cluster   |               |
| 8.  | Dollar threshold used to distinguish between type A and type B programs:   | \$750,000     |
| 9.  | Auditee qualified as low risk auditee?   | No            |
| 10. | Prior fiscal year findings 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

**Board of Supervisors.**

**Material Weakness**

**PERRY COUNTY**  
**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

<b>2023-001.</b>	<u>Internal controls should be strengthened to include adequate segregation of duties for the County's general accounting function.</u>
<b>Repeat Finding</b>	Yes, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011
<b>Criteria</b>	An effective system of internal controls should include adequate segregation of duties.
<b>Condition</b>	<p>The County's accounting system is not adequately segregated to ensure a proper internal control structure. Based on test work, we noted the following internal control weaknesses in the County's accounting structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The comptroller is also the inventory control clerk.</li> <li>b. Receipt warrants are posted to the general ledger by the comptroller, who maintains the general ledger.</li> </ul>
<b>Cause</b>	The Board of Supervisors lacks the proper segregation of duties necessary to maintain effective internal controls.
<b>Effect</b>	The conditions could result in unrecorded transactions, undetected errors, or misappropriation of funds.
<b>Recommendation</b>	The Board of Supervisors should implement effective internal control policies that allow for proper segregation of duties with respect to control of the general ledger and inventory accounting functions.
<b>View of Responsible Official(s)</b>	See Auditee's Corrective Action Plan
<b>Inventory Control Clerk.</b>	
<b>Material Weakness</b>	
<b>2023-002.</b>	<u>The Inventory Control Clerk should maintain an accurate inventory control system.</u>
<b>Repeat Finding</b>	Yes, 2022
<b>Criteria</b>	<p><i>Section 31-7-107, Mississippi Code Annotated (1972)</i>, requires the Inventory Control Clerk to maintain an inventory control system. An effective system of internal control over capital assets requires that certain data elements be captured in capital asset records for all capital assets. Required data elements include the description of the assets, costs, locations, acquisition dates, disposition dates, methods of disposition, and other relevant information. The presence of these data elements in capital asset records helps identify and distinguish county assets from one another, thereby safeguarding county assets from loss or misappropriation. The information is also very important in the financial reporting process.</p>

**PERRY COUNTY**  
**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

<b>Condition</b>	During the course of our review of the County's inventory control system we noted that not all capital asset data elements had been properly recorded.
<b>Cause</b>	The Inventory Control Clerk lacked the necessary internal control procedures required to ensure that all items are recorded, properly valued, and properly classified in the County's capital asset records.
<b>Effect</b>	The failure to maintain an effective inventory control system could result in the reporting of inaccurate amounts and increases the possibility of the loss or misappropriation of public funds.
<b>Recommendation</b>	The Inventory Control Clerk should implement appropriate control procedures to ensure that all assets are recorded, properly valued, and properly classified in the County's capital asset records. The information in the County's capital asset records should be reconciled by all department heads through an annual inventory to ensure records are accurate and complete.
<b>View of Responsible Official(s)</b>	See Auditee's Corrective Action Plan
<b>Justice Court Clerk. Significant Deficiency</b>	
<b>2023-003.</b>	<u>The Justice Court Clerk should establish adequate segregation of duties.</u>
<b>Repeat Finding</b>	Yes, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014
<b>Criteria</b>	An effective system of internal control over cash should include adequate segregation of duties.
<b>Condition</b>	During the course of our audit, it was noted that controls were inadequate over cash. The Justice Court Clerk receipts monies, prepares all bank deposits, reconciles the bank statements, posts receipts to the cash journals, prepares monthly settlement reports, and makes all disbursements.
<b>Cause</b>	The Justice Court Clerk lacked the proper segregation of duties necessary to maintain effective internal controls.
<b>Effect</b>	The failure to implement adequate controls over cash in the Justice Court office could result in the loss or misappropriation of public funds.
<b>Recommendation</b>	The Justice Court Clerk should ensure that there is adequate segregation of duties in the collecting, recording, and settlement functions.



**PERRY COUNTY**  
**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

**View of Responsible Official(s)**      See Auditee's Corrective Action Plan

**Tax Assessor-Collector.**  
**Material Weakness**

**2023-004.**                      Controls over the Tax Assessor-Collector's cash journal should be strengthened.

**Repeat Finding**              Yes, 2022

**Criteria**                      An effective system of internal control over the collection, recording, and disbursement of cash in the Tax Assessor-Collector's office should include proper maintenance of a cash journal and reconciliation of the bank accounts on a monthly basis.

**Condition**                      During the course of our audit, we noted the following areas of concern:

- a. The September 2023 bank reconciliation did not reconcile to the General Ledger Trial Balance Report.
- b. The General Ledger Trial Balance Report for September 2023 stated a cash amount of (\$1,520,356.75). The reported cash shortage was due to the Tax Assessor-Collector not posting receipts of the legislative tax credits received as well as other unidentified errors in the cash journal.
- c. The September 2023 bank reconciliation lacked adequate supporting documentation for outstanding checks, outstanding deposits, and bad checks.
- d. We noted various transactions in the cash journal that were not cleared once they were posted to the bank account.
- e. During our cash count at July 31, 2024, we noted a cash shortage of (\$52,839.74).

**Cause**                          The Tax Assessor-Collector lacked the necessary internal controls over cash.

**Effect**                          The failure to properly maintain the cash journal and reconcile bank statements on a monthly basis could result in undetected errors or the misappropriation of public funds.

**Recommendation**        The Tax Assessor-Collector should implement a system that ensures the cash journal is properly maintained and that bank statements are properly reconciled each month.

**PERRY COUNTY**  
**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

**View of Responsible Official(s)**      See Auditee's Corrective Action Plan

**Significant Deficiency**

**2023-005.**                      The Tax Assessor-Collector should establish adequate segregation of duties.

**Repeat Finding**              Yes, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015

**Criteria**                      An effective system of internal control over cash should include adequate segregation of duties.

**Condition**                      During the course of our audit, it was noted that controls were inadequate over cash. The Tax Assessor-Collector makes all deposits, reconciles the bank statements, maintains cash journals, prepares monthly settlement, and makes all disbursements.

**Cause**                          The Tax Assessor-Collector lacked the proper segregation of duties necessary to maintain effective internal controls.

**Effect**                          The failure to implement adequate controls over cash in the Tax Collector's office could result in the loss or misappropriation of public funds.

**Recommendation**              The Tax Assessor-Collector should ensure that there is adequate segregation of duties in the collecting, recording, and settlement functions.

**View of Responsible Official(s)**      See Auditee's Corrective Action Plan

Section 3: Federal Award Findings and Questioned Costs

**Compliance Requirement**              Activities Allowed or Unallowed and Allowable Costs/Cost Principles

**Material Weakness**  
**Material Noncompliance**

**2023-006.**                      The County should establish controls to ensure fifty percent of National Forest Distribution Title I Funds are settled to the schools.

**Assistance Listing Number**              10.665

**PERRY COUNTY**  
**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

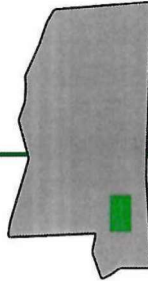
<b>Federal Award</b>	Forest Service Schools and Roads Cluster
<b>Federal Agency</b>	U.S. Department of Agriculture – Forest Service
<b>Pass-through</b>	Mississippi State Treasurer’s Office
<b>Questioned Costs</b>	None
<b>Repeat Finding</b>	Yes, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022
<b>Statistically Valid</b>	No
<b>Criteria</b>	During the fiscal year, the County received <b>\$575,361</b> in National Forest Distribution Title I funds, a portion of the Secure Rural Schools Act State payments, which are to be used to benefit public schools and public roads in counties where national forests are located. Upon receipt of these funds, fifty percent of the total received should be settled to the County’s public schools.
<b>Condition</b>	The County failed to settle the required fifty percent of the National Forest Distribution Title I funds received to the County’s public schools. The County received a total of thirteen (13) National Forest Distribution Title I payments during the fiscal year. However, during our audit test procedures, we noted that six (6) of these payments were not settled properly to the County’s schools.
<b>Cause</b>	The County lacked the necessary controls to ensure fifty percent of the total received from the Secure Rural Schools Act State payments was settled to the County’s public schools.
<b>Effect</b>	The County’s lack of adequate controls resulted in an overstatement of County revenues in the amount of <b>\$12,700</b> .
<b>Recommendation</b>	The County’s Board of Supervisors should take the necessary steps to ensure that fifty percent of the total National Forest Distribution Title I funds are properly settled to the County’s public schools.
<b>View of Responsible Official(s)</b>	See Auditee’s Corrective Action Plan

## **PERRY COUNTY**

### **AUDITEE'S CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN**

**PERRY**

OFFICE OF  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
NEW AUGUSTA, MISSISSIPPI 39462



**COUNTY**

PHONE NO. (601) 964-8370  
FAX NO. (601) 964-8265

Bridgers, Goodman, Baird & Clarke, PLLC  
Certified Public Accountants  
3528 Manor Drive  
Vicksburg, Mississippi 39180

To Whom It May Concern:

Perry County respectfully submits the following corrective action plan for the year ended September 30, 2023.

The findings from the Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs are discussed below. The findings are numbered consistently with the numbers assigned in the schedule. Section 1: Summary of Auditor's Results does not include findings and is not addressed.

**2023-001.**

Corrective Action Planned:

We have already delegated this responsibility to another employee.

Anticipated Completion Date:

Unknown

Name and Contact Person Responsible for Corrective Action:

Ashley Tingle  
Comptroller  
Phone #601.964.8370

**2023-002.**

Corrective Action Planned:

We will try our best to correct this problem..

Anticipated Completion Date:

Unknown

Name and Contact Person Responsible for Corrective Action:

Ashley Tingle  
Comptroller  
Phone #601.964.8370

**2023-003.**

Corrective Action Planned:

There are only two of us working in this office. Deputy Clerk also receipts monies, prepares bank deposits, and posts receipts to the cash journal. I do reconcile the bank statements and prepare monthly settlements and disbursements.

Anticipated Completion Date:

Unknown

Name and Contact Person Responsible for Corrective Action:

Teresa Watford  
Justice Court Clerk  
Phone #601.964.8366

**2023-004.**

Corrective Action Planned:

These issues were noted and researched. Better documentation will be provided in the future. There has always been an issue since taking office regarding the legislative tag credit. An overage from the previous tax collector's cash journal was given to the county which will always create a difference in my cash journal due to the way the legislative credit was distributed when I started office.

Anticipated Completion Date:

Unknown

Name and Contact Person Responsible for Corrective Action:

Amy Cochran  
Tax Assessor-Collector  
Phone #601.964.3398

**2023-005.**

Corrective Action Planned:

We are a small rural county, and this office only has three full time staff and two part time. However, effort will be made to segregate duties. The auditor made recommendations about how to segregate some of the duties and I will comply to the best of my ability.

Anticipated Completion Date:

Unknown

Name and Contact Person Responsible for Corrective Action:

Amy Cochran  
Tax Assessor-Collector  
Phone #601.964.3398

**2023-006.**

Corrective Action Planned:

I have submitted a claim summary to correct this issue. I will do my best to keep all funds going to the proper places

Anticipated Completion Date:

Unknown

Name and Contact Person Responsible for Corrective Action:

Larry Wilson

Chancery Clerk

Phone #601.964.8398

**PERRY COUNTY**

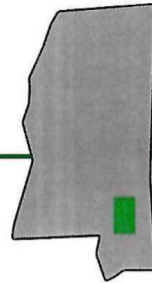
**SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR YEAR AUDIT FINDINGS**



**PERRY****COUNTY**

OFFICE OF  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
NEW AUGUSTA, MISSISSIPPI 39462

PHONE NO. (601) 964-8370  
FAX NO. (601) 964-8265



## Perry County Summary Schedule of Prior Year Audit Findings

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2022-001 (Originally 2011-001)	Internal controls should be strengthened to include adequate segregation of duties for the County's general accounting functions.	Not Corrected	We have a very small county, and there are not enough employees to segregate duties. We will try our best to comply.
2022-002 (Original reference number)	The Inventory Control Clerk should maintain an accurate inventory control system.	Not Corrected	We will try our best to correct and comply to the finding.
2022-003 (Originally 2014-004)	The Justice Court Clerk should establish adequate segregation of duties.	Not Corrected	There are only two of us working in this office. Deputy Clerk also receipts monies, prepares bank deposits, and posts receipts to the cash journal. I do reconcile the bank statements and prepare monthly settlements and disbursements.

**Perry County**  
**Summary Schedule of Prior Year Audit Findings (Continued)**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2022-004 (Original reference number)	Controls over the Tax Assessor-Collector's cash journal should be strengthened.	Not Corrected	These issues will be noted and researched. It does not appear that legislative credits were not posted yet for August and September. As noted in the cash journal, there possibly is something that was not posted but has cleared. Better supporting documentation will be provided in the future.
2022-005 (Originally 2015-003)	The Tax Assessor-Collector should establish adequate segregation of duties.	Not Corrected	We are a rural county with small limited staff. It is hard to segregate duties, but we will try to implement more to segregate duties.
2022-006 (Originally 2018-006)	The County should establish controls to ensure fifty percent of National Forest Distribution Title I funds are settled to the schools	Not Corrected	I have submitted a claim summary to correct this issue. I will do my best to keep all funds going to the proper places.