



GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA



ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 30, 2024



LANIGAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA

THIS REPORT CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS

Gulf County, Florida Board of County Commissioners (Government-wide)

Gulf County, Florida Clerk of the Circuit Court

Gulf County, Florida Property Appraiser

Gulf County, Florida Sheriff

Gulf County, Florida Supervisor of Elections

Gulf County, Florida Tax Collector



GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA



**ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT AND OTHER INFORMATION
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
INTRODUCTORY SECTION	
List of Elected and Appointed Officials.....	A-1
FINANCIAL SECTION	
Independent Auditor's Report	B-1
Management's Discussion and Analysis	C-1
Basic Financial Statements	
Government-wide Financial Statements:	
Statement of Net Position.....	D-1
Statement of Activities.....	D-2
Fund Financial Statements:	
Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds.....	E-1
Reconciliation of the Balance Sheet of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Net Position.....	E-3
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds.....	E-4
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities.....	E-6
Statement of Net Position - Proprietary Funds.....	E-7
Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Fund Net Position - Proprietary Funds.....	E-9
Statement of Cash Flows - Proprietary Funds.....	E-11
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position - Custodial Funds.....	E-13
Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position - Custodial Funds.....	E-14
Notes to Financial Statements.....	F-1
Required Supplementary Information	
Schedule of Changes in the County's Total Other Post Employment Benefits Liability and Related Ratios.....	G-1
Schedule of Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability - Florida Retirement System.....	G-2
Schedule of Contributions - Florida Retirement System.....	G-4
Schedule of Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability - Health Insurance Subsidy Program.....	G-6
Schedule of Contributions - Health Insurance Subsidy Program.....	G-8
Notes to Required Supplementary Information.....	G-10

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Schedules of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances - Budget to Actual:	
General Fund.....	H-1
CDBG Fund.....	H-2
Hurricane Housing Recovery Fund.....	H-3
Tourist Development Fund.....	H-4
General Grants Fund.....	H-5
Capital Projects Fund.....	H-6
SHIP Fund.....	H-7

Combining Financial Statements (Nonmajor Governmental Funds)

Description of Nonmajor Governmental Funds	I-1
Nonmajor Fund Financial Statements	
Combining Balance Sheet - Nonmajor Governmental Funds.....	I-3
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances - Nonmajor Governmental Funds.....	I-9

COMPLIANCE SECTION

Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	J-1
Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program and State Project and Report on Internal Control Over Compliance in Accordance with the Uniform Guidance and Required by Chapter 10.550, <i>Rules of the Auditor General</i>	J-3
Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and State Financial Assistance.....	J-6
Notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and State Financial Assistance.....	J-9
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs.....	J-11
Summary Schedule of Prior Year Audit Findings.....	J-14
Independent Auditor's Management Letter.....	J-15
Independent Accountant's Report on Compliance with Section 218.415, Florida Statutes.....	J-26
Independent Accountant's Report on Compliance with Sections 365.712(10) and 365.173(2)(d), Florida Statutes.....	J-27
Management's Response to Management Letter Recommendation.....	J-28

INTRODUCTORY SECTION

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
LIST OF ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS
AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

David Rich	District 1
Jack Husband	District 2
Patrick Farrell	District 3
Sandy Quinn, Jr.	District 4
Phillip McCroan	District 5

CLERK OF THE COURT AND COMPTROLLER

Rebecca L. Norris

SHERIFF

Mike Harrison

TAX COLLECTOR

Shirley J. Jenkins

PROPERTY APPRAISER

Mitch Burke

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

John M. Hanlon

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Michael Hammond

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Jeremy Novak

FINANCIAL SECTION

LANIGAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS
www.lanigancpa.com

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners and Constitutional Officers
Gulf County, Florida

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Gulf County, Florida (the "County") as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, 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 present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the County, as of September 30, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows 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* (GAS), issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. 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 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 management's discussion and analysis, pension and other post-employment benefit schedules, and budgetary comparison information as listed in the table of contents 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.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements. The combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards and state financial assistance, 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 Chapter 10.550, *Rules of the Auditor General*, respectively, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is also not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The description of the nonmajor governmental funds, combining nonmajor governmental fund financial statements, and schedule of expenditures of federal awards and state financial assistance are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the accompanying supplementary information listed above is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 6, 2025, on our consideration of the County'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 the County'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 County's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Lanigan & Associates, PC

Tallahassee, Florida

June 6, 2025

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The Management of the Board of County Commissioners of Gulf County has prepared the following discussion and analysis to (a) assist the reader in focusing on significant financial issues, (b) provide an overview and analysis of the County's financial activities, (c) identify changes in the County's financial position, (d) identify material deviations from the financial plan (approved budget), and (e) highlight significant issues in individual funds. Because the information contained in the Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) is intended to highlight significant transactions, events and conditions, it should be considered in conjunction with the County's financial statements.

The information presented in this financial statement is perhaps best understood when it is considered from the broader perspective of the environment in which the County operates.

General Information

Gulf County was incorporated in 1925 and is in northwest Florida on the Gulf of Mexico. With an area of 557 square miles, 2020 Federal Census data shows Gulf County has a population of approximately 14,200. The U. S. Census Bureau estimates the population of Gulf County has grown to almost 15,900 as of July 1, 2024. Gulf County is a sparse, low-density county. Gulf County is a non-charter county governed by a Board of County Commissioners.

The Board of County Commissioners (Board) is the legislative and policy making body of the County. Each of the five commissioners is elected from a separate district. Annually, the Board elects a chairman that serves as the presiding officer. Elections are held every two years for staggered four-year terms. The Board employs the County Administrator to implement the policies of the Board, provide organizational leadership and direct business and administrative procedures.

Gulf County provides a broad range of services, including law enforcement; fire protection; rescue; emergency medical services; maintenance of streets, highways, bridges, and traffic signals; parks; libraries; drinking water; and certain other community and human services.

Financial Highlights

- ❖ The County's assets and deferred outflows of resources exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflows of resources at September 30, 2024 by \$138,167,039. Of this amount, \$81,227,030 represents net investment in capital assets; \$32,664,174 is restricted for specific purposes (restricted net position); and the remaining portion represents unrestricted net position of \$24,275,835.
- ❖ As of September 30, 2024 and 2023, the County's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$74,122,001 and \$60,516,268, respectively.
- ❖ The County's general fund (primary operating fund) reported a total fund balance of \$29,509,775, an increase of \$5,014,490 from the prior year (fund balance).
- ❖ For the year ended September 30, 2024, the County's capital assets net of accumulated depreciation increased by \$8,545,504 or 9.6%.
- ❖ The County's loans (Notes from Direct Borrowing) decreased by (\$1,455,000) in fiscal year 2024. The County's percentage of loans compared to net position decreased from 15% to 11%. The other components of long-term debt are discussed in further detail later in this report.

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Non-Financial Highlights

Hurricane Michael

On October 10, 2018, Hurricane Michael made landfall less than twenty miles from Port St. Joe (Gulf County seat) between Mexico Beach and Tyndall Airforce Base in the Florida panhandle. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) rated Hurricane Michael a Category 5 with 155 mph sustained winds as the strongest hurricane on record to affect the Florida Panhandle. FEMA categorized Gulf County's damage as catastrophic. Great progress has been made in the recovery; however, efforts continue to the rebuilding of Gulf County infrastructure and economy. Additionally, Gulf County has been awarded new grants for projects for mitigation of future hurricanes and funding for projects to improve the County's infrastructure.

Population Changes

The population of Gulf County now surpasses the population prior to Hurricane Michael. Hurricane Michael caused substantial damage to Gulf Correctional Institution in Wewahitchka. Inmates housed at this facility were relocated to other State facilities. Before Hurricane Michael, the 2010 Census recorded a population in the facility of 3,328. The current population is 1,650. The Annex reopened in the first quarter of 2025 with hopes of returning to full capacity over time. It is important to note that inmates are counted as residents by the Federal Census.

Employment

The Gulf County unemployment rate in September 2024 was 3.5%. The State of Florida unemployment rate was 3.3%. Expectations are that the numbers of unemployed persons will decline. Public and private employers are unable to find needed persons to fill available job openings.

Revenue

The County wide valuation of the taxable property values increased from \$2.5 billion in 2022-2023 to \$2.9 billion in 2023-2024. The Board of County Commissioners voted to adopt a millage rate of 6.2000%. The original operating budget for fiscal year 2023-2024 was \$106,784,015. For fiscal year 2023-2024 countywide ad valorem revenue received was \$19,251,731 an increase of 22.7% over the prior fiscal year.

In addition to ad valorem taxes, the county relies on other revenue and grants to meet the budget requirements and needs. The following highlights are some of the relevant revenues and changes in revenue received during fiscal year 2024-2025:

- ❖ Gulf County Solid Waste generated \$2,003,445 of revenue during the third year of operations. The landfill continues to accept vegetation, concrete debris, and other debris. The Five Points Transfer Station and the Wetappo Transfer Station, which services the north end of the County, are in full operation.
- ❖ The St. Joe Bay Golf Club (SJBGC) generated \$1,059,393 in revenues, an increase of 2.9%. The County transferred \$545,2586 to the Golf Course. This funding was comprised of the recurring annual transfer of \$200,000 and an additional \$345,256 for completion of the new irrigation system. The County purchased the SJBGC from private owners for \$380,937. The assessed value of the SJBGC was \$1,724,816 on January 1, 2018. The SJBGC is an 18-hole Golf Course located

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

near Port St. Joe with approximately 173 acres. In addition to the 18-hole course, SJBGC offers a driving range, putting green, pool, and clubhouse. The full-service restaurant located inside the clubhouse is leased to a third party which operates the kitchen, bar, and dining area. A professional golf club manager is employed to manage the day-to-day operations. The SJBGC is open to the public for daily play. Annual and monthly memberships are available. Major improvements to the golf clubhouse are now underway.

- ❖ Building permit revenue was \$704,678, an increase of 1.8%, reflecting a steady pace of new in new construction in the County.
- ❖ Planning and zoning fees were \$172,111. An increase of 174.3% indicating further new projects and construction in the County.
- ❖ The Tourist Development Council (TDC) local option bed tax was \$4,778,940. Revenues increased 0.8% from the prior fiscal year. This revenue reflects a steady stream of visitors to Gulf County for short-term rentals.
- ❖ The Small County Surtax collections were \$2,089,360, an increase of 1.7%. Ascension Sacred Heart Gulf Hospital, part of the Ascension Sacred Heart Health System, opened in March 2010. The County adopted by ordinance in 2005 providing for a discretionary ½ cent small county surtax to help fund the construction of the hospital. An inter-local agreement was entered into with the City of Wewahitchka and the City of Port St. Joe whereby the County will receive all funds generated from the small county surtax and such funds will be used as set forth in the agreement. The additional tax was effective January 1, 2006.
- ❖ During its third full year of operation, fiscal year 2023-2024, the Gulf County Water System had total revenues of \$1,984,876, an increase of 17.4%. This does not include funds received from the Florida State Revolving Fund. The county involvement in public utilities increased with the growth of population and infrastructure in District V. In 2020, the County determined that to further public health and safety as well as economic growth and development in District V., the Gulf County should purchase assets and operations from Lighthouse Utilities Company, Inc. (LUCI) The county completed the purchase on November 30, 2020 for \$3,028,412. The County established a new proprietary fund, the Gulf County Water System, which operates the system to provide water to south Gulf County including Cape San Blas and Indian Pass.
- ❖ In February 2022, Gulf County entered into a loan agreement with the State of Florida, Department of Environmental Protection, State Revolving Fund (SRF), for a Principal Forgiveness Loan funded by the Federal Drinking Water Act. Amendments to this agreement have been executed. This loan in the amount of \$932,200 will be used to finance construction of improvements to the Gulf County Water System (GCWS). The final loan is \$515,886 after principal forgiveness. Revenues of the GCWS after payment of operation and maintenance expenses will be used for repayment of the debt.

Bonds

In November 2020, the County issued \$4,500,000 in new Capital Improvement Revenue Bonds, Series 2020. The funds from these bonds were used for the purchase the assets of Lighthouse Utilities Company, Inc. (LUCI). Additional funds from this bond issue will be used for improvements to the Gulf County Water System.

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Previously, the County issued two bonds during FY2016-2017. The County issued \$3,440,000 in Limited Ad Valorem Tax Bonds, Series 2016. These bonds are a limited obligation of the County, the principal and interest on the bonds are payable from and secured by a pledge of the ad valorem taxing power of the County within its three Cape San Blas Municipal Taxing Units of Bayside, Gulfside Beachfront, and Gulfside Interior. At the time of bond issuance, the County estimated that, based on the 2016 tax rolls, the initial levy necessary to comply with the requirements of the bonds, were 1.1052 mills for the Bayside, 1.3139 mills for the Gulfside Beachfront, and 1.1549 mills in the Gulfside Interior. For the 2024 fiscal year, per the current tax rolls, the County reduced the millage rates from 0.7115 mills to 0.3981 mills for Bayside, 0.8537 mills to 0.4897 for Gulfside Beachfront, and 0.7065 mills to 0.4059 mills for Gulfside Interior.

Grants

The County received both Federal and State grants during the fiscal year 2023-2024. The following is a sample list of the grants received and their uses. See the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and State Financial Assistance included in the financial statements for additional information.

- ❖ Road widening, resurfacing, and bridge repair projects utilized funds from Florida Department of Transportation CIGP, SCOP, and SCRAP grants in the amount of \$4,424,715.
- ❖ The Hurricane Housing Recovery Program expended \$868,405 in grant funds to assist residents with repairs and purchase assistance in response to Hurricane Michael.
- ❖ The Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance from Hurricane Michael (2018) totaled \$3,002,007.
- ❖ The County expended a total of \$4,194,851 in Coronavirus and American Recovery Plan Related Grants (CLFRF, FRP01 & MIH), which were used to meet the various needs of the County.

Overview of the Financial Statements

Management's discussion and analysis serves as an introduction to the basic financial statements of the County. The basic financial statements consist of three components:

1. Government-wide financial statements
2. Fund financial statements
3. Notes to financial statements

In addition, this report presents certain required supplementary information.

Government-wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements provide both short-term and long-term information related to the overall financial condition of the County similarly to those of a private-sector business. These statements combine and consolidate the governmental fund current financial resources (short-term expendable resources) with capital assets and long-term obligations. They include a *Statement of Net Position* and a *Statement of Activities* that are designed to provide consolidated financial information about the governmental activities of the County presented on the accrual basis of accounting.

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

- ❖ The *Statement of Net Position* provides information about the financial position of the County assets and liabilities, using an economic resources measurement focus. The difference between the assets and liabilities, the net position, is a measure of the financial health of the County.
- ❖ The *Statement of Activities* presents information showing how the County's net position changed during the 2024 fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods (e.g., uncollected taxes earned and earned but unused vacation leave). This statement is intended to summarize and simplify the user's analysis of cost of various governmental services. An increase or decrease in net position is an indication of whether the financial health of the County is improving or deteriorating.

These two financial statements present the functions of the County that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues (governmental activities) from other functions that are intended to recover all or a significant portion of their costs through user fees and charges (business-type activities). The governmental activities of the County include general government, public safety, physical environment, transportation, economic environment, human services, culture and recreation, and court related activities. The business-type activities of the County include the golf course, the transfer station, and water system. Separate water and sewer systems, which are not currently operational, are reported as residual assets associated with those activities.

Over time, changes in the net position of the County are an indication of improving or deteriorating financial condition. This information should be evaluated in conjunction with other nonfinancial factors, such as changes in the County's property tax base and the condition of the County's capital assets including infrastructure assets.

Fund Financial Statements

Fund financial statements are one of the components of the basic financial statements. A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The County uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements and prudent fiscal management. Certain funds are established by law while others are created by legal agreements, such as bond covenants. Fund financial statements provide more detailed information about the County's financial activities, focusing on its most significant or major funds rather than fund types. This contrasts with the entity-wide perspective contained in the government-wide statements. All the County's funds may be classified in the broad category of *governmental funds*, *proprietary funds*, and *fiduciary (agency) funds* as discussed below.

- ❖ Governmental funds – these funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, the governmental funds utilize a spendable financial resources measurement focus rather than the economic resources measurement focus found in the government-wide financial statements. This financial resource measurement focus allows the governmental fund statements to provide information on near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources as well as balances of spendable resources available at the end of the fiscal year. Consequently, the governmental fund

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

statements provide a detailed short-term view that may be used to evaluate the County's near-term financing requirements. This short-term view is useful when compared to the long-term view presented as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. To facilitate this comparison, both the Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds and the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance – Governmental Funds provide a reconciliation of governmental funds to governmental activities.

- ❖ Proprietary funds – the County maintains proprietary funds (enterprise funds). These funds are used to report business-type activities in the government-wide financial statements. The County uses enterprise funds to account for the fiscal activities relating to water and sewer systems (Gulf County Water System), the St. Joseph Bay Golf Club, and the Five Points Transfer Station. The proprietary funds provide the same type of information as the government-wide financial statements, only in more detail.
- ❖ Fiduciary (agency) funds – fiduciary funds are used to report assets held in a trustee or fiduciary capacity for the benefit of parties outside the government. Fiduciary funds are not reflected in the government-wide statements because the resources are not available to support County programs. In its fiduciary capacity, the County is responsible for ensuring that the assets reported in these funds are used only for their intended purposes.

Infrastructure Assets

Generally, a government's largest group of assets (infrastructure – roads, bridges, sidewalks, traffic signals, and underground pipes not associated with a utility, etc.) are not reported nor depreciated in governmental fund financial statements. GASB Statement No. 34 requires these assets be valued and reported in the governmental column of the government-wide statements. Additionally, the government must elect to either (a) depreciate the assets over the estimated useful life or (b) develop a system of asset management designed to maintain the service delivery potential to near perpetuity. If the government elects the asset management (the modified approach), which periodically (at least every third year), by category, measures and demonstrates its maintenance of locally established levels of service standards, the government may record its costs of maintenance in lieu of depreciation. The County has elected to depreciate its infrastructure assets.

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Government-wide Financial Analysis

Statement of Net Position

Net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. The County's assets and deferred outflows exceeded liabilities and deferred inflows (governmental and business-type activities) by \$138,167,039 at the close of the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024 and \$114,709,203 on September 30, 2023.

NET POSITION

	Governmental Activities		Business-type Activities		Total	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
ASSETS						
Current and other assets	\$ 81,449,497	\$ 68,203,665	\$ 3,407,270	\$ 2,793,246	\$ 84,856,767	\$ 70,996,911
Capital assets	89,185,791	81,501,800	8,729,752	7,868,239	97,915,543	89,370,039
Total assets	170,635,288	149,705,465	12,137,022	10,661,485	182,772,310	160,366,950
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS						
OF RESOURCES	5,869,798	4,861,521	256,540	214,779	6,126,338	5,076,300
LIABILITIES						
Current liabilities	7,327,496	7,687,397	550,399	332,603	7,877,895	8,020,000
Noncurrent liabilities	34,382,638	34,970,387	5,843,226	6,026,371	40,225,864	40,996,758
Total liabilities	41,710,134	42,657,784	6,393,625	6,358,974	48,103,759	49,016,758
DEFERRED INFLOWS						
OF RESOURCES	2,529,207	1,662,887	98,643	54,402	2,627,850	1,717,289
NET POSITION						
Net investment in capital assets	77,919,907	68,941,987	3,307,123	2,998,006	81,227,030	71,939,993
Restricted	32,664,174	22,814,500	-	-	32,664,174	22,814,500
Unrestricted	21,681,664	18,489,828	2,594,171	1,464,882	24,275,835	19,954,710
Total net position	\$ 132,265,745	\$ 110,246,315	\$ 5,901,294	\$ 4,462,888	\$ 138,167,039	\$ 114,709,203

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Statement of Activities

The following schedule summarizes revenues and expenses for the years ended September 30, 2024 and 2023.

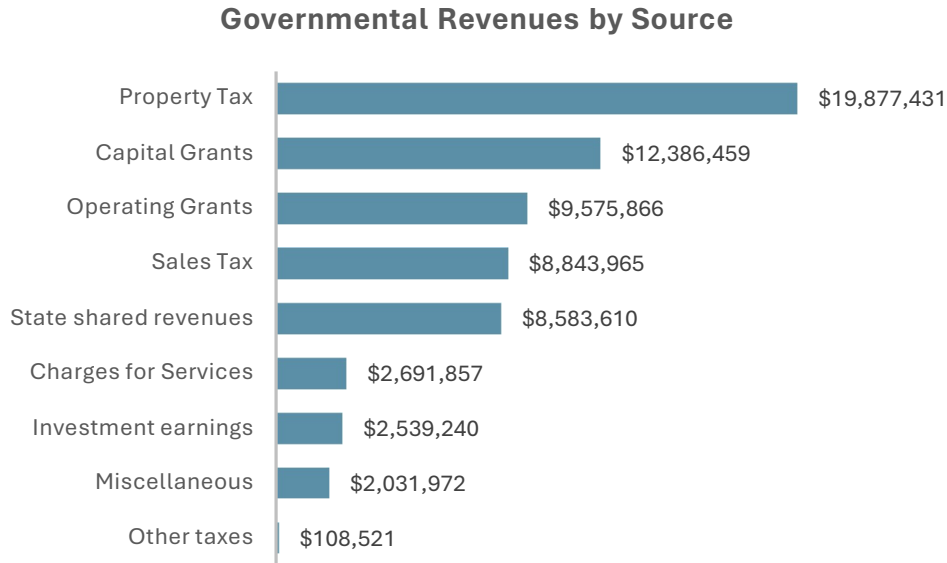
CHANGES IN NET POSITION

	Governmental Activities		Business-type Activities		Total	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
Revenues:						
Program revenues:						
Charges for services	\$ 2,691,857	\$ 2,331,144	\$ 4,623,707	\$ 4,603,597	\$ 7,315,564	\$ 6,934,741
Operating grants	9,575,866	15,692,128	-	-	9,575,866	15,692,128
Capital grants	12,386,459	3,507,909	64,267	149,806	12,450,726	3,657,715
General revenues:						
Property taxes	19,877,431	17,022,272	-	-	19,877,431	17,022,272
Sales taxes	8,843,965	8,505,005	-	-	8,843,965	8,505,005
State shared revenue	8,583,610	7,021,231	-	-	8,583,610	7,021,231
Other	4,679,733	5,980,591	255,934	237,373	4,935,667	6,217,964
Total revenues	<u>66,638,921</u>	<u>60,060,280</u>	<u>4,943,908</u>	<u>4,990,776</u>	<u>71,582,829</u>	<u>65,051,056</u>
Expenses:						
General government	10,810,063	11,832,206	-	-	10,810,063	11,832,206
Public safety	12,808,046	11,862,359	-	-	12,808,046	11,862,359
Physical environment	1,478,121	9,028,301	-	-	1,478,121	9,028,301
Transportation	10,768,614	4,133,490	-	-	10,768,614	4,133,490
Economic environment	2,584,066	6,398,133	-	-	2,584,066	6,398,133
Human services	2,907,724	760,485	-	-	2,907,724	760,485
Culture and recreation	1,010,801	2,958,681	-	-	1,010,801	2,958,681
Court related	792,992	862,804	-	-	792,992	862,804
Interest on debt	443,151	499,199	-	-	443,151	499,199
Business-type	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,521,415</u>	<u>4,703,767</u>	<u>4,521,415</u>	<u>4,703,767</u>
Total expenses	<u>43,603,578</u>	<u>48,335,658</u>	<u>4,521,415</u>	<u>4,703,767</u>	<u>48,124,993</u>	<u>53,039,425</u>
Change in net position before transfers	23,035,343	11,724,622	422,493	287,009	23,457,836	12,011,631
Transfers	<u>(1,015,913)</u>	<u>(788,825)</u>	<u>1,015,913</u>	<u>788,825</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Increase in net position	22,019,430	10,935,797	1,438,406	1,075,834	23,457,836	12,011,631
Net position - beginning	<u>110,246,315</u>	<u>99,310,518</u>	<u>4,462,888</u>	<u>3,387,054</u>	<u>114,709,203</u>	<u>102,697,572</u>
Net position - ending	<u>\$ 132,265,745</u>	<u>\$ 110,246,315</u>	<u>\$ 5,901,294</u>	<u>\$ 4,462,888</u>	<u>\$ 138,167,039</u>	<u>\$ 114,709,203</u>

MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

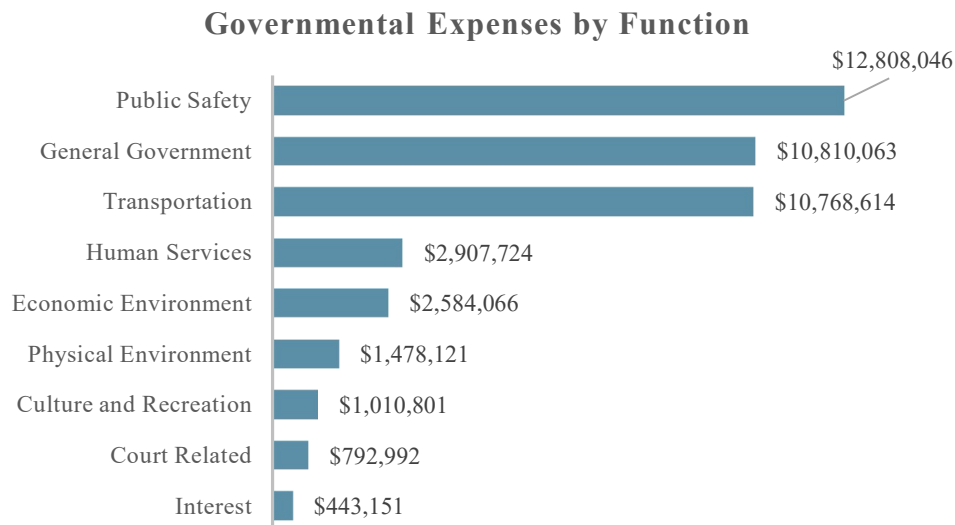
Governmental Activities Revenues by Source

The following graph depicts the County’s total governmental activities revenue by source for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024.



Governmental Activities Expenses by Functions

The following graph depicts the County’s total governmental activities expenses by function for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024.



MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Financial Analysis of Individual Funds

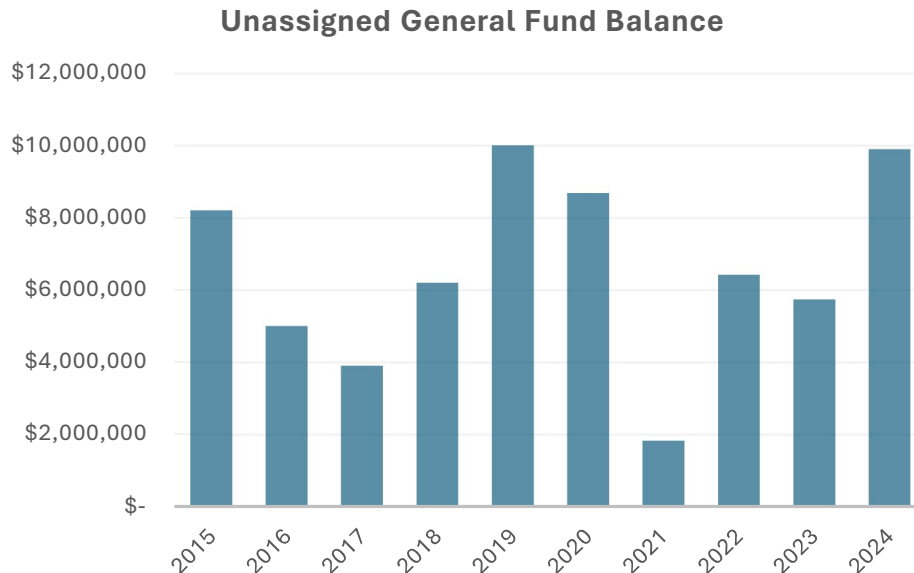
This section provides an analysis of the balances and transactions of individual funds. The County uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

❖ Governmental Funds

The primary purpose of the County’s Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds and the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance – Governmental Funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of spendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the County’s financing requirements. Unassigned fund balance may serve as useful measure of a government’s net resources, available for spending, at the end of the current and prior fiscal year. As of September 30, 2024, Gulf County governmental funds reported combined fund balances of \$74,122,001 an increase of 22.5% when compared to prior year combined fund balances. The governmental funds had non-spendable fund balances of \$1,417,943. The restricted fund balance was \$32,664,174 and consists of monies whose expenditure is externally constrained by grantors, creditors, binding law, or enabling legislation. Of the remaining fund balance, \$5,882,722 is classified as committed, \$24,259,303 is classified as assigned, and \$9,897,859 is recorded as unassigned.

❖ General Fund Unrestricted/Undesignated Fund Balance

As depicted in the following graph, the unassigned fund balance of the Board’s general fund (the general operating fund of the County) increased over the past year.



MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Major Funds

Governmental Funds

The general, community development block grant, hurricane housing recovery, tourist development, general grants, capital projects and state housing initiative partnership are reported as major governmental funds.

- ❖ General fund is the general operating fund of the County. All general tax revenues and other receipts that are not required either legally or by generally accepted accounting principles to be accounted for in other funds are accounted for in the general fund.
- ❖ General operating funds of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Property Appraiser, Sheriff, Tax Collector, and Supervisor of Elections represent funds included in the County's general fund that are held and accounted for individually but are presented with the balance of the Board of County Commissioner operating funds.
- ❖ Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) fund is used to account for community development block grant activity.
- ❖ Hurricane housing recovery fund is used to account for grants and other funds used to aid in the housing recovery from damage caused by Hurricane Michael.
- ❖ Tourist development fund are revenues generated from a 5% local option tourist development tax. The tax is a charge which is collected on all leases or rentals of any living quarters or accommodations with a term of less than six months. Funds are used to promote tourism in the County.
- ❖ General grants fund accounts for the activity of various grants.
- ❖ Capital projects fund is used to account for various capital projects being performed by the County.
- ❖ State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) fund is used to account for activity relating to the program's revenues and expenses.

Proprietary Funds

The County uses enterprise funds to account for the fiscal activities relating to water and sewer systems, the St. Joseph Bay Golf Club and the Five Points Transfer Station. The County owns the two remaining water systems, Williamsburg/Methodist Hill and Oak Grove. The City of Wewahitchka operates the Williamsburg/Methodist Hill Water System. Although there is not an active inter-local agreement this water system continues to be operated by the City of Wewahitchka under the terms of the 1993 inter-local agreement which terminated in 1994. The City of Port St. Joe operates the Oak Grove Water System. Neither one of these water systems brings any revenue to the County. The only expense to the County for either of these two water systems is depreciation.

MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Budget Variances in Major Funds

The following budget variances occurred in the major funds during the year ended September 30, 2024.

- ❖ Intergovernmental revenue (federal, state, and other local government sources in the form of grants, shared revenues, and payments in lieu of taxes) is \$3,382,213 more than budgeted in the general fund. The fiscally constrained – ad valorem tax offset funding came in higher than expected during the year.
- ❖ General fund charges for services include County officer fees, ambulance fees, tipping fees, and other charges for services. The negative variance of (\$169,883) is the result of charges being less than budgeted.
- ❖ General fund license and permit revenue shows a positive variance of \$443,182. This positive variance is from permits being higher than expected.
- ❖ Current expenditures for all governmental funds had positive variances.

Other variances disclosed on the major fund budget and actual statements and not noted herein are within expected ranges. It should be noted that budget expenditure variances shown on the individual major funds are favorable in total.

Capital Assets and Long-Term Debt

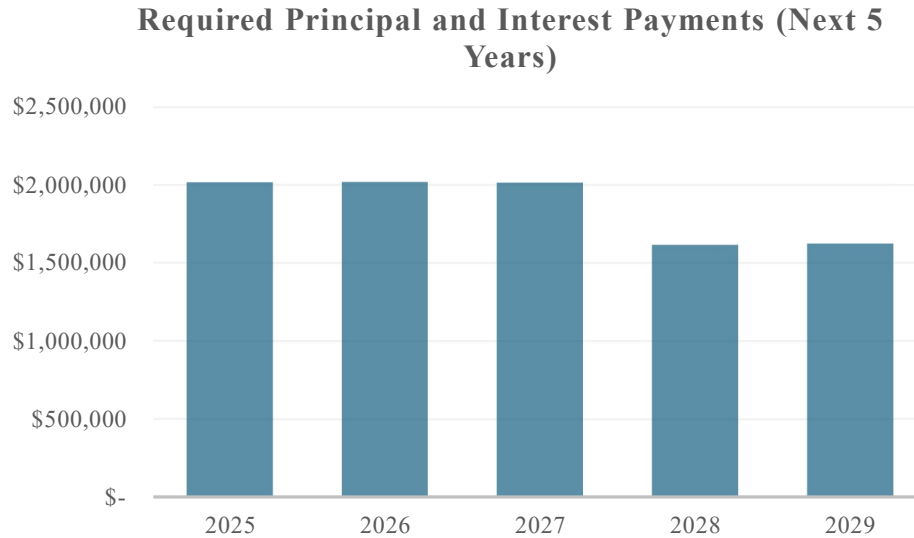
Capital assets. The County’s financial statements present capital assets in two categories: those assets subject to depreciation, such as buildings, infrastructure, and equipment; and those not subject to depreciation, such as land and construction in progress. At September 30, 2024, the County had \$97,915,543 invested in a variety of capital assets, as reflected in the following schedule, which represents a net increase (additions less retirements and depreciation) of \$8,545,504, or 9.6%, from the end of last year.

CAPITAL ASSETS (NET OF DEPRECIATION)

	Governmental Activities		Business-type Activities		Total	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
Land	\$ 7,709,230	\$ 7,249,044	\$ 962,125	\$ 962,125	\$ 8,671,355	\$ 8,211,169
Buildings and improvements	10,171,954	10,310,941	962,713	1,016,373	11,134,667	11,327,314
Equipment	7,883,660	7,003,469	542,594	614,633	8,426,254	7,618,102
Infrastructure	45,657,634	44,526,317	6,251,890	3,656,557	51,909,524	48,182,874
Work In progress	17,763,313	12,412,029	10,430	1,618,551	17,773,743	14,030,580
Total	<u>\$ 89,185,791</u>	<u>\$ 81,501,800</u>	<u>\$ 8,729,752</u>	<u>\$ 7,868,239</u>	<u>\$ 97,915,543</u>	<u>\$ 89,370,039</u>

MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Long-term Obligations. The following graph depicts future principal and interest payments required to be paid by the County on outstanding debt as of September 30, 2024. *Not shown on this graph are existing scheduled debt repayments for years 2030 through 2036.*



Taxable Value of Property and Millage Rates

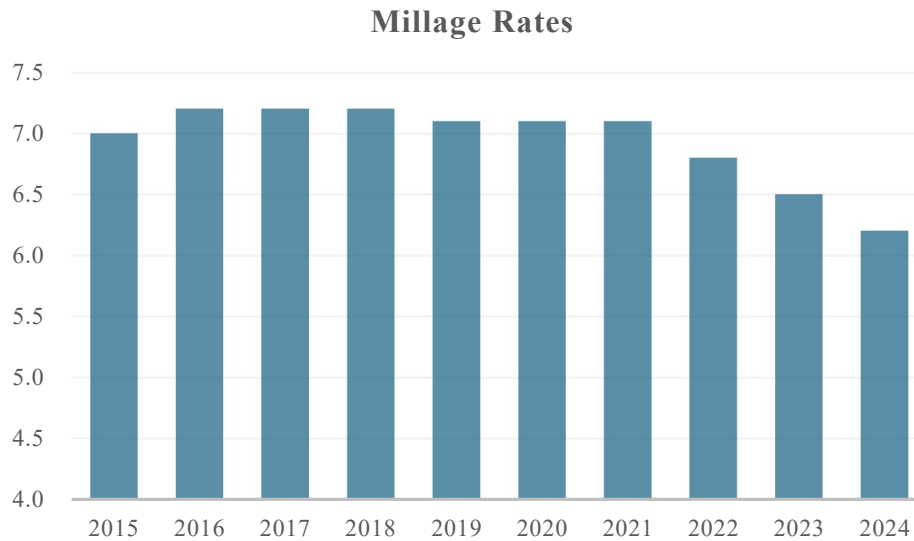
For the year ended September 30, 2024, the County calculated property taxes based on the certified taxable value of property of \$3,066,307,241.

Certified Taxable Value by Tax Year



MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Millage Rates by Tax Year



Requests for Information

This report is designed to provide citizens, taxpayers, investors, and creditors with a general overview of the County’s finances and to demonstrate compliance and accountability for its resources. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to:

Rebecca L. Norris
Clerk of Circuit Court of Gulf County
1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd., Room 148
Port St. Joe, Florida 32456

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Primary Government		
	Governmental Activities	Business-type Activities	Total
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 64,589,516	\$ 2,887,790	\$ 67,477,306
Receivables (net):			
Accounts receivable	588,761	187,166	775,927
Notes receivable	249,000	-	249,000
Prepaid items	1,424,943	245,340	1,670,283
Internal balances	(10,529)	10,529	-
Due from other governments	14,607,806	6,537	14,614,343
Inventory	-	69,908	69,908
Total current assets	<u>81,449,497</u>	<u>3,407,270</u>	<u>84,856,767</u>
Noncurrent assets			
Capital assets:			
Nondepreciable	25,472,543	972,555	26,445,098
Depreciable (net)	<u>63,713,248</u>	<u>7,757,197</u>	<u>71,470,445</u>
Total noncurrent assets	<u>89,185,791</u>	<u>8,729,752</u>	<u>97,915,543</u>
Total assets	<u>170,635,288</u>	<u>12,137,022</u>	<u>182,772,310</u>
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Pension related	5,444,257	256,540	5,700,797
OPEB related	<u>425,541</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>425,541</u>
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>5,869,798</u>	<u>256,540</u>	<u>6,126,338</u>
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	3,455,310	550,399	4,005,709
Due to other governments	141,750	-	141,750
Unearned revenue	<u>3,730,436</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,730,436</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>7,327,496</u>	<u>550,399</u>	<u>7,877,895</u>
Noncurrent liabilities			
Due in less than one year	1,890,760	269,454	2,160,214
Due in more than one year	<u>32,491,878</u>	<u>5,573,772</u>	<u>38,065,650</u>
Total noncurrent liabilities	<u>34,382,638</u>	<u>5,843,226</u>	<u>40,225,864</u>
Total liabilities	<u>41,710,134</u>	<u>6,393,625</u>	<u>48,103,759</u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Pension related	2,093,498	98,643	2,192,141
OPEB related	<u>435,709</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>435,709</u>
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>2,529,207</u>	<u>98,643</u>	<u>2,627,850</u>
NET POSITION			
Net investment in capital assets	77,919,907	3,307,123	81,227,030
Restricted	32,664,174	-	32,664,174
Unrestricted	<u>21,681,664</u>	<u>2,594,171</u>	<u>24,275,835</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ 132,265,745</u>	<u>\$ 5,901,294</u>	<u>\$ 138,167,039</u>

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

FUNCTIONS/PROGRAMS	Expenses	Program Revenues			Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position		
		Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities	Business-type Activities	Total
Primary government:							
Governmental activities:							
General government	\$ 10,810,063	\$ 758,502	\$ 733,660	\$ -	\$ (9,317,901)	\$ -	\$ (9,317,901)
Public safety	12,808,046	1,496,109	1,514,182	-	(9,797,755)	-	(9,797,755)
Physical environment	1,478,121	-	1,427,761	85,515	35,155	-	35,155
Transportation	10,768,614	78,028	3,832,403	2,863,356	(3,994,827)	-	(3,994,827)
Economic environment	2,584,066	15,870	1,834,449	9,437,588	8,703,841	-	8,703,841
Human services	2,907,724	29,500	210,290	-	(2,667,934)	-	(2,667,934)
Culture and recreation	1,010,801	26,704	23,121	-	(960,976)	-	(960,976)
Court related	792,992	287,144	-	-	(505,848)	-	(505,848)
Interest on long-term debt	443,151	-	-	-	(443,151)	-	(443,151)
Total governmental activities	43,603,578	2,691,857	9,575,866	12,386,459	(18,949,396)	-	(18,949,396)
Business-type activities:							
Water	1,213,678	1,712,087	-	64,267	-	562,676	562,676
County Golf Course	1,257,182	908,175	-	-	-	(349,007)	(349,007)
Williamsburg & Methodist Hill	14,295	-	-	-	-	(14,295)	(14,295)
Solid Waste	2,036,260	2,003,445	-	-	-	(32,815)	(32,815)
Total business-type activities	4,521,415	4,623,707	-	64,267	-	166,559	166,559
Total primary government	<u>\$ 48,124,993</u>	<u>\$ 7,315,564</u>	<u>\$ 9,575,866</u>	<u>\$ 12,450,726</u>	<u>\$ (18,949,396)</u>	<u>\$ 166,559</u>	<u>\$ (18,782,837)</u>
General revenues:							
Taxes							
Property tax					19,877,431	-	19,877,431
Sales tax					8,843,965	-	8,843,965
Other taxes					108,521	-	108,521
State shared revenues					8,583,610	-	8,583,610
Investment earnings					2,539,240	-	2,539,240
Miscellaneous					2,031,972	255,934	2,287,906
Transfers					(1,015,913)	1,015,913	-
Total general revenues					<u>40,968,826</u>	<u>1,271,847</u>	<u>42,240,673</u>
Changes in net position					22,019,430	1,438,406	23,457,836
Net position - beginning of year					110,246,315	4,462,888	114,709,203
Net position - end of year					<u>\$ 132,265,745</u>	<u>\$ 5,901,294</u>	<u>\$ 138,167,039</u>

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
BALANCE SHEET
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

	General Fund	CDBG	Hurricane Housing Recovery	Tourist Development	General Grants
ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 23,410,432	\$ -	\$ 1,512,718	\$ 11,247,527	\$ -
Accounts receivable	561,849	-	-	30	-
Notes receivable	-	-	-	-	-
Prepaid items	263,956	-	-	6,171	-
Due from other funds	6,839,558	-	-	1,997	-
Due from other governments	509,551	1,952,491	-	682,754	5,649,057
Total assets	<u>\$ 31,585,346</u>	<u>\$ 1,952,491</u>	<u>\$ 1,512,718</u>	<u>\$ 11,938,479</u>	<u>\$ 5,649,057</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES					
Liabilities					
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 1,229,280	\$ 390,001	\$ 1,530	\$ 94,540	\$ 1,144,257
Due to other funds	169,390	1,562,433	229,206	48,197	4,374,416
Due to other governments	141,602	-	148	-	-
Unearned revenue	535,299	-	1,281,834	12,375	130,384
Total liabilities	<u>2,075,571</u>	<u>1,952,434</u>	<u>1,512,718</u>	<u>155,112</u>	<u>5,649,057</u>
Fund balances					
Nonspendable	263,956	-	-	6,171	-
Restricted	734,748	-	-	11,777,196	-
Committed	476,143	57	-	-	-
Assigned	18,137,069	-	-	-	-
Unassigned	9,897,859	-	-	-	-
Total fund balances	<u>29,509,775</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,783,367</u>	<u>-</u>
Total liabilities and fund balances	<u>\$ 31,585,346</u>	<u>\$ 1,952,491</u>	<u>\$ 1,512,718</u>	<u>\$ 11,938,479</u>	<u>\$ 5,649,057</u>

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
BALANCE SHEET
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Capital Projects	SHIP	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 9,041,950	\$ 1,482,624	\$ 17,894,265	\$ 64,589,516
Accounts receivable	-	-	26,882	588,761
Notes receivable	-	-	249,000	249,000
Prepaid expenses	-	-	1,154,816	1,424,943
Due from other funds	-	-	201,933	7,043,488
Due from other governments	18,000	-	5,795,953	14,607,806
Total assets	<u>\$ 9,059,950</u>	<u>\$ 1,482,624</u>	<u>\$ 25,322,849</u>	<u>\$ 88,503,514</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES				
Liabilities				
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 74,538	\$ 437	\$ 520,727	\$ 3,455,310
Due to other funds	-	-	670,375	7,054,017
Due to other governments	-	-	-	141,750
Unearned revenue	-	1,482,187	288,357	3,730,436
Total liabilities	<u>74,538</u>	<u>1,482,624</u>	<u>1,479,459</u>	<u>14,381,513</u>
Fund balances				
Nonspendable	-	-	1,147,816	1,417,943
Restricted	67,592	-	20,084,638	32,664,174
Committed	2,795,586	-	2,610,936	5,882,722
Assigned	6,122,234	-	-	24,259,303
Unassigned	-	-	-	9,897,859
Total fund balances	<u>8,985,412</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,843,390</u>	<u>74,122,001</u>
Total liabilities and fund balances	<u>\$ 9,059,950</u>	<u>\$ 1,482,624</u>	<u>\$ 25,322,849</u>	<u>\$ 88,503,514</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
RECONCILIATION OF THE BALANCE SHEET OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position are different because:

Ending fund balance - governmental funds		\$ 74,122,001
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds.		
Cost of capital assets	141,868,151	
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(52,682,360)</u>	
		89,185,791
Deferred outflows and inflows of resources are not available in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds.		
Deferred outflows and inflows of resources at year-end consist of:		
Deferred outflows related to pensions	5,444,257	
Deferred outflows related to other post employment benefits	425,541	
Deferred inflows related to pensions	(2,093,498)	
Deferred inflows related to other post employment benefits	<u>(435,709)</u>	
		3,340,591
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.		
Liability for compensated absences	(2,747,142)	
Bonds payable	(11,190,000)	
Lease liability	(75,884)	
Net pension liability	(18,958,242)	
Other post employment benefits liability	(626,521)	
Landfill closure liability	<u>(784,849)</u>	
		<u>(34,382,638)</u>
Total net position of governmental activities		<u><u>\$ 132,265,745</u></u>

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	General Fund	CDBG	Hurricane Housing Recovery	Tourist Development	General Grants
REVENUES					
Taxes	\$ 19,901,259	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,801,015	\$ -
Licenses and permits	1,200,182	-	-	500	-
Intergovernmental	7,613,554	6,022,778	868,405	-	9,969,761
Charges for services	2,417,222	-	-	15,870	-
Fines and forfeitures	180,281	-	-	-	-
Investment earnings	1,108,644	-	69,860	406,743	-
Miscellaneous	155,024	-	-	531	-
Total revenues	32,576,166	6,022,778	938,265	5,224,659	9,969,761
EXPENDITURES					
Current					
General government	9,641,992	-	-	-	402,438
Public safety	10,256,499	-	-	-	723,468
Physical environment	203,643	167,806	-	317,735	253,413
Economic environment	247,127	-	709,059	1,393,168	-
Transportation	1,386,245	208,159	-	-	3,986,599
Court related	752,667	-	-	-	1,699
Human services	830,022	-	-	-	-
Culture and recreation	125,093	-	-	453,432	27,463
Capital outlay	369,446	5,646,813	-	530,269	4,338,524
Debt service					
Principal	18,929	-	-	-	-
Interest and other charges	1,128	-	-	-	-
Total expenditures	23,832,791	6,022,778	709,059	2,694,604	9,733,604
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	8,743,375	-	229,206	2,530,055	236,157
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
Transfers in	1,643,457	-	-	-	-
Transfers (out)	(5,372,342)	-	(229,206)	(831,992)	(236,157)
Total other financing sources (uses)	(3,728,885)	-	(229,206)	(831,992)	(236,157)
Net changes in fund balances	5,014,490	-	-	1,698,063	-
Fund balances - beginning, as previously reported	24,495,285	-	-	10,085,304	-
Adjustment - change between major and nonmajor funds	-	57	-	-	-
Fund balances - beginning, as adjusted	24,495,285	57	-	10,085,304	-
Fund balances - ending	\$ 29,509,775	\$ 57	\$ -	\$ 11,783,367	\$ -

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Capital Projects	SHIP	(Formerly) Disaster Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES					
Taxes	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,127,643	\$ 28,829,917
Licenses and permits	-	-	-	-	1,200,682
Intergovernmental	-	54,925	-	6,016,512	30,545,935
Charges for services	-	-	-	258,765	2,691,857
Fines and forfeitures	-	-	-	-	180,281
Investment earnings	301,282	45,578	-	607,133	2,539,240
Miscellaneous	105,002	31,178	-	359,274	651,009
Total revenues	406,284	131,681	-	11,369,327	66,638,921
EXPENDITURES					
Current					
General government	-	-	-	85,784	10,130,214
Public safety	6,479	-	-	884,921	11,871,367
Physical environment	-	-	-	19,299	961,896
Economic environment	-	131,681	-	48,722	2,529,757
Transportation	-	-	-	3,040,186	8,621,189
Court related	18,656	-	-	12,204	785,226
Human services	-	-	-	1,926,716	2,756,738
Culture and recreation	-	-	-	183,711	789,699
Capital outlay	586,348	-	-	833,366	12,304,766
Debt service					
Principal	-	-	-	1,275,000	1,293,929
Interest and other charges	-	-	-	442,023	443,151
Total expenditures	611,483	131,681	-	8,751,932	52,487,932
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(205,199)	-	-	2,617,395	14,150,989
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
Transfers in	3,545,142	-	-	2,113,936	7,302,535
Transfers (out)	-	-	-	(1,178,094)	(7,847,791)
Total other financing sources (uses)	3,545,142	-	-	935,842	(545,256)
Net changes in fund balances	3,339,943	-	-	3,553,237	13,605,733
Fund balances - beginning, as previously reported	-	-	4,608,202	21,327,477	60,516,268
Adjustment - change between major and nonmajor funds	5,645,469	-	(4,608,202)	(1,037,324)	-
Fund balances - beginning, as adjusted	5,645,469	-	-	20,290,153	60,516,268
Fund balances - ending	\$ 8,985,412	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,843,390	\$ 74,122,001

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
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, 2024

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds	\$ 13,605,733
--	---------------

Governmental funds report capital purchases as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is depreciated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which capital purchases exceeds depreciation expense in the current period.

Capital outlay	12,304,766	
Less: depreciation expense	<u>(4,021,411)</u>	
		8,283,355

The net effect of certain capital asset transactions (disposals) including the sale of land.

Disposals	(109,328)	
Transfer of capital assets to business-type	<u>(470,657)</u>	
		(579,985)

Debt proceeds provides current financial resources while repayment of the principal of long-term debt consumes the current financial resources of government funds. Neither transaction, however, has any effect on net assets.

1,293,929

Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds.

Change in compensated absences	(478,983)	
Change in lease right-of-use assets	(19,379)	
Change in pension related	(74,867)	
Change in other post employment benefits related	(16,038)	
Change in Landfill payable	<u>5,665</u>	
		<u>(583,602)</u>

Change in net position of governmental activities	<u><u>\$ 22,019,430</u></u>
---	-----------------------------

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
PROPRIETARY FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES AND ENTERPRISE FUNDS		
	Water	County Golf Course	Oak Grove
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,844,784	\$ 334,309	\$ 26,092
Accounts receivable	56,198	26,751	-
Prepaid items	245,225	115	-
Due from other funds	-	-	-
Due from other governments	6,537	-	-
Inventory	37,059	32,849	-
Total current assets	2,189,803	394,024	26,092
Noncurrent assets			
Capital assets:			
Land	237,450	334,601	737
Right-of-use asset	-	112,739	-
Buildings and utility system	101,240	47,978	269,453
Infrastructure	5,776,130	1,367,795	-
Machinery and equipment	133,589	409,440	-
Construction in progress	10,430	-	-
Less: accumulated depreciation	(939,171)	(299,843)	(269,453)
Total noncurrent assets	5,319,668	1,972,710	737
Total assets	7,509,471	2,366,734	26,829
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Pension related	85,514	85,513	-
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	439,953	24,014	-
Due to other funds	10	97	-
Current portion of operating lease liability	-	25,186	-
Current portion of capital lease liability	-	59,268	-
Current portion of note payable	-	-	-
Current portion of bond payable	185,000	-	-
Total current liabilities	624,963	108,565	-
Noncurrent liabilities			
Net pension liability	297,774	297,773	-
Operating lease liability, net of current portion	-	13,502	-
Capital lease liability, net of current portion	-	5,005	-
Note payable, net of current portion	515,886	-	-
Bond payable, net of current portion	4,146,058	-	-
Total noncurrent liabilities	4,959,718	316,280	-
Total liabilities	5,584,681	424,845	-
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Pension related	32,881	32,881	-
NET POSITION			
Net investment in capital assets	-	1,869,749	737
Unrestricted	1,977,423	124,772	26,092
Total net position	\$ 1,977,423	\$ 1,994,521	\$ 26,829

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
PROPRIETARY FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES AND ENTERPRISE FUNDS		
	Williamsburg and Methodist Hill	Solid Waste Fund	Total
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ -	\$ 682,605	\$ 2,887,790
Accounts receivable	-	104,217	187,166
Prepaid items	-	-	245,340
Due from other funds	-	10,687	10,687
Due from other governments	-	-	6,537
Inventory	-	-	69,908
Total current assets	-	797,509	3,407,428
Noncurrent assets			
Capital assets:			
Land	-	389,337	962,125
Right-of-use asset	-	-	112,739
Buildings and utility system	571,925	824,004	1,814,600
Infrastructure	-	-	7,143,925
Machinery and equipment	-	170,365	713,394
Construction in progress	-	-	10,430
Less: accumulated depreciation	(443,270)	(75,724)	(2,027,461)
Total noncurrent assets	128,655	1,307,982	8,729,752
Total assets	128,655	2,105,491	12,137,180
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Pension related	-	85,513	256,540
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	-	86,432	550,399
Due to other funds	-	51	158
Current portion of operating lease liability	-	-	25,186
Current portion of capital lease liability	-	-	59,268
Current portion of note payable	-	-	-
Current portion of bond payable	-	-	185,000
Total current liabilities	-	86,483	820,011
Noncurrent liabilities			
Net pension liability	-	297,774	893,321
Operating lease liability, net of current portion	-	-	13,502
Capital lease liability, net of current portion	-	-	5,005
Note payable, net of current portion	-	-	515,886
Bond payable, net of current portion	-	-	4,146,058
Total noncurrent liabilities	-	297,774	5,573,772
Total liabilities	-	384,257	6,393,783
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Pension related	-	32,881	98,643
NET POSITION			
Net investment in capital assets	128,655	1,307,982	3,307,123
Unrestricted	-	465,884	2,594,171
Total net position	\$ 128,655	\$ 1,773,866	\$ 5,901,294

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN FUND NET POSITION
PROPRIETARY FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES AND ENTERPRISE FUNDS		
	Water	County Golf Course	Oak Grove
Operating revenues			
Charges for services	\$ 1,712,087	\$ 908,175	\$ -
Other revenue	136,312	151,218	-
Total operating revenues	1,848,399	1,059,393	-
Operating expenses			
Payroll expenses	399,528	405,335	-
Professional	18,963	101,690	-
Contract services	114,216	169,163	-
Communications	10,671	9,195	-
Utilities	96,255	70,780	-
Rent	2,465	10,127	-
Repairs and maintenance	121,794	73,594	-
Advertising	-	1,491	-
Office supplies	5,112	9,930	-
Operating supplies	43,160	193,772	-
Cost of goods sold	-	92,950	-
Other	15,957	4,963	-
Other debt issuance costs	1,833	-	-
Depreciation	283,028	111,826	-
Total operating expenses	1,112,982	1,254,816	-
Net income (loss) before transfers and interest expense	735,417	(195,423)	-
Interest expense	(100,696)	(2,366)	-
Transfers in	451,982	563,931	-
Increase (decrease) in net position	1,086,703	366,142	-
Net position - beginning of year	890,720	1,628,379	26,829
Net position - end of year	\$ 1,977,423	\$ 1,994,521	\$ 26,829

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN FUND NET POSITION
PROPRIETARY FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES AND ENTERPRISE FUNDS		
	Williamsburg and Methodist Hill	Solid Waste Fund	Total
Operating revenues			
Charges for services	\$ -	\$ 2,003,445	\$ 4,623,707
Other revenue	-	32,671	320,201
Total operating revenues	-	2,036,116	4,943,908
Operating expenses			
Payroll expenses	-	387,029	1,191,892
Professional	-	-	120,653
Contract services	-	1,533,302	1,816,681
Communications	-	866	20,732
Utilities	-	804	167,839
Rent	-	1,069	13,661
Repairs and maintenance	-	49,430	244,818
Advertising	-	-	1,491
Office supplies	-	2,369	17,411
Operating supplies	-	26,857	263,789
Cost of goods sold	-	-	92,950
Other	-	1,018	21,938
Other debt issuance costs	-	-	1,833
Depreciation	14,295	33,516	442,665
Total operating expenses	14,295	2,036,260	4,418,353
Net income (loss) before transfers and interest expense	(14,295)	(144)	525,555
Interest expense	-	-	(103,062)
Transfers in	-	-	1,015,913
Increase (decrease) in net position	(14,295)	(144)	1,438,406
Net position - beginning of year	142,950	1,774,010	4,462,888
Net position - end of year	\$ 128,655	\$ 1,773,866	\$ 5,901,294

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
PROPRIETARY FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Water	County Golf Course	Oak Grove
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from customers	\$ 1,695,556	\$ 901,596	\$ -
Payments to suppliers	(158,458)	(774,476)	-
Payments to employees	(398,353)	(404,160)	-
Other receipts (payments)	228,827	161,128	-
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>1,367,572</u>	<u>(115,912)</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash flows from capital and related financial activities			
Acquisition of capital assets	(918,308)	(386,799)	-
Debt proceeds	98,446	-	-
Debt service principal	(199,754)	(57,822)	-
Interest	(100,696)	(2,366)	-
Net cash provided by (used in) capital and related financial activities	<u>(1,120,312)</u>	<u>(446,987)</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash flows from non-capital financial related activities			
Transfers in	451,982	563,931	-
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	699,242	1,032	-
Cash and cash equivalents - beginning of year	<u>1,145,542</u>	<u>333,277</u>	<u>26,092</u>
Cash and cash equivalents - end of year	<u><u>\$ 1,844,784</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 334,309</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 26,092</u></u>
Reconciliation of net income (loss) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:			
Net income (loss)	\$ 735,417	\$ (195,423)	\$ -
Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:			
Depreciation	283,028	111,826	-
Change in assets and liabilities:			
Inventory	-	2,455	-
Accounts receivable	(16,531)	(6,579)	-
Due from other funds	3,910	9,877	-
Due from other governments	88,916	-	-
Prepaid expenses	(2,300)	-	-
Accounts payable	274,268	(15,143)	-
Due to other funds	(311)	33	-
Net pension related	1,175	1,175	-
Operating lease liabilities	-	(24,133)	-
Other liabilities	-	-	-
Total adjustments	<u>632,155</u>	<u>79,511</u>	<u>-</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u><u>\$ 1,367,572</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (115,912)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
PROPRIETARY FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Williamsburg and Methodist Hill	Solid Waste Fund	Total
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from customers	\$ -	\$ 1,899,228	\$ 4,496,380
Payments to suppliers	-	(1,657,044)	(2,589,978)
Payments to employees	-	(385,853)	(1,188,366)
Other receipts (payments)	-	89,948	479,903
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	-	(53,721)	1,197,939
Cash flows from capital and related financial activities			
Acquisition of capital assets	-	-	(1,305,107)
Debt proceeds	-	-	98,446
Debt service principal	-	-	(257,576)
Interest	-	-	(103,062)
Net cash provided by (used in) capital and related financial activities	-	-	(1,567,299)
Cash flows from non-capital financial related activities			
Transfers in	-	-	1,015,913
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	-	(53,721)	646,553
Cash and cash equivalents - beginning of year	-	736,326	2,241,237
Cash and cash equivalents - end of year	\$ -	\$ 682,605	\$ 2,887,790
Reconciliation of net income (loss) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:			
Net income (loss)	\$ (14,295)	\$ (144)	\$ 525,555
Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:			
Depreciation	14,295	33,516	442,665
Change in assets and liabilities:			
Inventory	-	-	2,455
Accounts receivable	-	(104,217)	(127,327)
Due from other funds	-	57,277	71,064
Due from other governments	-	-	88,916
Prepaid expenses	-	-	(2,300)
Accounts payable	-	(41,329)	217,796
Due to other funds	-	-	(278)
Net pension related	-	1,176	3,526
Operating lease liabilities	-	-	(24,133)
Other liabilities	-	-	-
Total adjustments	14,295	(53,577)	672,384
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	\$ -	\$ (53,721)	\$ 1,197,939

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
CUSTODIAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Clerk of Court	Sheriff	Tax Collector	Total Custodial Funds
ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 877,258	\$ 38,981	\$ 545,314	\$ 1,461,553
Accounts receivable (net)	239	-	-	239
Due from other governments	2,130	-	-	2,130
Due from BOCC	630	-	-	630
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total assets	880,257	38,981	545,314	1,464,552
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
LIABILITIES				
Accounts payable	-	-	-	-
Due to individuals	43,932	38,981	40,448	123,361
Due to other governments	42,856	-	503,561	546,417
Due to BOCC	14,864	-	1,305	16,169
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total liabilities	101,652	38,981	545,314	685,947
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET POSITION				
Restricted	<u>\$ 778,605</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 778,605</u>

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
CUSTODIAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Clerk of Court	Sheriff	Tax Collector	Total Custodial Funds
ADDITIONS				
Taxes	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 47,028,719	\$ 47,028,719
Permits, fees, and special assessments	-	-	3,394,755	3,394,755
Deposits/escrow/surplus	623,300	-	-	623,300
Service charges/general government	4,322,361	48,258	-	4,370,619
Court related	1,867,842	-	-	1,867,842
Total additions	6,813,503	48,258	50,423,474	57,285,235
DEDUCTIONS				
Payments to other governments	-	-	27,922,679	27,922,679
Payments to BOCC	-	-	20,448,501	20,448,501
Payments to individuals	-	48,258	2,052,269	2,100,527
Payments to constitutional officers	-	-	25	25
Service charges	-	-	-	-
Deposits/escrow/surplus	461,917	-	-	461,917
Service charges/general government	4,320,147	-	-	4,320,147
Court related	1,700,925	-	-	1,700,925
Total deductions	6,482,989	48,258	50,423,474	56,954,721
Net change in fiduciary net position	330,514	-	-	330,514
Net position - beginning of year	448,091	-	-	448,091
Net position - end of year	\$ 778,605	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 778,605

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Reporting Entity

Gulf County, Florida (the “County”), located in Northwest Florida, is a political subdivision of the State of Florida and provides services to approximately 16,000 residents in many areas including general government, public safety, physical environment, transportation, economic environment, human services, and culture and recreation. The County is governed by a five-member elected Board of County Commissioners (the “Board”), which derives its authority from Florida Statutes and regulations. In addition to the members of the Board, there are five elected constitutional officers: Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sheriff, Tax Collector, Property Appraiser, and Supervisor of Elections.

The elected offices of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sheriff, Tax Collector, Property Appraiser, and Supervisor of Elections are operated as separate County agencies in accordance with applicable provisions of Florida Statutes. These constitutional officers operate on a budget system whereby County-appropriated funds are received from the Board and unexpended funds are returned to the Board. The Clerk of the Circuit Court operates as a fee officer by retaining various fees collected by this office and billing the Board for certain services provided. Separate accounting records and budgets are maintained by each individual office.

As required by Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 14, *The Reporting Entity*, the financial reporting entity consists of the primary government (composed of the Board of County Commissioners and Constitutional Officers) and the County’s component units, for which the primary government is financially accountable. Also included are other entities whose exclusion would cause the reporting entity’s financial statements to be misleading or incomplete. Each potential component unit is individually evaluated using specific criteria outlined in GASB Statement No. 14 to determine whether the entity is: a) part of the primary government; b) a component unit which should be included in the reporting entity (blended or discretely presented); or c) an organization which should be excluded from the reporting entity entirely. The principal criteria for classifying a potential component unit include the legal separateness of the organization, the financial accountability of the primary government for the potential component unit resulting from the primary government’s ability to impose its will on the potential component unit’s fiscal dependency on the primary government. The dependent special districts, Howard Creek Fire Control, Overstreet Fire Control, St. Joe Fire Control, Tupelo Fire Control, and Highland View Water and Sewer District are considered component units and are blended in the financial statements of the County as part of the enterprise funds and the special revenue funds. There are no other entities for which there were positive responses to specific criteria used for establishing oversight responsibility that were excluded from the County’s financial statements.

The County was established by the constitution of the State of Florida, Article VIII, Section 1 (e). Dependent special districts were created as follows: Highland View Water and Sewer District, Laws of Florida Chapter 61-2212; Howard Creek Fire District, Laws of Florida Chapter 79-467; Overstreet Fire District, Laws of Florida Chapter 78-513; St. Joe Fire District, Laws of Florida Chapter 47-24541; and Tupelo Fire District, Laws of Florida Chapter 70-696.

All fire Districts were conformed and re-established by County Ordinance #1996-12.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

The accounting policies of the County conform to U.S. generally accepted accounting principles as applicable to governments. The following is a summary of the significant accounting policies.

B. Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements (i.e., the statement of net position and the statement of activities) report information on all of the nonfiduciary activities of the primary government and its component units. For the most part, the effect of interfund activity has been removed from these statements. Governmental activities, which are normally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues, are reported separately from business-type activities, which rely to a significant extent on fees and charges for support. Likewise, the primary government is reported separately from certain legally separate component units, if any, for which the primary government is financially accountable.

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or segment are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or segment. Program revenues include: a) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function or segment; and b) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or segment. Taxes and other items not properly included among program revenues are reported instead as general revenues.

Separate financial statements are provided for governmental funds, proprietary funds, and fiduciary funds, even though the latter are excluded from the government-wide financial statements. Major individual governmental funds and major individual enterprise funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements.

The County reports seven major governmental funds:

- General Fund – The general fund is the County’s primary operating fund. It is used to account for all resources traditionally associated with governmental activities except those required to be accounted for in other funds.
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – This fund is used to account for community development block grant activity.
- Hurricane Housing Recovery Program – This fund is used to account for the Hurricane Housing Recovery Program activity.
- Tourist Development Fund – This fund accounts for the 5% local option tourist development tax.
- General Grants Fund – This fund accounts for the receipt and disbursement of general grant monies to the appropriate recipients.
- Capital Projects Fund – This fund is used to account for various capital projects being performed by the County.
- State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) – To account for activity relating to the program’s revenues and expenses.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

The County reports each of the enterprise funds as major funds. Each fund is used to account for the activity of the utility for the area served.

The County reports one type of fiduciary fund, custodial funds, which are used to account for the collection and disbursement of funds by the County on behalf of other governments and individuals.

C. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting, and Financial Statement Presentation

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting, as are the proprietary fund and fiduciary fund financial statements.

Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of the related cash flows.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the County considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures, as well as expenditures related to compensated absences are recorded only when payment is due.

Proprietary funds distinguish operating revenues and expenses from nonoperating items. Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services and producing and delivering goods in connection with a proprietary fund's principal ongoing operations. The County's enterprise activities are operated and maintained by local cities. The County receives the amounts billed to customers for the required debt service and bond payments.

D. Enterprise Activities

For enterprise activities, the County applies all applicable GASB pronouncements.

E. Budgets and Budgetary Accounting

General governmental revenue and expenditures accounted for in budgetary funds are controlled by a budgetary accounting system in accordance with various legal requirements which govern the County's operations. Budgets are monitored at varying levels of classification detail; however, expenditures cannot legally exceed total appropriations at the individual fund level. All budget changes that affect the total of a fund's budget must be approved by the Board.

The budgetary information presented for the general fund and any major governmental funds is prepared on the modified accrual basis. Encumbrances are not recorded. Unexpended items at year-end must be reappropriated in the subsequent year.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

F. Encumbrances

Encumbrances represent commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods and services which are chargeable to an appropriation and for which a part of the appropriation is reserved. Encumbrances do not represent expenditures or liabilities. Encumbrances outstanding at year end lapse and are reappropriated in the subsequent year.

G. Cash and Investments

Cash and cash equivalents consist of those deposits made locally in commercial banks and investments purchased through the Florida Local Government Investment Trust. All deposits in commercial banks are with qualified public depositories authorized by Chapter 280, Florida Statutes. The deposits are insured through FDIC and Florida's multiple financial institution collateral pool. The Florida Local Government Investment Trust deposits are maintained in investment pools which invest primarily in highly liquid commercial paper, repurchase agreements, bankers' acceptance notes, and United States Government obligations. The County follows GASB Statement No. 31, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Certain Investments and for External Investment Pools*, in reporting on investments owned. Generally, this statement requires various investments be reported at fair value, including debt securities and open-ended mutual funds.

H. Accounts Receivable

The County's and its component unit's accounts receivable, other than ambulance service accounts receivable as described in note 10, are deemed to be entirely collectible. Therefore, an allowance for uncollectible accounts receivable has not been recorded.

I. Due from (to) Other Funds

Activity between funds that are representative of lending/borrowing arrangements outstanding at the end of the fiscal year are referred to as "due to/from other funds." Any residual balances outstanding between the governmental activities and business-type activities are reported in the government-wide financial statements as "internal balances" when applicable.

J. Inventories

Inventory items of materials and supplies, which are not significant in amount, are considered expenditures when purchased in the governmental funds. The balance of physical inventory on hand at fiscal year-end has not been recorded because the amount is not considered material.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

K. Capital Assets

Capital assets, which include property, plant, equipment, and infrastructure assets (e.g., roads, right of ways, stormwater system, sidewalks, and similar items), are reported in the applicable governmental or business-type activities columns in the government-wide financial statements. Machinery and equipment with an initial, individual cost of more than \$1,000 and an estimated useful life in excess of one year are recorded as capital assets. Buildings, roads, bridges, and sidewalks are capitalized when their initial costs exceed \$25,000 and possess estimated useful lives of more than one year. Capital assets are recorded at historical cost when purchased or constructed or estimated historical cost if actual cost is unknown. Donated capital assets are recorded at estimated fair market value at the date of donation. The cost of normal maintenance and repairs that does not add to the value of an asset or materially extend its useful life is expensed as incurred.

Property, plant and equipment are depreciated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets, which are generally as follows:

Buildings	50 years
Improvements	50 years
Machinery and equipment	5-20 years
Infrastructure	15-25 years
Leased assets	Lease term

Major outlays for capital assets and improvements are capitalized as projects are constructed. For assets constructed with governmental fund resources, interest during the construction period is not capitalized.

L. Compensated Absences

The County maintains a policy that permits employees to accumulate earned but unused vacation and sick pay benefits that will be paid to employees upon separation from County service if certain criteria are met. These benefits, plus their related tax and retirement costs are classified as compensated absences. Employees may be paid for unused vacation hours accrued up to a maximum amount. Payment of unused sick leave, upon termination, is also provided for up to varying amounts.

Both the current and long-term portion of compensated absences are accrued and reported in the government-wide financial statements. No expenditure is reported in the government fund level statements for these amounts until payment is made. Compensated absences liability is based on current rates of pay. This is accounted for pursuant to GASB Statement No.16, *Accounting for Compensated Absences*.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

M. Property Taxes

Under Florida law, the assessment of all properties and the collection of all county, municipal, and school board property taxes are consolidated in the offices of the Property Appraiser and Tax Collector. The laws of the State regulating tax assessment are also designed to assure a consistent property valuation method statewide. Florida Statutes permit counties to levy property taxes at a rate of up to 10 mills for general operations. The 2024 tax year millage rate assessed by the County was 6.2 mills.

The tax levy of the County is established by the Board prior to October 1 of each year and the Property Appraiser incorporates the County millage rates into the total tax levy, which includes the various municipalities, the county school board, and other taxing authorities.

All property is assessed according to its fair market value January 1 of each year. Each assessment roll is submitted to the Executive Director of the Florida Department of Revenue for review to determine if the rolls meet all of the appropriate requirements of Florida Statutes.

All taxes become payable on November 1 of each year, or as soon thereafter as the assessment roll is certified and delivered to the Tax Collector. All unpaid taxes become delinquent on April 1 following the year in which they are assessed. Discounts are allowed for early payment at the rate of 4% in the month of November, 3% in the month of December, 2% in the month of January and 1% in the month of February. Taxes paid in March are without discount.

On or prior to June 1, following the tax year, tax certificates are sold for all delinquent taxes on real property. After sale, tax certificates bear interest of 18% per year or at any lower rate bid by the buyer. Application for a tax deed on any unredeemed tax certificates may be made by the certificate holder after a period of two years. Unsold tax certificates are held by the County.

N. Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

O. Use of Restricted Assets

It is generally the practice of the County to utilize restricted net position before unrestricted net assets when possible.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

P. Net Pension Liability

In the government-wide and proprietary fund statements, the net pension liability represents the County's proportionate share of the net pension liability of the cost-sharing pension plans in which it participates. This liability represents a share of the present value of projected benefit payments to be provided through cost-sharing plans, less the amount of the cost-sharing plans' fiduciary net position. The County participates in both the Florida Retirement System (FRS) defined benefit pension plan and the Health Insurance Subsidy Program (HIS) defined benefit plan administered by the Florida Division of Retirement. The County allocated the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and pension expense to the funds and functions/activities based on their respective contribution made to the pension plans for that fiscal year.

Q. Other Postemployment Benefits

The County has recorded a liability in the government-wide statements and the enterprise funds for postemployment benefits other than pensions. The financial reporting requirements for governments whose employees are provided with OPEB, include the recognition and measurement of liabilities, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and expenses.

R. Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

The statement of net position will sometimes report separate sections for deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources. Deferred outflows of resources represent a consumption of net assets that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until that time. Deferred inflows of resources represent an acquisition of net assets that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time.

The County also has items related to its retirement plan and OPEB plan which are reported in the government-wide and proprietary fund statements of net position as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources. Certain changes in the net pension liability and net OPEB liability are recognized as expense over time instead of all being recognized in the year of occurrence.

Experience gains or losses result from actuarial studies which adjust the net pension/OPEB liability (asset) for actual experience for certain trend information that was previously assumed, for example, the assumed dates of retirement plan members. These experience gains or losses are recorded as deferred outflows of resources or deferred inflows of resources and are amortized into expense over the expected remaining service lives of plan members. Changes in actuarial assumptions which adjust the net pension/OPEB liability (asset) are also recorded as deferred outflows of resources or deferred inflows of resources and are amortized into pension expense over the expected remaining service lives of plan members. The net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension/OPEB plan investments is deferred and amortized against pension expense over a five-year period.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

S. Long-Term Obligations

In the government-wide financial statements and for proprietary fund types in the fund financial statements, long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the applicable governmental activities, business-type activities, or proprietary fund statement of net position. Bond premiums and discounts are deferred and amortized over the life of the bonds using the effective interest method. Bonds payable are reported net of the applicable bond premium or discount.

T. Leases

The County is a lessee for various lease agreements and recognizes a lease liability and an intangible right-to-use lease asset (lease asset) in the government-wide financial statements. At the commencement of a lease, the County initially measures the lease liability at the present value of payments expected to be made during the lease term. Subsequently, the lease liability is reduced by the principal portion of the lease payments made at or before the lease commencement date, plus initial direct costs. Subsequently, the lease asset is amortized in accordance with principal amounts attributed over the term of the lease liability.

Key estimates and judgements related to leases include how the County determines (1) the discount rate is used to discount the expected lease payments to present value, (2) lease term, and (3) lease payments.

- The County uses the interest rate charged by the lessor as the discount rate. When the interest rate charged by the lessor is not provided, the County generally uses its estimated incremental borrowing rate as the discount rate for leases.
- The lease term includes the non-cancellable period of the lease. Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability are composed of fixed payments and purchase option price that the County is reasonably certain to exercise.

The County monitors changes in circumstances that would require a remeasurement of its lease and will remeasure the lease asset and liability if certain changes occur that are expected to significantly affect the amount of the lease liability.

Lease assets are reported with other capital assets and lease liabilities are reported with long-term debt on the statement of net position.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

U. Implemented Accounting Pronouncements

Effective October 1, 2023, the County adopted GASB Statement No. 100, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections*. This Statement establishes accounting and financial reporting requirements for (a) accounting changes and (b) the correction of an error in previously issued financial statements (error correction). This Statement defines accounting changes as changes in accounting principles, changes in accounting estimates, and changes to or within the financial reporting entity and describes the transactions or other events that constitute those changes. This Statement prescribes the accounting and financial reporting for (1) each type of accounting change and (2) error corrections. This Statement requires that (a) changes in accounting principles and error corrections be reported retroactively by restating prior periods, (b) changes to or within the financial reporting entity be reported by adjusting beginning balances of the current period, and (c) changes in accounting estimates be reported prospectively by recognizing the change in the current period. This Statement requires disclosure in notes to financial statements of descriptive information about accounting changes and error corrections, such as their nature. In addition, information about the quantitative effects on beginning balances of each accounting change and error correction should be disclosed by reporting unit in a tabular format to reconcile beginning balances as previously reported to beginning balances as restated. Furthermore, this Statement addresses how information that is affected by a change in accounting principle or error correction should be presented in required supplementary information (RSI) and supplementary information (SI).

V. Recently Issued Pronouncements, Not Yet Effective

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board has issued the following statements that will become effective in future years. The County is currently evaluating the effects that these statements will have on its subsequent financial statements.

GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences* – The objective of this Statement is to better meet the information needs of financial statement users by updating the recognition and measurement guidance for compensated absences. That objective is achieved by aligning the recognition and measurement guidance under a unified model and by amending certain previously required disclosures. The requirements of this Statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2023.

GASB Statement No. 102, *Certain Risk Disclosures* – The objective of this Statement is to provide users of government financial statements with essential information about risks related to a government's vulnerabilities due to certain concentrations or constraints. The requirements of this Statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2024.

W. Subsequent Events

The County evaluated subsequent events through June 6, 2025, the date on which the financial statements were available to be issued. The County did not identify any subsequent events that impact these financial statements.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 2: DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

Deposits Policies:

The County's cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, demand deposits, and short-term highly liquid debt instruments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

Investments Policies:

Florida Statutes, Section 218.415, authorizes the County to invest surplus funds in the following:

- The Local Government Surplus Funds Trust Fund (State Board of Administration) or any intergovernmental investment pool authorized pursuant to the Florida Interlocal Cooperation Act as provided s.163.01.
- Securities and Exchange Commission registered money market funds with the highest credit quality rating from a nationally recognized rating agency.
- Interest-bearing time deposits or savings accounts in state-certified qualified public depositories as defined in s. 280.02.
- Direct obligations of the United States Treasury.
- Federal agencies and instrumentalities.
- Securities of, or other interests in, any open-end or closed-end management-type investment company or investment trust registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, 15 U.S.C.ss. 80a-1 et. seq., as amended from time to time, provided that the portfolio of such investment company or investment trust is limited to obligations of the United States Government or any agency or instrumentality thereof and to repurchase agreements full collateralized by such United States Government obligations, and provided that such investment company or investment trust takes delivery of such collateral either directly or through an authorized custodian.

In addition, the County is authorized by law or by county ordinance to invest funds in the following securities:

- Commercial Paper of U.S. Corporations having a rating of at least two of the following three ratings: A-1, P-1, and F-1, as rated by Standard & Poors, Moody's, and Fitch Investors Service rating services.
- Bankers' Acceptances that are eligible for purchase by the Federal Reserve Banks and have a Letter of Credit rating of A or better.
- Obligations, rated A+ or better, of the State of Florida and its various local governments
- Overnight Repos (Repurchase Agreement) and Term Repos with maturities of less than 30 days.
- Corporate Securities rated AA/Aa by Standard & Poors and Moody's.
- Qualified Purchaser Funds (3(c)(7)funds) securities of an open-end management type investment company or investment fund advised by a Registered Advisor under rule 3(c)(7) of the Federal Investment Company Act of 1940, provided that the fund's investment guidelines state that the fund will seek to maintain a \$1 per share net position value.
- Auction Rate Securities rated AAA/aaa.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 2: DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

The Florida Local Government Investment Trust Fund (FLGIT) is a professionally managed fund available only to public entities in Florida. The investment policy of FLGIT restricts investments to direct obligations of or securities fully guaranteed by the United States; obligations of certain federal agencies, including collateralized obligations; repurchase agreements; and commercial paper.

As of September 30, 2024, the County's deposits consisted of the following:

	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Weighted Average Maturity</u>
Florida Local Government Investment Trust (FLGIT)	<u>\$ 6,430,650</u>	Demand
Total investment portfolio	<u><u>\$ 6,430,650</u></u>	

Custodial Credit Risk of Deposits:

All cash resources of the County are placed in banks that are qualified public depositories, as required by law (Florida Security for Public Deposits Act). Every qualified public depository is required by this law to deposit with the State Treasurer eligible collateral equal to, or in excess of, an amount to be determined by the State Treasurer. The State Treasurer is required to ensure that the County's funds are entirely collateralized throughout the fiscal year. In the event of failure by a qualified public depository, losses in excess of federal depository insurance and proceeds from the sale of the securities pledged by the defaulting depository are assessed against the other qualified public depositories of the same type as the depository in default. When other qualified public depositories are assessed additional amounts, they are assessed on a pro-rata basis.

Interest Rate Risk:

At September 30, 2024, the County did not hold any investments that were an interest rate risk.

Credit Risks:

At September 30, 2024, the County did not hold any investments that were considered to be a credit risk.

Concentration of Credit Risk:

At September 30, 2024, the County did not hold any investments that were considered to be a concentration of credit risk.

Custodial Risk:

For an investment, there is a risk that in the event of a failure of the counterparty to a transaction, the government will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateralized securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The County's investments are excluded from the definition of custodial credit risk.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 3: INTERFUND TRANSACTIONS

During normal operations, numerous transactions occur between funds, such as expenditures or transfers of resources to provide services, service debt, or construct assets. The interfund transactions are eliminated in the government-wide financial statement totals. As of September 30, 2024, the County maintained the following interfund receivables/payables.

<u>Receivable Fund</u>	<u>Payable Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General fund	General grants fund	\$ 4,374,416
General fund	CDBG fund	1,562,433
General fund	Hurricane housing recovery fund	229,206
General fund	Tourist development fund	3,150
General fund	Solid waste fund	51
General fund	Nonmajor governmental funds	670,302
Nonmajor governmental funds	Nonmajor governmental funds	73
Tourist development fund	General fund	1,997
Solid waste fund	General fund	6,498
Solid waste fund	Water fund	10
Solid waste fund	Golf course fund	97
Solid waste fund	Tourist development fund	4,082
Nonmajor governmental funds	General fund	160,895
Nonmajor governmental funds	Tourist development fund	40,965
		<u>\$ 7,054,175</u>

All amounts are expected to be paid within one year.

Operating transfers between funds were as follows for the year ended September 30, 2024:

<u>Transfers in</u>	<u>Transfers out</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General fund	General grants fund	\$ 236,157
General fund	Hurricane housing recovery fund	229,206
General fund	Nonmajor governmental funds	1,178,094
Capital projects	General fund	3,545,142
Golf course fund	Tourist development fund	545,256
Golf course fund	Government-wide capital assets	18,675
Water fund	Government-wide capital assets	451,982
Nonmajor governmental funds	Tourist development fund	286,736
Nonmajor governmental funds	General fund	1,827,200
		<u>\$ 8,318,448</u>

The transfers above were for budgeted operations.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 4: CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024 was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions and Transfers	Ending Balance
Governmental activities:				
Capital assets not being depreciated:				
Land	\$ 7,249,044	\$ 460,186	\$ -	\$ 7,709,230
Construction in progress	12,412,029	9,115,255	(3,763,971)	17,763,313
Total capital assets not being depreciated	19,661,073	9,575,441	(3,763,971)	25,472,543
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Right-of-use asset	180,463	-	-	180,463
Buildings and improvements	18,529,880	80,136	-	18,610,016
Machinery and equipment - BOCC	19,492,615	2,260,487	(746,162)	21,006,940
Machinery and equipment - Sheriff	2,172,310	346,598	-	2,518,908
Infrastructure	70,743,864	42,104	3,293,313	74,079,281
Total capital assets being depreciated	111,119,132	2,729,325	2,547,151	116,395,608
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Right-of-use asset	(87,823)	(19,379)	-	(107,202)
Buildings and improvements	(8,218,939)	(292,384)	-	(8,511,323)
Machinery and equipment - BOCC	(13,146,890)	(1,276,131)	636,835	(13,786,186)
Machinery and equipment - Sheriff	(1,607,206)	(248,796)	-	(1,856,002)
Infrastructure	(26,217,547)	(2,204,100)	-	(28,421,647)
Total accumulated depreciation	(49,278,405)	(4,040,790)	636,835	(52,682,360)
Total capital assets being depreciated, net	61,840,727	(1,311,465)	3,183,986	63,713,248
Total governmental activities, capital assets, net	\$ 81,501,800	\$ 8,263,976	\$ (579,985)	\$ 89,185,791

Depreciation expense was charged to governmental activities functions/programs of the primary government as follows:

Governmental activities:	
General government	\$ 176,180
Public safety	890,103
Physical environment	499,487
Economic environment	47,049
Transportation	2,069,793
Court related	5,319
Human services	139,078
Culture and recreation	213,781
Total depreciation expense - governmental activities	<u>\$ 4,040,790</u>

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 4: CAPITAL ASSETS (CONTINUED)

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions and Transfers	Ending Balance
Business-type activities:				
Capital assets not being depreciated:				
Land	\$ 962,125	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 962,125
Construction in progress	1,618,551	746,280	(2,354,401)	10,430
Total capital assets not being depreciated	2,580,676	746,280	(2,354,401)	972,555
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Right-of-use asset	113,668	-	(929)	112,739
Buildings and utility systems	1,814,600	-	-	1,814,600
Infrastructure	4,255,945	533,579	2,354,401	7,143,925
Machinery and equipment	688,146	25,248	-	713,394
Total capital assets being depreciated	6,872,359	558,827	2,353,472	9,784,658
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Right-of-use asset	(47,525)	(28,194)	-	(75,719)
Buildings and utility systems	(798,227)	(53,660)	-	(851,887)
Infrastructure	(599,388)	(292,647)	-	(892,035)
Machinery and equipment	(139,656)	(68,164)	-	(207,820)
Total accumulated depreciation	(1,584,796)	(442,665)	-	(2,027,461)
Total capital assets being depreciated, net	5,287,563	116,162	2,353,472	7,757,197
Total business-type activities, capital assets, net	\$ 7,868,239	\$ 862,442	\$ (929)	\$ 8,729,752

Depreciation expense for the business-type activities for the year ended September 30, 2024 was \$442,665.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 5: LONG-TERM DEBT

Long-term liabilities related to governmental activities as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024:

Governmental activities:	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>Due Within One Year</u>
Gas Tax Revenue Bonds Series 2015A Capital Improvement for Infrastructure	\$ 8,865,000	\$ -	\$ (720,000)	\$ 8,145,000	\$ 750,000
Gas Tax Revenue Bonds Series 2015B Refunding Bonds Series 2006	2,120,000	-	(200,000)	1,920,000	205,000
Gulf County MSTU Limited Ad Valorem Tax Bonds Series 2016	<u>1,480,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(355,000)</u>	<u>1,125,000</u>	<u>365,000</u>
Total bonds payable	12,465,000	-	(1,275,000)	11,190,000	1,320,000
Lease liability	94,813	-	(18,929)	75,884	21,332
Long-term landfill closure and postclosure liability	790,514	-	(5,665)	784,849	-
Other postemployment benefits	415,848	210,673	-	626,521	-
Net pension liability	18,936,053	22,189	-	18,958,242	-
Liability for compensated absences	<u>2,268,159</u>	<u>1,241,712</u>	<u>(762,729)</u>	<u>2,747,142</u>	<u>549,428</u>
Total governmental activities long-term liabilities	<u>\$ 34,970,387</u>	<u>\$ 1,474,574</u>	<u>\$ (2,062,323)</u>	<u>\$ 34,382,638</u>	<u>\$ 1,890,760</u>

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 5: LONG-TERM DEBT (CONTINUED)

Long-term liabilities related to business-type activities as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024:

Business-type activities:	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>Due Within One Year</u>
Capital Improvements Revenue Bonds Series 2020	\$ 4,195,000	\$ -	\$ (180,000)	\$ 4,015,000	\$ 185,000
Premium on bonds payable	335,812	-	(19,754)	316,058	-
Bonds payable, net of premium	4,530,812	-	(199,754)	4,331,058	185,000
Note payable	417,440	98,446	-	515,886	-
Capital lease liability	122,095	-	(57,822)	64,273	59,268
Lease liability	63,749	-	(25,061)	38,688	25,186
Net pension liability	892,275	1,046	-	893,321	-
Total business-type activities long-term liabilities	<u>\$ 6,026,371</u>	<u>\$ 99,492</u>	<u>\$ (282,637)</u>	<u>\$ 5,843,226</u>	<u>\$ 269,454</u>

Capital Improvements Revenue Bonds Series 2020

On November 30, 2020, the County issued \$4,500,000 Capital Improvements Revenue Bonds, Series 2020. These bonds are special obligations of the County and secured by a covenant to budget and appropriate Non-Ad Valorem Revenues. The purpose of the Series 2020 bonds is to provide sufficient funds to finance capital improvements associated with the acquisition of a private utility system. The Series 2020 Bonds have interest rates from 2% to 5%. Future maturities of bonds payable are as follows:

<u>Year ending September 30,</u>	<u>Capital Improvements Revenue Bonds Series 2020</u>		
	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2025	\$ 185,000	\$ 117,675	\$ 302,675
2026	190,000	112,050	302,050
2027	195,000	106,275	301,275
2028	200,000	100,350	300,350
2029	210,000	94,200	304,200
Thereafter	3,035,000	577,875	3,612,875
	<u>\$ 4,015,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,108,425</u>	<u>\$ 5,123,425</u>

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 5: LONG-TERM DEBT (CONTINUED)

Gas Tax Revenue and Refunding Bonds Series 2015A and 2015B

On June 30, 2015, the County issued \$13,210,000 Gas Tax Revenue Bonds, Series 2015A and \$3,175,000 Taxable Gas Tax Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2015B for a total of \$16,385,000. These bonds are special obligations of the County and are solely payable from and secured by a prior lien upon and pledge of Constitutional Gas Tax, the County Gas Tax, and the Local Option Gas Tax. The purpose of the Series 2015 bonds is to provide sufficient funds to (i) acquire and construct certain roads within the County, (ii) refund the County's Tax Revenue Refunding Bonds Series 2006, (iii) provide a Reserve Account for the repayment of the bonds and (iv) pay certain costs associated with the issuance of the Series (2015). The Series 2015 Bonds have interest rates from 2% to 5%. Future maturities of bonds payable are as follows:

Year ending September 30,	Capital Improvement for Infrastructure Series 2015A & 2015B		
	Principal	Interest	Total
2025	\$ 955,000	\$ 363,280	\$ 1,318,280
2026	990,000	332,005	1,322,005
2027	1,020,000	298,878	1,318,878
2028	1,050,000	262,663	1,312,663
2029	1,095,000	222,956	1,317,956
Thereafter	4,955,000	512,581	5,467,581
	<u>\$ 10,065,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,992,363</u>	<u>\$ 12,057,363</u>

MSTU Limited Ad Valorem Tax Bonds

The County issued \$3,440,000 in Limited Ad Valorem Tax Bonds, Series 2016. The bonds a limited obligation of the County, the principal and interest on the bonds are payable from and secured by a pledge of the ad valorem taxing power of the County within its three Cape San Blas Municipal Taxing Units, named Bayside, Gulfside Beachfront and Gulfside Interior. At the time of issuance, the County estimated that, based on the 2016 tax rolls, the initial levy necessary to comply with the requirements of the bonds, will be 1.1052 mills in the Bayside, 1.3139 mills in the Gulf Beachfront, and 1.1549 mills in the Gulfside Interior. Proceeds from the sale of the bonds will be applied for the renourishment and reconstruction of the beach front at Cape San Blas in Gulf County. Future maturities of bonds payable are as follows:

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 5: LONG-TERM DEBT (CONTINUED)

Year ending September 30,	MSTU Limited Ad-Valorem Tax Bonds Series 2016		
	Principal	Interest	Total
2025	\$ 365,000	\$ 28,275	\$ 393,275
2026	375,000	17,175	392,175
2027	385,000	5,775	390,775
	<u>\$ 1,125,000</u>	<u>\$ 51,225</u>	<u>\$ 1,176,225</u>

Department of Environmental Protection Drinking Water Revolving Loan

In February 2022, Gulf County entered into a loan agreement with the State of Florida, Department of Environmental Protection, State Revolving Fund (SRF), for a Principal Forgiveness Loan funded by the Federal Drinking Water Act. This loan in the amount of \$932,200 will be used to finance construction of improvements to the Gulf County Water System (GCWS). Approximately 45% of the loan proceeds were forgiven. As of September 30, 2024, the loan balance was \$515,886. Revenues of the GCWS after payment of operation and maintenance expenses will be used for repayment of the debt. Future maturities of the loan payable are as follows:

Year ending September 30,	State of Florida Revolving Loan Fund		
	Principal	Interest	Total
2025	\$ -	\$ 1,681	\$ 1,681
2026	20,033	3,243	23,276
2027	25,352	3,084	28,436
2028	25,512	2,924	28,436
2029	25,674	2,763	28,437
Thereafter	419,315	25,160	444,475
	<u>\$ 515,886</u>	<u>\$ 38,855</u>	<u>\$ 554,741</u>

NOTE 6: LEASES

The financial statements include the requirements of GASB Statement No. 87, *Leases*. The primary objective of this statement is to enhance the relevance and consistency of information about governments' leasing activities. This statement establishes a single model for lease accounting based on the principle that

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 6: LEASES (CONTINUED)

leases are financings of the right to use an underlying asset. Under this statement, a lessee is required to recognize a lease liability and an intangible right-to-use lease asset, and a lessor is required to recognize a lease receivable and a deferred inflow of resources. For additional information, refer to the disclosures below.

Operating Lease Obligations

Right-Of-Use Lease Assets

The County, as a lessee, has entered into lease agreements involving equipment leases. The total of the County's lease assets was recorded at a cost of \$294,131, less accumulated depreciation of \$135,348.

Asset Class	Governmental Activities	
	Lease	Accumulated
Equipment	\$ 180,463	\$ (107,202)

Asset Class	Business-type Activities	
	Lease	Accumulated
Equipment	\$ 112,739	\$ (75,719)

Principal and Interest Requirements To Maturity

Fiscal Year	Governmental Activities		
	Principal	Interest	Total Payments
2025	\$ 21,332	\$ 864	\$ 22,196
2026	17,781	604	18,385
2027	14,368	372	14,740
2028	12,021	201	12,222
2029	10,382	57	10,439
Total	\$ 75,884	\$ 2,098	\$ 77,982

Fiscal Year	Business-type Activities		
	Principal	Interest	Total Payments
2025	\$ 25,186	\$ 1,165	\$ 26,351
2026	13,502	177	13,679
Total	\$ 38,688	\$ 1,342	\$ 40,030

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 6: LEASES (CONTINUED)

Finance lease obligation – enterprise funds

The County has entered into a lease which is classified as a finance lease for accounting purposes. Finance leases are those which are determined to have passed substantially all the risks and benefit of ownership to the lessee.

Future minimum lease payments under finance leases as of September 30, 2024 are as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Business-Type Activities</u>		
	<u>Principal Payments</u>	<u>Interest Payments</u>	<u>Total Payments</u>
2025	\$ 59,268	\$ 1,163	\$ 60,431
2026	<u>5,005</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>5,067</u>
Total	<u>\$ 64,273</u>	<u>\$ 1,225</u>	<u>\$ 65,498</u>

The following schedule shows the leased assets capitalized as of September 30, 2023, by major asset class.

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Lease Asset Value</u>	<u>Accumulated Amortization</u>
Equipment	<u>\$ 279,344</u>	<u>\$ (75,978)</u>

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 7: EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Florida Retirement System

Plan Description – The County contributes to the Florida Retirement System (the “FRS”), a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the State of Florida, Department of Administration, Division of Retirement. The FRS provides retirement, disability, or death benefits to retirees or their designated beneficiaries along with an annual cost-of-living adjustment. Employees are classified in either the regular service class or the senior management service class.

The Florida Legislature created the Florida Retirement Investment Plan (the “Investment Plan”), a defined contribution plan qualified under Section 401 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Investment Plan is administered by the Department of Management Services and is an alternative available to members of the Florida Retirement System in lieu of participation in the defined benefit retirement plan (the “Pension Plan”). If the Investment Plan is elected, active membership in the Pension Plan is terminated. Eligible members of the Investment Plan are vested at one year of service and receive a contribution in an investment product with a third-party administrator selected by the State Board of Administration.

Chapter 121, Florida Statutes, establishes the authority for benefit provisions and contribution requirements. Changes to the law can only occur through an act of the Florida Legislature. There are uniform contribution rates as discussed on the following page that cover both the defined benefit and defined contribution plans. Information for the required employer contributions made to the Investment Plan were unavailable from FRS.

Additional Financial and Actuarial Information – Additional audited financial information supporting the Schedules of Employer Allocations and the Schedule of Pension Amounts by Employer is located in the Florida Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and in the Florida Retirement System Pension Plan, and Other State-Administered Systems ACFR.

See <http://www.myfloridacfo.com/Division/AA/Reports/default.htm> for an available copy of the Florida ACFR online.

The FRS ACFR and actuarial valuation reports as of July 1, 2024 are available online at http://ww.dms.myflorida.com/workforce_operations/retirement/publications/annual_reports.

Reports may also be obtained by contacting the Division of Retirement at:

Department of Management Services
Division of Retirement
Bureau of Research and Member Communications
P O Box 9000
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-9000
850-907-6500 or toll free at 844-377-1888

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 7: EMPLOYEE BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

Funding Policy – Prior to July 1, 2011, the FRS was employee noncontributory. Beginning July 1, 2011, employees who are not participating in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) are required to contribute 3% of their salary to the FRS. The County is required to contribute at an actuarially-determined rate.

The FRS relies upon contributions from employees and employers, along with investment income, to meet the funding requirements of an actuarially determined accrued liability. As of July 1, 2024, the date of the latest valuation, the FRS funded ratio was 81.4% on the valuation funding basis and 82.4% on a Market Value of Assets basis.

The County also participates in the Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy (HIS) Program, a cost sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan established under Section 112.363, Florida Statutes. The benefit is a monthly cash payment to assist retirees of state-administered retirement systems in paying their health insurance costs.

In addition to the above benefits, the FRS administers the DROP program. This program allows eligible employees to defer receipt of monthly retirement benefit payments while continuing employment with a Florida Retirement System employer for a period not to exceed 60 months after electing to participate. DROP benefits are held in the FRS Trust Fund and accrue interest.

The HIS Program is funded by required contributions from FRS participating employers as set by the State Legislature. Employer contributions are a percentage of gross compensation for all active FRS employees and are reported by employers with monthly payroll reports and included with the amount submitted for retirement contributions. For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, the contribution rate was 1.66% of payroll pursuant to Section 112.363, Florida Statutes.

The contributions required for the years ended September 30, 2024, 2023, and 2022 were \$2,339,045, \$1,929,450, and \$1,633,018 respectively, which is equal to 100% of the required contribution for each year.

The rates for the 2024 fiscal year was as follows:

	<u>October 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024</u>		<u>July 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024</u>	
	<u>FRS</u>	<u>HIS</u>	<u>FRS</u>	<u>HIS</u>
Regular Class	13.57%	2.00%	13.63%	2.00%
Special Risk Administrative Support	39.82%	2.00%	39.82%	2.00%
Special Risk Class	32.67%	2.00%	32.79%	2.00%
Senior Management Service Class	34.52%	2.00%	34.52%	2.00%
Elected Officials	58.68%	2.00%	58.68%	2.00%
DROP	21.13%	2.00%	21.13%	2.00%

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 7: EMPLOYEE BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

Net Pension Liability – At September 30, 2024, the County reported for its share of the FRS and HIS plans the amount for the net pension liability as shown below:

	<u>FRS</u>	<u>HIS</u>	<u>Total</u>
June 30, 2024	15,492,534	4,359,029	19,851,563
June 30, 2023	15,343,201	4,485,127	19,828,328

The net pension liability for each plan was determined by the plans' actuary and reported in the plans' valuations dated July 1, 2024 and July 1, 2023 for the net pension liability as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

At September 30, 2024, the County reported for its proportionate share of the employer portion for the FRS and HIS net pension liability the percentages below:

	<u>FRS</u>	<u>HIS</u>
June 30, 2024	0.040048221%	0.029058302%
June 30, 2023	0.038505444%	0.028241510%
Increase (Decrease) in Share for 2024	0.001542777%	0.000816792%

The County's proportionate share of the net pension liability was based on the County's 2024 fiscal year contributions relative to the 2024 fiscal year contributions of all participating members of FRS.

Actuarial Assumptions

The total pension liability for each of the defined benefit plans, measured as of June 30, 2024, was determined by an actuarial valuation dated July 1, 2024, using the individual entry age normal actuarial cost method and the following significant actuarial assumptions:

	<u>FRS</u>	<u>HIS</u>
Inflation	2.40%	2.40%
Salary increases	3.50%	3.50%
Investment rate of return	6.70%	3.93%
Discount rate	6.70%	3.93%

Mortality assumptions for both plans were based on the PUB-2010 with Projection Scale MP-2018.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 7: EMPLOYEE BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

For both plans, the actuarial assumptions used in the valuation dated July 1, 2024 were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2018.

The discount rate was modified to reflect the change in the value of the municipal bond index between GASB measurement dates.

The long-term expected investment rate of return was not based on historical returns, but instead was based on a forward-looking capital market economic model. Each asset class assumption is based on a consistent set of underlying assumptions and includes an adjustment for the inflation assumption.

For the FRS Pension Plan, the table below summarizes the target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic and geometric real rates of return for each major asset class.

Asset Class	Target Allocation (1)	Annual Arithmetic Return	Compound Annual (Geometric) Return	Standard Deviation
Cash	1.0%	3.3%	3.3%	1.1%
Fixed income	29.0%	5.7%	5.6%	3.9%
Global equity	45.0%	8.6%	7.0%	18.2%
Real estate (property)	12.0%	8.1%	6.8%	16.6%
Private equity	11.0%	12.4%	8.8%	28.4%
Strategic investments	2.0%	6.6%	6.2%	8.7%
Total	100.0%			
Assumed inflation - mean			2.4%	1.5%

(1) As outlined in the Pension Plan's investment policy

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability for the FRS Pension Plan was 6.70%. FRS fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current active and inactive employees. Therefore, the discount rate for calculating the total pension liability is equal to the long-term expected rate of return.

Because the HIS Program is essentially funded on a pay-as-you-go basis, a municipal bond rate of 3.93% was used to determine the total pension liability for the program. The Bond Buyer General Obligation Bond 20-Bond Municipal Bond Index was used as the applicable municipal bond index.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 7: EMPLOYEE BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

Sensitivity Analysis

The tables below represent the sensitivity of the net pension liability to changes in the discount rate for Gulf County. The sensitivity analysis shows the impact to the net pension liability of the participating employers if the discount rate was 1.00% higher or 1.00% lower than the current discount rate.

FRS Net Pension Liability		
1% Decrease 5.70%	Current Discount Rate 6.70%	1% Increase 7.70%
<u>\$ 27,250,827</u>	<u>\$ 15,492,534</u>	<u>\$ 5,642,472</u>

HIS Net Pension Liability		
1% Decrease 2.93%	Current Discount Rate 3.93%	1% Increase 4.93%
<u>\$ 4,962,194</u>	<u>\$ 4,359,029</u>	<u>\$ 3,858,304</u>

Pension Expense and Deferred Outflows (Inflows) of Resources

In accordance with GASB 68, paragraph 71, changes in the net pension liability are recognized as pension expense in the current measurement period with the following exceptions shown below. For each of the following, a portion is recognized in pension expense in the current measurement period, and the balance is amortized as deferred outflows or inflows of resources using rational method over a time period, as defined below:

- Differences between expected and actual experience with regard to economic and demographic factors which are amortized over the average expected remaining service life of all employees that are provided with pensions through the pension plan, both active and inactive.
- Changes of assumptions or other inputs which are amortized over the average expected remaining service life of all employees that are provided with pensions through the pension plan, both active and inactive.
- Differences between expected and actual earnings on pension plan investments are amortized over five years.

The average expected remaining service life of all employees provided with pensions through the pension plans at June 30, 2024 was 5.3 years for FRS and 6.3 for HIS. The components of collective pension expense reported in the pension allocation schedules for the year ended June 30, 2024 are presented for each plan.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 7: EMPLOYEE BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

Florida Retirement System

The Components of the collective pension expense reported in the pension allocation schedules by the Florida Retirement System for the year ended June 30, 2024 are presented below and are used to calculate Gulf County's share of the pension plan for 2024 which is 0.040048221%.

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, the County recognized pension expense of \$2,408,756 for the FRS plan. In addition, the County reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources relate to pensions from the following sources:

Description	Deferred Outflows of Resources for the FRS Plan	Deferred Inflows of Resources for the FRS Plan
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 1,565,162	\$ -
Change of assumptions	2,123,394	-
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on FRS Plan investments	-	(1,029,714)
Changes in proportion and differences between County FRS Plan contributions and proportionate share of contributions	862,086	(556,366)
County FRS Plan contributions subsequent to the measurement date	612,516	-
Total	<u>\$ 5,163,158</u>	<u>\$ (1,586,080)</u>

The deferred outflows of resources related to the FRS Plan, totaling \$612,516 resulting from County contributions to the Plan subsequent to the measurement date, will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 7: EMPLOYEE BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to the Pension Plan will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Reporting period ending September 30,	FRS Expense
2025	\$ (262,601)
2026	2,852,761
2027	207,962
2028	9,836
2029	156,604
Total	<u>\$ 2,964,562</u>

Health Insurance Subsidy

The components of the collective pension expense reported in the pension allocation schedules for the Florida Retirement System's Health Insurance Subsidy for the year ended June 30, 2024 are presented below and are used to calculate Gulf County's share for 2024 which is 0.029058302%.

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, the County recognized pension expense of \$263,335 for the HIS plan. In addition, the County reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

Description	Deferred Outflows of Resources for the HIS Plan	Deferred Inflows of Resources for the HIS Plan
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 42,089	\$ (8,370)
Change of assumptions	77,145	(516,053)
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on HIS Plan investments	-	(1,577)
Changes in proportion and differences between County HIS Plan contributions and proportionate share of contributions	351,538	(80,061)
County HIS Plan contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>66,867</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>\$ 537,639</u>	<u>\$ (606,061)</u>

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 7: EMPLOYEE BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

The deferred outflows of resources related to the HIS Plan, totaling \$66,867 resulting from County contributions to the HIS Plan subsequent to the measurement date, will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024.

Other amounts reported by the County as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to the HIS Plan will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Reporting period ending September 30,	HIS Expense
2025	\$ (21,948)
2026	(27,081)
2027	(39,450)
2028	(27,583)
2029	(15,029)
Thereafter	(4,197)
Total	<u>\$ (135,288)</u>

NOTE 8: OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB)

Effective in the 2009-2010 fiscal year, the County implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement 45, *Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions* for retiree health insurance. The requirements of this Statement are being implemented prospectively, with the actuarially accrued liability for benefits of \$354,000 at transition, amortized over 15 years. Accordingly, for financial reporting purposes, no liability is reported for the postemployment health care benefits liability at the date of implementation.

Plan Description

The County has established the Retiree's Health Insurance Other Post Employment Benefits Plan, a single employer plan. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 112.0801, Florida Statutes, employees who retire from the County and eligible dependents, may continue to participate in the group insurance plan. Retirees and their eligible dependents shall be offered the same health and hospitalization insurance coverage as is offered to active employees at a premium cost of no more than the premium cost applicable to active employees. The County subsidizes the premium rates paid by the retirees by allowing them to participate in the plan at blended group (implicitly subsidized) premium rates for both active and retired employees. These rates provide an implicit subsidy for retirees because, on an actuarial basis, their current and future claims are expected to result in higher costs to the plan on average than those of active employees. The County currently has approximately 212 total active and retired employees eligible to receive these benefits. No stand-alone report is issued for this plan.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 8: OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) (CONTINUED)

Eligibility

A participant is eligible to receive benefits from the plan upon retirement under the Florida Retirement System plan provisions. To be eligible for retiree benefits, the participant must be covered under the medical plan as an active participant immediately prior to retirement. Participants not eligible for retirement at the time of their termination are not eligible for immediate or future benefits from the plan.

Funding Policy

Although the contribution requirement is established by Statute, the contribution amount required by plan members and the government are established and may be amended by the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners. Currently, members receiving benefits pay the full costs (total premium) for medical coverage.

The County has not advance-funded or established a funding methodology for the annual Other Postemployment Benefit (OPEB) costs or the net OPEB obligation. Rather, the funding is based on a pay-as-you-go basis. During the fiscal year, the County provided no contributions toward the annual OPEB cost. A Schedule of Contributions can be found in the required supplementary information immediately following the notes.

Actuarial Methods and Assumptions

The actuarial assumptions used represent a reasonable long-term expectation of future OPEB outcomes. As the national economy and County experience change over time, the assumptions will be tested for ongoing reasonableness and, if necessary, updated. Significant methods and assumptions were as follows:

Actuarial Valuation Date	10/1/2023
Measurement Date	9/30/2024
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry age
Discount Rate	4.06%
Projected Cash Flows	Pay as you go
Municipal Bond Rate	20 year high grade index
Bond Rate Basis	AA/Aa or higher
Projected Salary Increases	3%
Healthcare Cost Trend Rate	7.5% initial; 5.0% ultimate

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 8: OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) (CONTINUED)

Changes in Total OPEB Liability and Related Ratios

Below are the details regarding the total OPEB liability for the period from October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024:

Total OPEB liability at 10/1/2023	\$ 415,848
Changes for the fiscal year	
Service cost	56,882
Interest	18,080
Demographic gain/loss	105,322
Assumption changes	85,721
Benefit payments	<u>(55,332)</u>
Net changes in total OPEB	<u>210,673</u>
Total OPEB liability at 9/30/2024	<u><u>\$ 626,521</u></u>
Covered-employee payroll	9,222,791
Total OPEB liability as a percentage of covered employee payroll	6.79%

Sensitivity of the Total OPEB Liability

The following presents the total OPEB liability, as well as what the total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower or 1 percentage point higher than the current discount rate.

	OPEB Liability		
	1% decrease	Current	1% increase
	3.06%	4.06%	5.06%
Total OPEB liability	\$ 678,240	\$ 626,521	\$ 580,272

Comparison of total OPEB liability using alternative healthcare cost trend rates.

	OPEB Liability		
	1% decrease	Current	1% increase
		Trend Rate	
Total OPEB liability	\$ 562,303	\$ 626,521	\$ 703,228

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 8: OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) (CONTINUED)

OPEB Expense and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB

For the year ended September 30, 2024, the County recognized pension expense of \$16,038 for the OPEB plan. In addition, the County reported deferred outflows and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB for the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Balance at 10/1/2023	\$ 303,529	\$ (508,332)
Amortization payments	(69,031)	72,623
Demographic gain/loss	105,322	-
Change of assumptions	<u>85,721</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance at 9/30/2024	<u><u>\$ 425,541</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (435,709)</u></u>

Amounts recognized in the deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in the OPEB expense as follows:

Year Ended September 30,	Total
2025	\$ (3,592)
2026	(3,592)
2027	(3,592)
2028	(3,592)
2029	(9,964)
Thereafter	<u>14,164</u>
Total	<u><u>\$ (10,168)</u></u>

NOTE 9: RISK MANAGEMENT

The County is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors or omissions; injuries to employees and/or the public; or damage to property of others. The County purchases commercial insurance to cover their risk of losses. The County determined that it was not economically justifiable to carry comprehensive coverage on certain vehicles and equipment after approximately five years of ownership. The County carries liability insurance on the aforementioned vehicles and equipment.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 9: RISK MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

Insurance against losses are provided for the following types of risk:

- Workers' compensation and employer's liability
- General and automobile liability
- Real and personal property damage
- Public officials' liability
- Accidental death and dismemberment

The County's coverage for workers' compensation is under a retrospectively rated policy. Premiums are accrued based on the ultimate cost to-date of the County's experience for this type of risk.

The Gulf County Sheriff (the "Sheriff") participates in the Florida Sheriff's Self-Insurance Fund Program, administered by the Florida Sheriff's Association. The program is considered a public entity risk pool which purchases insurance policies on behalf of its members. The pool's members are not obligated for risk associated with such coverage. Coverage under this program includes general liability, public officials' liability, and public employees' blanket bond.

The funding agreements provide that the self-insurance fund will be self-sustaining through member premiums and that the Sheriff's liability fund will reinsure through commercial companies. Aggregate coverage provided by the liability fund is \$10,000,000 for professional liability and \$10,000,000 for public officials' coverage.

The Sheriff determined that it was not economically justifiable to carry comprehensive coverage on all vehicles, but the Sheriff carries liability insurance on the aforementioned vehicles. The Sheriff currently covers all claim settlements and judgments out of available operating resources.

NOTE 10: AMBULANCE SERVICES

The County has financial responsibility for providing ambulance services throughout the County. Ambulance accounts receivable, and revenues and expenditures are included in the general fund of the accompanying financial statement. Accounts receivable for the ambulance service for the year ended September 30, 2024 was \$534,473, net of a \$1,652,856 allowance for uncollectible accounts.

NOTE 11: LANDFILL CLOSURE AND POST CLOSURE

State and federal laws and regulations require the County to place a final cover on its landfill sites when it ceases accepting waste and perform certain maintenance and monitoring functions at the site for thirty years after closure. Currently, the County monitors three closed landfills and operates a transfer station at the Five Points Landfill site to meet the solid waste service needs of the County.

Although closure and post closure care costs will be paid only near or after the date that the landfill stops accepting waste, the Board reports a portion of these costs as an operating expense in each period based on landfill capacity used as of each balance sheet date.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 11: LANDFILL CLOSURE AND POST CLOSURE (CONTINUED)

The \$784,849 reported as landfill closure and post closure care liability at September 30, 2024, represents the cumulative amount reported to date based on the use of 100% of the estimated capacity of the landfill cells placed in use. Actual costs may differ due to inflation, changes in technology, or changes in regulations.

The Board is required by state and federal laws to make annual contributions to an escrow account to finance a minimum of all closure costs. At September 30, 2024, the Board held deposits with a fair value of \$34,166 for these purposes that are reported as restricted assets on the balance sheet. This amount includes \$34,166 that is restricted for closing Five Points Landfill. The Board expects that future inflation costs will be paid from interest earnings on these annual contributions. However, if interest earnings are inadequate or additional post closure care costs are determined to be required, these costs may need to be covered by charges to future landfill users or from future tax revenue.

NOTE 12: LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

The County is defendant in various lawsuits. Although the outcome of these lawsuits is not presently determinable, it is the opinion of the County's legal counsel that the ultimate resolution of these matters will not have a material adverse effect on the financial condition of the County.

NOTE 13: NOTES RECEIVABLE

In May 2011, the County entered into a second mortgage agreement with the Port St. Joe Port Authority whereby the County made a loan in the amount of \$199,000 which is secured by real estate. In 2014, the County refinanced the debt advancing another \$60,000 plus accrued interest and loan costs to the Authority, securing the debt with a mortgage on real estate. The loan is to be repaid over a ten-year period and has an annual interest rate of 3%.

No payments were made for the first two years. Thereafter, a sum of \$10,000 per year was paid on the outstanding balance with the first payment due on August 21, 2017.

At September 30, 2024, notes receivable consisted of the following:

	Balance, September 30, 2023	Additions	Deductions	Balance, September 30, 2024
Port Authority	\$ 249,000	\$ -	\$ -	249,000

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 14: GRANTS

The County participates in several state and federal grant programs. These programs are subject to program compliance audits by grantors or their representatives. The audits of these programs for, or including, the year ended September 30, 2024, have not yet been accepted/approved by the grantors. Accordingly, the final determination of the County's compliance with applicable grant requirements will be established at a future date. The amount, if any, of expenditures which may be disallowed by granting agencies cannot be determined, although the County expects such amounts, if any, to be immaterial.

NOTE 15: NET POSITION/FUND BALANCE CLASSIFICATION

Net position represents the difference between total assets and liabilities and are categorized as follows:

Government-wide Statement of Net Position

- Net investment in capital assets: Total capital assets, net of debt issued in the acquisition of these assets and net of depreciation is reported separately in the net position section.
- Restricted for growth related capital expansion: Impact fee and system development charges restricted for growth related capital expansion.
- Restricted for transportation projects: Gas taxes and other revenues restricted for transportation improvements.
- Restricted for tourist development: Tourist development tax proceeds are restricted for tourist related activities.
- Restricted for conservation: Various impact and other fees restricted to conservation projects and expenses.
- Restricted for public safety: Grants and fees restricted for use in various areas of public safety.
- Restricted for court functions: Balances are restricted for use in the county court system.
- Restricted for debt service: Balances are restricted in conjunction with the issuance of bonds and have been funded by operating transfers from the appropriate funds. The use of monies in the sinking fund is restricted to the payment of principal and interest on long-term debt.
- Restricted for public health: Restricted for use to Hospital and EMS function.
- Unrestricted: Balances are not restricted for specific purposes.

Governmental Fund Financial Statements

Governmental funds report fund balances as either spendable or nonspendable. Spendable fund balances are further classified as restricted, committed, assigned or unassigned depending upon the extent to which there are external or internal constraints on the spending of these fund balances.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 15: NET POSITION/FUND BALANCE CLASSIFICATION (CONTINUED)

- Nonspendable fund balance: Amounts that are not in spendable form or that are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. Items that are not spendable also include inventories, prepaid amounts and long-term portions of loans and notes receivable, as well as property held for resale.
- Restricted fund balance: Amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes through restrictions placed upon them by external resource providers such as creditors, grantors, or contributors; or imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
- Committed fund balance: Amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes determined by the County's highest decision-making authority, the Board. Commitments may be modified or removed only by the Board through the same formal action that created the original commitment.
- Assigned fund balance: Amounts that are intended to be spent for specific purposes as determined by the Board, but that are neither restricted nor committed to the specific purpose.
- Unassigned fund balance: Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the County's general fund. Amounts in this classification are spendable but have not been deemed restricted, committed, or assigned. Unassigned fund balance may also include negative balances for any governmental fund whose expenditures have exceeded the amounts restricted, committed, or assigned for those specific purposes.
- When both restricted and unrestricted amounts are available the County spends the restricted amounts first, unless prohibited by law, grant agreements or other contractual arrangement. Further, when committed fund balance is available the County will use it first, followed by assigned fund balance and then unassigned fund balance for purposes in which any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

A detailed schedule of fund balances at September 30, 2024 is as follows:

Nonspendable fund balance:

General fund	\$ 263,956
Tourist development	6,171
Fines and forfeitures	-
St. Joe fire control	3,500
Public improvement	1,144,316
	<hr/>
Total nonspendable fund balance	1,417,943

Restricted:

General fund	734,748
Tourist development	11,777,196
Tourist development public safety	176,979
Fines and forfeitures	1,276,017
Secondary road and bridge	1,000,723
Mosquito control	124,641

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 15: NET POSITION/FUND BALANCE CLASSIFICATION (CONTINUED)

St. Joe fire control	2,966,416
Tupelo fire control	152,969
Overstreet fire control	85,977
Howard Creek fire control	102,339
EMS grant	246,456
Disaster fund	6,251,584
CDBG Raffield	70,172
Industrial park EDA	244,772
E911 Services	286,186
Hospital	4,361,787
Clerk modernization	513,842
Administrative order 86-12	97,886
Capital projects	67,592
BP restore act	175,026
Public improvement	812,933
MSTU	1,132,391
Construction acquisition	331
Non-ad valorem operations	5,211
Total restricted fund balance	<u>32,664,174</u>
Committed:	
General fund	476,143
CDBG	57
County development	2,349,207
Park fund	261,729
Capital projects	<u>2,795,586</u>
Total committed fund balance	<u>5,882,722</u>
Assigned:	
General fund	18,137,069
Capital projects fund	<u>6,122,234</u>
Total assigned fund balance	<u>24,259,303</u>
Unassigned:	
General fund	<u>9,897,859</u>
Total fund balance	<u><u>\$ 74,122,001</u></u>

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 16: INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS

The Sheriff has an interlocal agreement with the City of Wewahitchka, whereby personnel from the Sheriff's office provide law enforcement services to the City of Wewahitchka. As consideration, the Sheriff receives payments of \$50,000 annually from the City of Wewahitchka.

The Sheriff entered into a service agreement with the City of Port St. Joe Police Department, whereby the Sheriff provides all dispatching services required within the City of Port St. Joe. The City of Port St. Joe pays the Sheriff the sum of \$85,000 per year, in consideration for these services.

The Sheriff has an interlocal agreement with the Gulf County School Board (the "District"), whereby the Sheriff provides School Resource Officers to the District. As consideration, the Sheriff received payments of \$37,000 per month from October 2023 through June 2024 and \$38,500 from July 2024 through September 2024. The Sheriff received \$448,500 for the year ended September 30, 2024.

The Sheriff has an agreement with Big Bend Community Based Care ("BBCBC"), whereby the Sheriff provides officers to respond to children who are at risk of harming themselves or others. As consideration, the Sheriff received payments of \$6,250 per month from BBCBC. The Sheriff received a total of \$75,000 during the year ended September 30, 2024.

NOTE 17: WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

In addition to the Gulf County Water System, which was purchased from Lighthouse Utilities in 2020, the County owns the two remaining water systems, Williamsburg/Methodist Hill and Oak Grove. The City of Wewahitchka operates the Williamsburg/Methodist Hill Water System. Although there is not an active inter-local agreement this water system continues to be operated by the City of Wewahitchka under the terms of the 1993 inter-local agreement which terminated in 1994. The City of Port St. Joe operates the Oak Grove Water System. Neither one of these water systems brings any revenue to the County. The only expense to the County for either of these two water systems is depreciation.

NOTE 18: CHANGES WITHIN FINANCIAL REPORTING ENTITY

To properly reflect the County's operations, the following changes between major and nonmajor funds were made during the year ended September 30, 2024:

- The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), previously reported as a nonmajor fund, is reported as a major fund.
- The Capital Projects fund, previously reported as a nonmajor fund, is reported as a major fund.
- The Disaster fund, previously reported as a major fund, is reported as a nonmajor fund.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN THE COUNTY'S TOTAL
OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS
LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS*

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Total OPEB Liability							
Service cost	\$ 56,882	\$ 30,464	\$ 43,400	\$ 51,813	\$ 76,040	\$ 54,053	\$ 46,688
Interest	18,080	20,880	24,760	23,461	15,744	17,522	16,224
Demographic gain/loss	105,322	83,102	(22,985)	(490,036)	171,063	17,668	-
Assumption changes	85,721	(91,364)	(89,613)	5,836	31,113	528	-
Changes in deferrals	-	-	-	-	-	175,588	-
Benefit payments	(55,332)	(43,513)	(29,596)	(28,698)	(51,133)	(30,996)	(22,161)
Net change in total OPEB liability	210,673	(431)	(74,034)	(437,624)	242,827	234,363	40,751
Total OPEB liability - beginning	415,848	416,279	490,313	927,937	685,110	450,747	409,996
Total OPEB liability - ending	<u>\$ 626,521</u>	<u>\$ 415,848</u>	<u>\$ 416,279</u>	<u>\$ 490,313</u>	<u>\$ 927,937</u>	<u>\$ 685,110</u>	<u>\$ 450,747</u>
 Covered employee payroll	 \$ 9,222,791	 \$ 6,543,254	 \$ 7,288,062	 \$ 6,300,313	 \$ 7,994,561	 \$ 7,307,271	 \$ 6,948,198
Total OPEB liability as a percentage of covered employee payroll	6.79%	6.36%	5.71%	7.78%	11.61%	9.38%	6.49%

The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of September 30th.

* This is a 10-year schedule; however the information in this schedule is not required to be presented retroactively.

Years will be added to this schedule in future fiscal years until 10 years of information is available.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF NET PENSION LIABILITY
FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM
LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS*

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Gulf County's proportion of the net pension liability	0.040048221%	0.038505444%	0.037283579%	0.037484566%	0.041109499%
Gulf County's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 15,492,534	\$ 15,343,201	\$ 13,872,488	\$ 2,831,533	\$ 17,817,463
Gulf County's covered-employee payroll	13,656,762	12,010,925	10,290,762	9,894,665	9,662,629
Gulf County's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	113.44%	127.74%	134.81%	28.62%	184.40%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	83.70%	82.38%	82.89%	96.40%	90.20%

*The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the measurement date, which was June 30th of the current fiscal year.

Covered employee payroll includes defined benefit plan actives, investment plan members, and members in DROP for the measurement period ending June 30, 2024.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF NET PENSION LIABILITY
FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM
LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS*

CONTINUED

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Gulf County's proportion of the net pension liability	0.040547385%	0.037990199%	0.037446967%	0.040338331%	0.037324372%
Gulf County's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 13,963,955	\$ 11,442,845	\$ 11,076,562	\$ 10,185,460	\$ 4,820,943
Gulf County's covered-employee payroll	9,320,933	8,004,393	7,726,462	8,251,636	7,169,067
Gulf County's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	149.81%	142.96%	143.36%	123.44%	67.25%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	86.30%	84.26%	83.89%	84.94%	92.00%

*The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the measurement date, which was June 30th of the current fiscal year.

Covered employee payroll includes defined benefit plan actives, investment plan members, and members in DROP for the measurement period ending June 30, 2024.

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS
FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM
LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS***

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Contractually required contribution	\$ 2,339,045	\$ 1,929,450	\$ 1,633,018	\$ 1,588,078	\$ 1,368,812
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	(2,339,045)	(1,929,450)	(1,633,018)	(1,588,078)	(1,368,812)
Contribution deficiency (excess)	-	-	-	-	-
Gulf County's covered-employee payroll	\$ 13,656,762	\$ 12,010,925	\$ 10,290,762	\$ 9,894,665	\$ 9,662,629
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	17.13%	16.06%	15.87%	16.05%	14.17%

*The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the measurement date, which was June 30th of the current fiscal year.

Covered employee payroll includes defined benefit plan actives, investment plan members, and members in DROP for the measurement period ending June 30, 2024.

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS
FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM
LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS***

CONTINUED

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Contractually required contribution	\$ 1,363,656	\$ 1,363,656	\$ 1,231,413	\$ 1,216,635	\$ 1,147,124
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	(1,363,656)	(1,363,656)	(1,231,413)	(1,216,635)	(1,147,124)
Contribution deficiency (excess)	-	-	-	-	-
Gulf County's covered-employee payroll	\$ 9,320,933	\$ 8,004,393	\$ 7,726,462	\$ 8,251,636	\$ 7,169,067
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	14.63%	17.04%	15.94%	14.74%	16.00%

*The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the measurement date, which was June 30th of the current fiscal year.

Covered employee payroll includes defined benefit plan actives, investment plan members, and members in DROP for the measurement period ending June 30, 2024.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF NET PENSION LIABILITY
HEALTH INSURANCE SUBSIDY PROGRAM
LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS*

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Gulf County's proportion of the net pension liability	0.029058302%	0.028241510%	0.027547637%	0.026639302%	0.026513028%
Gulf County's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 4,359,029	\$ 4,485,127	\$ 2,917,735	\$ 3,267,711	\$ 3,237,198
Gulf County's covered-employee payroll	13,656,762	12,010,925	10,290,762	9,894,665	9,662,629
Gulf County's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	31.92%	37.34%	28.35%	33.02%	33.50%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	4.80%	4.12%	4.81%	3.56%	2.04%

*The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the measurement date, which was June 30th of the current fiscal year.

Covered employee payroll includes defined benefit plan actives, investment plan members, and members in DROP for the measurement period ending June 30, 2024.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF NET PENSION LIABILITY
HEALTH INSURANCE SUBSIDY PROGRAM
LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS*

CONTINUED

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Gulf County's proportion of the net pension liability	0.026167340%	0.024391362%	0.037446967%	0.040338331%	0.037324372%
Gulf County's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 2,927,863	\$ 2,581,609	\$ 2,559,554	\$ 2,946,630	\$ 2,363,737
Gulf County's covered-employee payroll	9,320,933	8,004,393	7,726,462	8,251,636	7,169,067
Gulf County's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	31.41%	32.25%	33.13%	35.71%	32.97%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	2.03%	2.15%	1.64%	0.97%	0.50%

*The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the measurement date, which was June 30th of the current fiscal year.

Covered employee payroll includes defined benefit plan actives, investment plan members, and members in DROP for the measurement period ending June 30, 2024.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS
HEALTH INSURANCE SUBSIDY PROGRAM
LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS*

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Contractually required contribution	\$ 254,650	\$ 197,706	\$ 169,490	\$ 174,139	\$ 170,909
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	(254,650)	(197,706)	(169,490)	(174,139)	(170,909)
Contribution deficiency (excess)	-	-	-	-	-
Gulf County's covered-employee payroll	\$ 13,656,762	\$ 12,010,925	\$ 10,290,762	\$ 9,894,665	\$ 9,662,629
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	1.86%	1.65%	1.65%	1.76%	1.77%

*The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the measurement date, which was June 30th of the current fiscal year.

Covered employee payroll includes defined benefit plan actives, investment plan members, and members in DROP for the measurement period ending June 30, 2024.

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS
HEALTH INSURANCE SUBSIDY PROGRAM
LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS***

CONTINUED

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Contractually required contribution	\$ 169,011	\$ 164,426	\$ 157,639	\$ 159,109	\$ 119,837
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	(169,011)	(164,426)	(157,639)	(159,109)	(119,837)
Contribution deficiency (excess)	-	-	-	-	-
Gulf County's covered-employee payroll	\$ 9,320,933	\$ 8,004,393	\$ 7,726,462	\$ 8,251,636	\$ 7,169,067
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	1.81%	2.05%	2.04%	1.93%	1.67%

*The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the measurement date, which was June 30th of the current fiscal year.

Covered employee payroll includes defined benefit plan actives, investment plan members, and members in DROP for the measurement period ending June 30, 2024.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 1: OPEB INFORMATION

The County did not have plan assets accumulated in a trust. For the measurement date of September 30, 2024, the actuarial valuation used a discount rate of 4.06%. The discount rate will be updated annually to reflect market conditions as of the measurement date.

NOTE 2: PENSION INFORMATION

The discount rate used to measure the pension liability of the Health Insurance Subsidy Plan at June 30, 2024 was 3.93%. The discount rate used to measure the pension liability of the Florida Retirement System Plan at June 30, 2024 was to 6.70%. The FRS Actuarial Assumption Conference is responsible for setting the assumptions used in the valuations of the defined benefit pension plans pursuant to Section 216.136(10), Florida Statutes. The rate of return assumption used in the June 30, 2024 calculations was determined by the Plan's consulting actuary to be reasonable and appropriate per Actuarial Standard of Practice No. 27 (ASOP 27) for accounting purposes which differs from the rate used for funding purposes which is used to establish the contribution rates of the Pension Plan.

NOTE 3: BUDGETARY INFORMATION

An annual budget is adopted on a basis consistent with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America for the general fund. All annual appropriations lapse at fiscal year-end.

The County follows these procedures in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the financial statements:

- The preparation, adoption, and amendment of the budgets are governed by Florida Statutes. Public hearings are conducted to obtain taxpayer comments.
- Budget excess expenditures over revenues are funded through appropriations from the Board of County Commissioners.
- Formal budgetary integration is employed as a management control device during the year. The legal level of budgetary control is the fund level.
- The budgets for the funds are adopted on a basis consistent with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
BUDGET TO ACTUAL
GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget - Favorable (Unfavorable)
	Original	Final	Actual	
REVENUES				
Taxes	\$ 20,444,084	\$ 20,444,084	\$ 19,901,259	\$ (542,825)
Licenses and permits	757,000	757,000	1,200,182	443,182
Intergovernmental	4,166,762	4,231,341	7,613,554	3,382,213
Charges for services	2,560,839	2,587,105	2,417,222	(169,883)
Fines and forfeitures	98,620	125,783	180,281	54,498
Investment earnings	59,495	1,108,477	1,108,644	167
Miscellaneous	-	26,064	155,024	128,960
Total revenues	28,086,800	29,279,854	32,576,166	3,296,312
EXPENDITURES				
Current				
General government	11,031,724	11,265,338	9,641,992	1,623,346
Public safety	11,427,202	11,466,414	10,256,499	1,209,915
Physical environment	379,691	349,511	203,643	145,868
Economic environment	346,251	346,251	247,127	99,124
Transportation	1,609,490	1,582,610	1,386,245	196,365
Court related	800,926	803,168	752,667	50,501
Human services	1,070,086	1,070,086	830,022	240,064
Culture and recreation	140,980	145,980	125,093	20,887
Capital outlay	108,014	98,063	369,446	(271,383)
Debt service				
Principal	-	-	18,929	(18,929)
Interest and other charges	-	-	1,128	(1,128)
Total expenditures	26,914,364	27,127,421	23,832,791	3,294,630
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	1,172,436	2,152,433	8,743,375	6,590,942
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers in	11,824,538	1,643,457	1,643,457	-
Transfers (out)	(16,714,894)	(7,581,604)	(5,372,342)	2,209,262
Total other financing sources (uses)	(4,890,356)	(5,938,147)	(3,728,885)	2,209,262
Net changes in fund balances	(3,717,920)	(3,785,714)	5,014,490	8,800,204
Fund balances - beginning	24,495,285	24,495,285	24,495,285	-
Fund balances - ending	\$ 20,777,365	\$ 20,709,571	\$ 29,509,775	\$ 8,800,204

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
BUDGET TO ACTUAL
CDBG FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget - Favorable (Unfavorable)
	Original	Final	Actual	
REVENUES				
Intergovernmental	\$ 404,500	\$ 6,134,640	\$ 6,022,778	\$ (111,862)
Investment earnings	-	-	-	-
Total revenues	404,500	6,134,640	6,022,778	(111,862)
EXPENDITURES				
Physical environment	71,000	167,806	167,806	-
Transportation	7,500	255,039	208,159	46,880
Capital outlay	326,000	5,711,795	5,646,813	64,982
Total expenditures	404,500	6,134,640	6,022,778	111,862
Net changes in fund balances	-	-	-	-
Fund balances - beginning	57	57	57	-
Fund balances - ending	\$ 57	\$ 57	\$ 57	\$ -

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
BUDGET TO ACTUAL
HURRICANE HOUSING RECOVERY FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget - Favorable (Unfavorable)
	Original	Final	Actual	
REVENUES				
Intergovernmental	\$ 1,820,000	\$ 1,820,000	\$ 868,405	\$ (951,595)
Investment earnings and other	-	-	69,860	69,860
Total revenues	1,820,000	1,820,000	938,265	(881,735)
EXPENDITURES				
Current				
Economic environment	1,820,000	1,820,000	709,059	1,110,941
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	-	-	229,206	229,206
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers out	-	-	(229,206)	(229,206)
Net changes in fund balances	-	-	-	-
Fund balances - beginning	-	-	-	-
Fund balances - ending	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
BUDGET TO ACTUAL
TOURIST DEVELOPMENT FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget - Favorable (Unfavorable)
	Original	Final	Actual	
REVENUES				
Taxes	\$ 3,510,000	\$ 3,510,000	\$ 4,801,015	\$ 1,291,015
Licenses and permits	-	-	500	500
Charges for services	30,000	30,000	15,870	(14,130)
Investment earnings and other	120,000	120,000	406,743	286,743
Miscellaneous	-	-	531	531
Total revenues	3,660,000	3,660,000	5,224,659	1,564,659
EXPENDITURES				
Current				
Physical environment	1,379,300	1,382,800	317,735	1,065,065
Economic environment	3,278,640	3,287,640	1,393,168	1,894,472
Culture and recreation	542,610	555,910	453,432	102,478
Capital outlay	1,042,810	1,017,010	530,269	486,741
Total expenditures	6,243,360	6,243,360	2,694,604	3,548,756
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(2,583,360)	(2,583,360)	2,530,055	5,113,415
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers in	-	-	-	-
Transfers (Out)	(1,790,540)	(1,790,540)	(831,992)	958,548
Total other financing sources (uses)	(1,790,540)	(1,790,540)	(831,992)	958,548
Net changes in fund balances	(4,373,900)	(4,373,900)	1,698,063	6,071,963
Fund balances - beginning	10,085,304	10,085,304	10,085,304	-
Fund balances - ending	\$ 5,711,404	\$ 5,711,404	\$ 11,783,367	\$ 6,071,963

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
BUDGET TO ACTUAL
GENERAL GRANTS FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget - Favorable (Unfavorable)
	Original	Final	Actual	
REVENUES				
Intergovernmental	\$ 7,817,850	\$ 12,120,067	\$ 9,969,761	\$ (2,150,306)
Total revenues	7,817,850	12,120,067	9,969,761	(2,150,306)
EXPENDITURES				
Current				
General government	102,500	446,163	402,438	43,725
Public safety	268,976	743,936	723,468	20,468
Physical environment	115,200	437,735	253,413	184,322
Economic environment	15,000	15,000	-	15,000
Transportation	900,000	4,229,011	3,986,599	242,412
Court related	-	1,699	1,699	-
Culture and recreation	59,487	63,198	27,463	35,735
Capital outlay	6,110,050	5,936,688	4,338,524	1,598,164
Total expenditures	7,571,213	11,873,430	9,733,604	2,139,826
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	246,637	246,637	236,157	(10,480)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers (out)	(246,637)	(246,637)	(236,157)	10,480
Total other financing sources (uses)	(246,637)	(246,637)	(236,157)	10,480
Net changes in fund balances	-	-	-	-
Fund balances - beginning	-	-	-	-
Fund balances - ending	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
BUDGET TO ACTUAL
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget - Favorable (Unfavorable)
	Original	Final	Actual	
REVENUES				
Intergovernmental	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Investment earnings and other	-	301,282	301,282	-
Miscellaneous	-	105,002	105,002	-
Total revenues	-	406,284	406,284	-
EXPENDITURES				
Current				
General government	125,000	174,867	-	174,867
Public safety	527,000	583,005	6,479	576,526
Physical environment	407,250	415,465	-	415,465
Economic environment	-	-	-	-
Transportation	216,625	288,630	-	288,630
Court related	90,000	94,356	18,656	75,700
Culture and recreation	-	-	-	-
Capital outlay	-	-	586,348	(586,348)
Total expenditures	1,365,875	1,556,323	611,483	944,840
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(1,365,875)	(1,150,039)	(205,199)	944,840
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers in	3,500,000	3,545,142	3,545,142	-
Transfers (out)	-	-	-	-
Total other financing sources (uses)	3,500,000	3,545,142	3,545,142	-
Net changes in fund balances	2,134,125	2,395,103	3,339,943	944,840
Fund balances - beginning	5,645,469	5,645,469	5,645,469	-
Fund balances - ending	\$ 7,779,594	\$ 8,040,572	\$ 8,985,412	\$ 944,840

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
BUDGET TO ACTUAL
SHIP FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget - Favorable (Unfavorable)
	Original	Final	Actual	
REVENUES				
Intergovernmental	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 54,925	\$ (295,075)
Investment earnings	-	-	45,578	45,578
Miscellaneous	-	-	31,178	31,178
Total revenues	350,000	350,000	131,681	(218,319)
EXPENDITURES				
Current				
Economic environment	350,000	350,000	131,681	218,319
Total expenditures	350,000	350,000	131,681	218,319
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	-	-	-	-
Net changes in fund balances	-	-	-	-
Fund balances - beginning	-	-	-	-
Fund balances - ending	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

***COMBINING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS***

Description of Nonmajor Governmental Funds

Special Revenue Funds

FINES AND FORFEITURES – To account for fines earmarked for law enforcement and corrections.

SECONDARY ROAD AND BRIDGE – To account for fuel taxes, not obligated for debt repayment, and certain expenditures for road and bridge construction and maintenance.

MOSQUITO CONTROL – To account for the receipt and expenditure of state grant funds used for mosquito control.

FIRE CONTROL DISTRICTS – To account for property taxes levied within the following dependent special districts for fire prevention and control:

- Howard Creek
- St. Joe
- Tupelo
- Overstreet

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES GRANT – To account for the receipt and expenditure of grants awarded by the Florida Department of Health. The funds must be used to improve and expand emergency medical services.

121 BEACH RENEWAL – This fund is used to account for the beach renewal activity.

DISASTER FUND – This fund accounts for funding received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT RAFFIELD – The Community Development Block Grant program provides resources to aid in affordable housing and create jobs through the expansion and retention of businesses.

INDUSTRIAL PARK EDA – To account for the receipt and expenditure of Economic Development Administration Funds. The funds are to be used to develop working programs that benefit the economy of the County.

COUNTY DEVELOPMENT – To account for funds committed for county development.

E911 WIRELESS – To account for grants awarded from the State of Florida E911 Board for enhancement of the E911 system.

Description of Nonmajor Governmental Funds

Special Revenue Funds - Continued

E911 SERVICES – To account for fees levied on each communications service subscriber for funding certain costs of the County associated with the E911 system.

HOSPITAL FUND – To account for the local option discretionary sales tax that funds operations at the local hospital.

PARK FUND – To account for the receipt and expenditure of Park activities.

CLERK MODERNIZATION TRUST FUND – To account for the statutory surcharge on recording documents paid to the Clerk of the Circuit Court for the modernization of the Clerk's official records management system and for funding court-related technology needs of the Clerk.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 86-12 – To account for additional court costs of traffic infractions used for administering traffic violations.

BP RESTORE ACT – This fund accounts for the BP Restore Act revenue and expenditures.

CONSTRUCTION ACQUISITION – To account for restricted funds designated for construction acquisition.

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT PUBLIC SAFETY - To account for the TDC funds that can be used for public safety.

Debt Service Funds

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT FUND – To account for debt service of the 2015 A & B capital improvement and refunding bonds.

MSTU FUND – To account for debt service of the MSTU beach renourishment bonds.

NON-AD VALOREM OPERATIONS – To account for debt service of the series 2016 gulf non-ad valorem revenue bonds.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
COMBINING BALANCE SHEET
NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Special Revenue Funds				
	Fines and Forfeitures	Secondary Road and Bridge	Mosquito Control	St. Joe Fire Control	Tupelo Fire Control
ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,276,542	\$ 978,453	\$ 105,782	\$ 3,020,330	\$ 156,065
Accounts receivable	1,324	-	-	-	-
Notes receivable	-	-	-	-	-
Prepaid items	-	-	-	3,500	-
Due from other funds	-	8,267	18,874	81	85
Due from other governments	2,265	14,003	-	-	7
Total assets	<u>\$ 1,280,131</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,723</u>	<u>\$ 124,656</u>	<u>\$ 3,023,911</u>	<u>\$ 156,157</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES					
Liabilities					
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 4,114	\$ -	\$ 15	\$ 53,995	\$ 3,188
Due to other funds	-	-	-	-	-
Due to other governments	-	-	-	-	-
Unearned revenue	-	-	-	-	-
Total liabilities	<u>4,114</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>53,995</u>	<u>3,188</u>
Fund balances					
Nonspendable	-	-	-	3,500	-
Restricted	1,276,017	1,000,723	124,641	2,966,416	152,969
Committed	-	-	-	-	-
Assigned	-	-	-	-	-
Total fund balances	<u>1,276,017</u>	<u>1,000,723</u>	<u>124,641</u>	<u>2,969,916</u>	<u>152,969</u>
Total liabilities and fund balances	<u>\$ 1,280,131</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,723</u>	<u>\$ 124,656</u>	<u>\$ 3,023,911</u>	<u>\$ 156,157</u>

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
COMBINING BALANCE SHEET
NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Special Revenue Funds				
	Overstreet Fire Control	Howard Creek Fire Control	EMS Grant	121 Beach Renewal	Disaster Fund
ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 93,855	\$ 102,568	\$ 304,096	\$ -	\$ 2,285,636
Accounts receivable	-	-	-	-	-
Notes receivable	-	-	-	-	-
Prepaid items	-	-	-	-	-
Due from other funds	20	9	-	-	-
Due from other governments	-	-	12,146	-	4,321,815
Total assets	<u>\$ 93,875</u>	<u>\$ 102,577</u>	<u>\$ 316,242</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 6,607,451</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES					
Liabilities					
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 7,898	\$ 238	\$ 33,004	\$ -	\$ 355,867
Due to other funds	-	-	-	-	-
Due to other governments	-	-	-	-	-
Unearned revenue	-	-	36,782	-	-
Total liabilities	<u>7,898</u>	<u>238</u>	<u>69,786</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>355,867</u>
Fund balances					
Nonspendable	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted	85,977	102,339	246,456	-	6,251,584
Committed	-	-	-	-	-
Assigned	-	-	-	-	-
Total fund balances	<u>85,977</u>	<u>102,339</u>	<u>246,456</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,251,584</u>
Total liabilities and fund balances	<u>\$ 93,875</u>	<u>\$ 102,577</u>	<u>\$ 316,242</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 6,607,451</u>

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
COMBINING BALANCE SHEET
NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Special Revenue Funds				
	CDBG Raffield	Industrial Park EDA	County Development	E911 Wireless	E911 Services
ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 70,172	\$ 238,790	\$ 2,324,388	\$ -	\$ 267,962
Accounts receivable	-	6,498	-	-	-
Notes receivable	129,000	120,000	-	-	-
Prepaid items	-	-	-	-	7,000
Due from other funds	-	73	45,420	-	13,869
Due from other governments	-	-	-	9,371	-
Total assets	<u>\$ 199,172</u>	<u>\$ 365,361</u>	<u>\$ 2,369,808</u>	<u>\$ 9,371</u>	<u>\$ 288,831</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES					
Liabilities					
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ -	\$ 589	\$ 17,953	\$ 9,371	\$ 2,645
Due to other funds	-	-	73	-	-
Due to other governments	-	-	-	-	-
Unearned revenue	129,000	120,000	2,575	-	-
Total liabilities	<u>129,000</u>	<u>120,589</u>	<u>20,601</u>	<u>9,371</u>	<u>2,645</u>
Fund balances					
Nonspendable	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted	70,172	244,772	-	-	286,186
Committed	-	-	2,349,207	-	-
Assigned	-	-	-	-	-
Total fund balances	<u>70,172</u>	<u>244,772</u>	<u>2,349,207</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>286,186</u>
Total liabilities and fund balances	<u>\$ 199,172</u>	<u>\$ 365,361</u>	<u>\$ 2,369,808</u>	<u>\$ 9,371</u>	<u>\$ 288,831</u>

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
COMBINING BALANCE SHEET
NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Special Revenue Funds				
	Hospital Fund	Park Fund	Clerk Modernization Fund	Administrative Order 86-12	BP Restore Act
ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,883,581	\$ 286,248	\$ 516,627	\$ 97,886	\$ -
Accounts receivable	14,500	4,546	-	-	-
Notes receivable	-	-	-	-	-
Prepaid items	-	-	-	-	-
Due from other funds	-	-	-	-	-
Due from other governments	463,706	-	-	-	768,521
Total assets	<u>\$ 4,361,787</u>	<u>\$ 290,794</u>	<u>\$ 516,627</u>	<u>\$ 97,886</u>	<u>\$ 768,521</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES					
Liabilities					
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ -	\$ 29,065	\$ 2,785	\$ -	\$ -
Due to other funds	-	-	-	-	593,495
Due to other governments	-	-	-	-	-
Unearned revenue	-	-	-	-	-
Total liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>29,065</u>	<u>2,785</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>593,495</u>
Fund balances					
Nonspendable	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted	4,361,787	-	513,842	97,886	175,026
Committed	-	261,729	-	-	-
Assigned	-	-	-	-	-
Total fund balances	<u>4,361,787</u>	<u>261,729</u>	<u>513,842</u>	<u>97,886</u>	<u>175,026</u>
Total liabilities and fund balances	<u>\$ 4,361,787</u>	<u>\$ 290,794</u>	<u>\$ 516,627</u>	<u>\$ 97,886</u>	<u>\$ 768,521</u>

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
COMBINING BALANCE SHEET
NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Special Revenue Funds		Debt Service Funds		
	Construction Acquisition	Tourist Development Public Safety	Public Improvement	MSTU	Non-Ad Valorem Operations
ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 331	\$ 212,807	\$ 534,544	\$ 1,132,391	\$ 5,211
Accounts receivable	-	14	-	-	-
Notes receivable	-	-	-	-	-
Prepaid items	-	-	1,144,316	-	-
Due from other funds	-	40,965	74,270	-	-
Due from other governments	-	-	204,119	-	-
Total assets	<u>\$ 331</u>	<u>\$ 253,786</u>	<u>\$ 1,957,249</u>	<u>\$ 1,132,391</u>	<u>\$ 5,211</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES					
Liabilities					
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Due to other funds	-	76,807	-	-	-
Due to other governments	-	-	-	-	-
Unearned revenue	-	-	-	-	-
Total liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>76,807</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund balances					
Nonspendable	-	-	1,144,316	-	-
Restricted	331	176,979	812,933	1,132,391	5,211
Committed	-	-	-	-	-
Assigned	-	-	-	-	-
Total fund balances	<u>331</u>	<u>176,979</u>	<u>1,957,249</u>	<u>1,132,391</u>	<u>5,211</u>
Total liabilities and fund balances	<u>\$ 331</u>	<u>\$ 253,786</u>	<u>\$ 1,957,249</u>	<u>\$ 1,132,391</u>	<u>\$ 5,211</u>

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
COMBINING BALANCE SHEET
NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds
<hr/>	
ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 17,894,265
Accounts receivable	26,882
Notes receivable	249,000
Prepaid items	1,154,816
Due from other funds	201,933
Due from other governments	5,795,953
	<hr/>
Total assets	\$ 25,322,849
	<hr/>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	
Liabilities	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 520,727
Due to other funds	670,375
Due to other governments	-
Unearned revenue	288,357
	<hr/>
Total liabilities	1,479,459
	<hr/>
Fund balances	
Nonspendable	1,147,816
Restricted	20,084,638
Committed	2,610,936
Assigned	-
	<hr/>
Total fund balances	23,843,390
	<hr/>
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$ 25,322,849
	<hr/>

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN
FUND BALANCES - NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Special Revenue Funds				
	Fines and Forfeitures	Secondary Road and Bridge	Mosquito Control	St. Joe Fire Control	Tupelo Fire Control
REVENUES					
Taxes	\$ -	\$ 75,900	\$ -	\$ 998,661	\$ 88,437
Intergovernmental	-	-	37,749	342,199	18,778
Charges for services	59,298	-	-	-	-
Investment earnings	18,492	40,257	3,155	114,850	4,628
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	79	-
Total revenues	77,790	116,157	40,904	1,455,789	111,843
EXPENDITURES					
Current					
General government	-	-	-	-	-
Public safety	41,346	-	-	325,522	46,898
Physical environment	-	-	-	-	-
Economic environment	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	-	28,564	-	-	-
Court related	3,951	-	-	-	-
Human services	-	-	47,772	-	-
Culture and recreation	-	-	-	-	-
Capital outlay	-	236,195	-	151,365	59,265
Debt service					
Principal	-	-	-	-	-
Interest and other charges	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditures	45,297	264,759	47,772	476,887	106,163
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	32,493	(148,602)	(6,868)	978,902	5,680
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
Transfers in	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers (out)	-	-	-	(138,094)	(5,823)
Total other financing sources (uses)	-	-	-	(138,094)	(5,823)
Net changes in fund balances	32,493	(148,602)	(6,868)	840,808	(143)
Fund balances - beginning, as previously reported	1,243,524	1,149,325	131,509	2,129,108	153,112
Adjustment - change between major and nonmajor funds	-	-	-	-	-
Fund balances - beginning, as adjusted	1,243,524	1,149,325	131,509	2,129,108	153,112
Fund balances - ending	\$ 1,276,017	\$ 1,000,723	\$ 124,641	\$ 2,969,916	\$ 152,969

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN
FUND BALANCES - NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Special Revenue Funds				
	Overstreet Fire Control	Howard Creek Fire Control	EMS Grant	121 Beach Renewal	Disaster Fund
REVENUES					
Taxes	\$ 40,004	\$ 23,029	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Intergovernmental	7,763	3,943	65,550	-	3,002,007
Charges for services	-	-	-	-	-
Investment earnings	2,550	2,688	-	-	71,732
Miscellaneous	-	-	236,680	-	-
Total revenues	50,317	29,660	302,230	-	3,073,739
EXPENDITURES					
Current					
General government	-	-	-	-	23,414
Public safety	28,735	7,207	16,971	-	40,425
Physical environment	-	-	-	-	778
Economic environment	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	-	-	-	-	3,011,622
Court related	-	-	-	-	-
Human services	-	-	-	-	4,118
Culture and recreation	-	-	-	-	-
Capital outlay	-	-	81,318	-	-
Debt service					
Principal	-	-	-	-	-
Interest and other charges	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditures	28,735	7,207	98,289	-	3,080,357
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	21,582	22,453	203,941	-	(6,618)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
Transfers in	-	-	-	-	1,650,000
Transfers (out)	(2,912)	(1,698)	-	-	-
Total other financing sources (uses)	(2,912)	(1,698)	-	-	1,650,000
Net changes in fund balances	18,670	20,755	203,941	-	1,643,382
Fund balances - beginning, as previously reported	67,307	81,584	42,515	-	-
Adjustment - change between major and nonmajor funds	-	-	-	-	4,608,202
Fund balances - beginning, as adjusted	67,307	81,584	42,515	-	4,608,202
Fund balances - ending	\$ 85,977	\$ 102,339	\$ 246,456	\$ -	\$ 6,251,584

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN
FUND BALANCES - NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Special Revenue Funds				
	CDBG Raffield	Industrial Park EDA	County Development	E911 Wireless	E911 Services
REVENUES					
Taxes	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Intergovernmental	-	-	-	383,928	154,418
Charges for services	-	-	-	-	100,000
Investment earnings	-	6,228	94,541	-	8,903
Miscellaneous	-	26,434	77,809	-	-
Total revenues	-	32,662	172,350	383,928	263,321
EXPENDITURES					
Current					
General government	-	-	47,850	-	-
Public safety	-	-	-	210,699	123,582
Physical environment	-	-	-	-	-
Economic environment	39,074	9,648	-	-	-
Transportation	-	-	-	-	-
Court related	-	-	-	-	-
Human services	-	-	-	-	-
Culture and recreation	-	-	-	-	-
Capital outlay	-	-	39,000	173,229	92,994
Debt service					
Principal	-	-	-	-	-
Interest and other charges	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditures	39,074	9,648	86,850	383,928	216,576
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(39,074)	23,014	85,500	-	46,745
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
Transfers in	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers (out)	-	-	(43,962)	-	-
Total other financing sources (uses)	-	-	(43,962)	-	-
Net changes in fund balances	(39,074)	23,014	41,538	-	46,745
Fund balances - beginning, as previously reported	109,246	221,758	2,307,669	-	239,441
Adjustment - change between major and nonmajor funds	-	-	-	-	-
Fund balances - beginning, as adjusted	109,246	221,758	2,307,669	-	239,441
Fund balances - ending	\$ 70,172	\$ 244,772	\$ 2,349,207	\$ -	\$ 286,186

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN
FUND BALANCES - NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Special Revenue Funds				
	Hospital Fund	Park Fund	Clerk Modernization Fund	Administrative Order 86-12	BP Restore Act
REVENUES					
Taxes	\$ 2,089,360	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Intergovernmental	-	-	-	-	768,521
Charges for services	14,500	26,704	58,263	-	-
Investment earnings	146,961	-	16,963	3,897	-
Miscellaneous	-	18,272	-	-	-
Total revenues	2,250,821	44,976	75,226	3,897	768,521
EXPENDITURES					
Current					
General government	-	-	14,443	-	77
Public safety	-	-	-	-	-
Physical environment	-	-	-	-	18,521
Economic environment	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	-	-	-	-	-
Court related	-	-	8,253	-	-
Human services	1,874,826	-	-	-	-
Culture and recreation	-	183,711	-	-	-
Capital outlay	-	-	-	-	-
Debt service					
Principal	-	-	-	-	-
Interest and other charges	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditures	1,874,826	183,711	22,696	-	18,598
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	375,995	(138,735)	52,530	3,897	749,923
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
Transfers in	-	177,200	-	-	-
Transfers (out)	(150,000)	-	-	(17,630)	(750,000)
Total other financing sources (uses)	(150,000)	177,200	-	(17,630)	(750,000)
Net changes in fund balances	225,995	38,465	52,530	(13,733)	(77)
Fund balances - beginning, as previously reported	4,135,792	223,264	461,312	111,619	175,103
Adjustment - change between major and nonmajor funds	-	-	-	-	-
Fund balances - beginning, as adjusted	4,135,792	223,264	461,312	111,619	175,103
Fund balances - ending	\$ 4,361,787	\$ 261,729	\$ 513,842	\$ 97,886	\$ 175,026

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN
FUND BALANCES - NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Special Revenue Funds		Debt Service Funds		
	Construction Acquisition	Tourist Development Public Safety	Public Improvement	MSTU	Non-Ad Valorem Operations
REVENUES					
Taxes	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 425,186	\$ 387,066	\$ -
Intergovernmental	-	-	1,105,578	126,078	-
Charges for services	-	-	-	-	-
Investment earnings	7	1,754	42,706	26,034	787
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Total revenues	7	1,754	1,573,470	539,178	787
EXPENDITURES					
Current					
General government	-	-	-	-	-
Public safety	-	43,536	-	-	-
Physical environment	-	-	-	-	-
Economic environment	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	-	-	-	-	-
Court related	-	-	-	-	-
Human services	-	-	-	-	-
Culture and recreation	-	-	-	-	-
Capital outlay	-	-	-	-	-
Debt service					
Principal	-	-	920,000	355,000	-
Interest and other charges	-	-	400,365	41,658	-
Total expenditures	-	43,536	1,320,365	396,658	-
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	7	(41,782)	253,105	142,520	787
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
Transfers in	-	286,736	-	-	-
Transfers (out)	-	(67,975)	-	-	-
Total other financing sources (uses)	-	218,761	-	-	-
Net changes in fund balances	7	176,979	253,105	142,520	787
Fund balances - beginning, as previously reported	324	-	1,704,144	989,871	4,424
Adjustment - change between major and nonmajor funds	-	-	-	-	-
Fund balances - beginning, as adjusted	324	-	1,704,144	989,871	4,424
Fund balances - ending	\$ 331	\$ 176,979	\$ 1,957,249	\$ 1,132,391	\$ 5,211

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN
FUND BALANCES - NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	CDBG	Capital Projects Fund	Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds
REVENUES			
Taxes	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,127,643
Intergovernmental	-	-	6,016,512
Charges for services	-	-	258,765
Investment earnings	-	-	607,133
Miscellaneous	-	-	359,274
Total revenues	-	-	11,369,327
EXPENDITURES			
Current			
General government	-	-	85,784
Public safety	-	-	884,921
Physical environment	-	-	19,299
Economic environment	-	-	48,722
Transportation	-	-	3,040,186
Court related	-	-	12,204
Human services	-	-	1,926,716
Culture and recreation	-	-	183,711
Capital outlay	-	-	833,366
Debt service			
Principal	-	-	1,275,000
Interest and other charges	-	-	442,023
Total expenditures	-	-	8,751,932
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	-	-	2,617,395
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)			
Transfers in	-	-	2,113,936
Transfers (out)	-	-	(1,178,094)
Total other financing sources (uses)	-	-	935,842
Net changes in fund balances	-	-	3,553,237
Fund balances - beginning, as previously reported	57	5,645,469	21,327,477
Adjustment - change between major and nonmajor funds	(57)	(5,645,469)	(1,037,324)
Fund balances - beginning, as adjusted	-	-	20,290,153
Fund balances - ending	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,843,390

COMPLIANCE SECTION

LANIGAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS
www.lanigancpa.com

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

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners and Constitutional Officers
Gulf County, Florida

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Gulf County, Florida as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Gulf County, Florida's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated June 6, 2025.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

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

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

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

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Gulf County, Florida'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*.

Purpose of this Report

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

Lanigan & Associates, PC

Tallahassee, Florida
June 6, 2025

LANIGAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS
www.lanigancpa.com

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR EACH MAJOR
FEDERAL PROGRAM AND STATE PROJECT AND REPORT ON INTERNAL
CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNIFORM
GUIDANCE AND REQUIRED BY CHAPTER 10.550,
RULES OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL**

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners and Constitutional Officers
Gulf County, Florida

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program and State Project

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program and State Project

We have audited Gulf County, Florida's compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the OMB *Compliance Supplement* and *State of Florida's Department of Financial Services State Projects Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of Gulf County, Florida's major federal programs and state projects for the year ended September 30, 2024. Gulf County, Florida's major federal programs and state projects are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

In our opinion, Gulf County, Florida complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs and state projects for the year ended September 30, 2024.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program and State Project

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*); 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); and Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General. Our responsibilities under those standards, the Uniform Guidance, and Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General, are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

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

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

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

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 Gulf County, Florida'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*, the Uniform Guidance, and Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General 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 Gulf County, Florida's compliance with the requirements of each major federal program and state project as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, the Uniform Guidance, and Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General, 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 Gulf County, Florida'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 Gulf County, Florida'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, and Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Gulf County, Florida's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

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

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

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

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

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

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 and Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Lanigan & Associates, PC

Tallahassee, Florida

June 6, 2025

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
AND STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Federal/State Agency Pass-through Entity Federal Program/State Project	Federal Assistance Listing or CSFA No.	Contract Grant No.	Total Expenditures
FEDERAL AWARDS			
<u>U.S. Department of Agriculture</u>			
Pass through Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services- Florida Forest Service Cooperative Forestry Assistance	10.664	2024 Wetappo	\$ 17,131
<u>U.S. Department of Commerce</u>			
Office for Coastal Management	11.473	0318.19.066794	69,829
<u>U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development</u>			
Pass through Florida Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant	14.228	M0020	5,653,301
Community Development Block Grant	14.228	MT145	208,159
Community Development Block Grant	14.228	MT152	150,300
Community Development Block Grant	14.228	M0152	11,018
Total U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development			6,022,778
<u>U.S. Department of Justice</u>			
Pass through Florida Department of Law Enforcement Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program	16.738	8C176	24,301
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program	16.738	R7104	24,999
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program	16.738	8C267	18,800
Total U.S. Department of Justice			68,100
<u>U.S. Department of Treasury</u>			
COVID-19 - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds	21.027	SLFRP3300	744,321
Pass through Florida Department of Environmental Protection COVID-19 - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds	21.027	22FRP88	3,414,810
Total U.S. Department of Treasury			4,159,131
<u>Environmental Protection Agency</u>			
Pass through Florida Department of Environmental Protection Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	66.468	DW230220	162,713
<u>Gulf Coast Ecosystems Restoration Council</u>			
Pass through Gulf Consortium Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council Oil Spill Impact Program	87.052	GNSSP20FL0010-01- 00/sub#200010062	18,521
Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council Oil Spill Impact Program**	87.052	GNSSP23FL0050-01- 00/sub#230050061	750,000
Total Gulf Coast Ecosystems Restoration Council			768,521
<u>U.S. Department of Health & Human Services</u>			
Pass through Florida Department of Revenue Child Support Enforcement	93.563	CSU23	1,399
Child Support Enforcement	93.563	COC23	171,142
Total U.S. Department of Health & Human Services			172,541

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
AND STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Federal/State Agency Pass-through Entity Federal Program/State Project	Federal Assistance Listing or CSFA No.	Contract Grant No.	Total Expenditures
<u>U.S. Department of Homeland Security</u>			
Federal Emergency Management Agency			
Pass through Florida Department of Emergency Management			
Disaster Grant - Public Assistance*	97.036	Z0841 (Multiple PW's)	\$ 3,002,007
Hazard Mitigation Grant	97.039	H0825 (4399-160-R)	33,053
Emergency Management Performance Grant	97.042	G0488	54,925
Total U.S. Department of Homeland Security			<u>3,089,985</u>
Total Expenditures of Federal Awards			<u>\$ 14,530,729</u>

STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Executive Office of the Governor

Division of Emergency Management			
Emergency Management Programs	31.063	A0479	\$ 26,625
Emergency Management Programs	31.063	A0395	80,665
Total Executive Office of the Governor			<u>107,290</u>

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Beach Management Funding Assistance Program	37.003	19GU1	58,882
Beach Management Funding Assistance Program	37.003	21GU1	11,352
Beach Management Funding Assistance Program	37.003	23GU1	113,350
Small County Consolidated Grants	37.012	SC411	85,515
Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program	37.017	A2013	4,796
Restoration Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill	37.081	DH016	5,431
Resilient Florida Program	37.098	22SRP18	336,904
Resilient Florida Program	37.098	22SRP19	63,492
Resilient Florida Program	37.098	23PLN48	117,500
Total Florida Department of Environmental Protection			<u>797,222</u>

Florida Department of Commerce

Regional Community Development and Infrastructure	40.042	D0175	<u>133,745</u>
---	--------	-------	----------------

Florida Housing Finance Corporation

State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP)	40.901	Funding Thru SFY2324	131,680
Hurricane Housing Recovery Program	40.902	SFY1920 HHRP#040-2019	433,330
Hurricane Housing Recovery Program	40.902	SFY2021 HHRP#852-2020	504,935
Total Florida Housing Finance Corporation			<u>1,069,945</u>

Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

Mosquito Control	42.003	2019-2020 #026487	5,882
Mosquito Control	42.003	2020-2021 #027528	37,015
Mosquito Control	42.003	2021-2022 #028444	4,874
Total Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services			<u>47,771</u>

Florida Department of Financial Services

Volunteer Firefighter Grant Assistance Program	43.006	FM869	39,650
Grants & Aids-Local Government Fire Service Grants	43.009	FM848	500,000
Fire Decontamination Equipment Grant Project	43.013	FM829	5,925
Total Florida Department of Financial Services			<u>545,575</u>

Florida Department of State

State Aid to Libraries	45.030	24-ST-43	<u>18,226</u>
------------------------	--------	----------	---------------

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
AND STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Federal/State Agency Pass-through Entity Federal Program/State Project	Federal Assistance Listing or CSFA No.	Contract Grant No.	Total Expenditures
<u>Florida Department of Transportation</u>			
		441496-1-94-01 & 441496-2-94-01	
Seaport Grant Program	55.005		\$ 37,892
County Incentive Grant Program	55.008	425654-2-34-01	69,402
Small County Outreach Program	55.009	451303-1-54-01	137,465
Small County Outreach Program	55.009	449888-1-34-01	54,684
Small County Outreach Program	55.009	420097-2-54-01	763,804
Small County Outreach Program	55.009	453532-1-34-01	183,393
Small County Outreach Program	55.009	453257-1-54-01	4,750
Small County Outreach Program;	55.009;		
Small County Road Assistance Program	55.016	445283-2-54-01	1,001,040
Small County Road Assistance Program	55.016	451771-1-54-01	594,224
Small County Road Assistance Program	55.016	448618-1-54-01	3,986
Small County Road Assistance Program	55.016	453533-1-54-01	12,717
Local Transportation Projects	55.039	450926-1-94-01	711,956
Local Transportation Projects	55.039	453250-1-94-01	52,890
Total Florida Department of Transportation			<u>3,628,203</u>
<u>Florida Department of Law Enforcement</u>			
Law Enforcement Salary Assistance for Fiscally Constrained Counties	71.067	5V031	72,604
Law Enforcement Salary Assistance for Fiscally Constrained Counties	71.067	ME031	28,472
Law Enforcement Salary Assistance for Fiscally Constrained Counties	71.067	5V011	181,688
Law Enforcement Salary Assistance for Fiscally Constrained Counties	71.067	ME011	54,469
Total Florida Department of Law Enforcement			<u>337,233</u>
<u>Florida Department of Management Services</u>			
Wireless 911 Emergency Telephone System Rural County Grant Program	72.001	22-04-16	7,602
E911 State Grant Program	72.002	S22-23-01-27	295,603
Prepaid Next Generation 911 (NG911) State Grant Program	72.003	S22-23-01-26	32,734
Prepaid Next Generation 911 (NG911) State Grant Program	72.003	S17-21-02-59	47,990
Local Government Cyber Security Grant	72.016	DMS-24/25-111	12,211
Total Florida Department of Management Services			<u>396,140</u>
<u>Florida Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles</u>			
Florida Arts License Plates Project	76.041	2023-2024	99
Total Expenditures of State Financial Assistance			<u>\$ 7,081,449</u>

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
AND STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Financial Reporting Entity

The Gulf County, Florida (the "County") reporting entity is defined in Note 1 of the County's Basic Financial Statements.

Basis of Presentation

The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards and state financial assistance (the "Schedule") includes the federal award and state financial assistance activity of Gulf County, Florida under programs of the federal and state governments for the year ended September 30, 2024. 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 Gulf County, Florida, it is not intended to and does not present the balance sheet, changes in fund balances, or cash flows of Gulf County, Florida.

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

Disaster Grant - Public Assistance* funds include \$300,201 in funds provided by the State of Florida.

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council Oil Spill Impact Program** were awarded to a subrecipient during the year ended September 30, 2023, but due to subsequent modifications the grant agreement, these funds are included in the current schedule of expenditures of federal awards.

Subrecipients

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council Oil Spill Impact Program** funds include \$750,000 of funds awarded to a subrecipient.

Indirect Cost Rate

Gulf County, Florida has not elected to use the 10 percent de minimis indirect cost rate allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
AND STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Loans or Loan Guarantees

The balance of loans outstanding at September 31, 2024, was \$515,886 related to the Capitalization Grants for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. This loan is a subaward and therefore neither 2 CFR sections 200.502(b) nor (d) apply when calculating the amount of federal funds expended.

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

SECTION I – SUMMARY OF AUDITOR’S RESULTS

Financial Statements

Type of auditor's report issued:	Unmodified
Internal Control over Financial Reporting:	
Material weakness(es) identified?	_____ Yes <u> X </u> No
Significant deficiency(ies) identified?	_____ Yes <u> X </u> None Reported
Noncompliance material to financial statements noted?	_____ Yes <u> X </u> No

Federal Awards

Internal Control over Major Federal Programs:	
Material weakness(es) identified?	_____ Yes <u> X </u> No
Significant deficiency(ies) identified?	_____ Yes <u> X </u> None Reported
Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for major federal programs:	Unmodified
Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with 2 CFR 200.516(a)?	_____ Yes <u> X </u> No
Identification of major federal programs:	
Assistance Listing Number(s)	Name of Federal Program or Cluster
14.228	Community Development Block Grant
21.027	Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
87.052	Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council Oil Spill Impact Program
Dollar threshold used to distinguish between Type A and Type B programs:	\$750,000
Auditee qualified as a low-risk auditee?	<u> X </u> Yes _____ No

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

SECTION I – SUMMARY OF AUDITOR’S RESULTS (CONTINUED)

State Projects

Internal Control over Major State Projects:	
Are any material weakness(es) identified?	_____ Yes <u> X </u> No
Are any significant deficiency(ies) identified?	_____ Yes <u> X </u> None Reported
Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for major state projects:	_____ Unmodified _____
Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with Chapter 10.557, Rules of the Auditor General?	_____ Yes <u> X </u> No
Identification of major state projects:	
CSFA Numbers	Name of State Project
40.902	Hurricane Housing Recovery Program
43.009	Grants & Aids-Local Government Fire Service Grants
55.016	Small County Road Assistance Program
55.039	Local Transportation Projects
71.067	Law Enforcement Salary Assistance for Fiscally Constrained Counties
Dollar threshold used to distinguish between Type A and Type B projects:	_____ \$750,000 _____

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

SECTION II – SCHEDULE OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS

None noted.

**SECTION III – FEDERAL AWARD AND STATE PROJECT FINDINGS AND
QUESTIONED COSTS**

None noted.

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR YEAR AUDIT FINDINGS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS

None noted.

FEDERAL AWARD PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

None noted.

STATE PROJECT PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

None noted.

LANIGAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS
www.lanigancpa.com

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S
MANAGEMENT LETTER**

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners and Constitutional Officers
Gulf County, Florida

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the financial statements of the Gulf County, Florida (the "County"), as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, and have issued our report thereon dated June 6, 2025.

Auditor's Responsibility

We conducted our audit 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*); 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); and Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General.

Other Reporting Requirements

We have issued our Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of the Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*; Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program and State Project and Report on Internal Control Over Compliance; Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs; and Independent Accountant's Reports on an examination conducted in accordance with *AICPA Professional Standards*, AT-C Section 315, regarding compliance requirements in accordance with Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General. Disclosures in those reports and schedule, which are dated June 6, 2025, should be considered in conjunction with this management letter.

Prior Audit Findings

Section 10.554(1)(i)1., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that we determine whether or not corrective actions have been taken to address findings and recommendations made in the preceding financial audit report. Listed below is a status of prior findings and recommendations:

Tabulation of Uncorrected Audit Findings		
2024-01	2023-01	2022-01
Cleared	2023-02	-

Official Title and Legal Authority

Sections 10.554(1)(i)4., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that the name or official title and legal authority for the primary government and each component unit of the reporting entity be disclosed in this management letter, unless disclosed in the notes to the financial statements. This information is disclosed in Note 1 of the notes to financial statements.

Financial Condition and Management

Section 10.554(1)(i)5.a. and 10.556(7), Rules of the Auditor General, require us to apply appropriate procedures and communicate the results of our determination as to whether or not the County has met one or more of the conditions described in Section 218.503(1), Florida Statutes, and to identify the specific condition(s) met. In connection with our audit, we determined that the County did not meet any of the conditions described in Section 218.503(1), Florida Statutes.

Pursuant to Sections 10.554(1)(i)5.b. and 10.556(8), Rules of the Auditor General, we applied financial condition assessment procedures for the County. It is management's responsibility to monitor the County's financial condition, and our financial condition assessment was based in part on representations made by management and the review of financial information provided by the same.

Section 10.554(1)(i)2., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that we communicate any recommendations to improve financial management. In connection with our audits, we make the following recommendations:

2024-001 (BOCC): Utility Billing and Receipts

Criteria:

It is important for an entity to segregate the authorization of transactions, recording of transactions, and custody of the related assets. Independent performance of each of these functions reduces the opportunity for any one person to be in a position both to perpetrate and to conceal errors or irregularities in the normal course of his or her duties.

Condition:

Separation of certain accounting and administrative duties among employees, which is recommended as an effective internal control, was not adequate. We noted that a single individual within the utility department is responsible for customer billing, customer billing adjustments, posting payments to the utility system, and the collection of receipts. This individual has access to all functions within the utility software.

Cause:

Not allocating adequate personnel to the utility accounting function to achieve effective segregation of duties.

Effect:

The failure to maintain separation of these functions subjects the County to the risk that material misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected by employees in a timely manner during the performance of their assigned tasks.

Recommendation:

Management should further review and revise its internal policies and procedures over the utility billing cash receipt process, to ensure that they are properly designed, and evaluate whether the designed controls are performed as intended. Management should further review the duties and responsibilities required of the Gulf County, Florida utility billing contractor and add or cross train personnel as necessary to achieve appropriate segregation of duties and oversight.

2024-002 (Gulf County, Florida Tax Collector): Bonuses to Employees

Observation:

During our audit of the Tax Collector's Office, we noted that employee bonuses were paid in both December 2023 and September 2024. These bonus payments were not separately identified and included in the budget approved by the Board of County Commissioners. Furthermore, the Office has not demonstrated that it has legal authority to issue bonuses of this nature.

Recommendation:

We recommend the Tax Collector's Office consult with legal counsel to evaluate the appropriateness and legality of issuing bonuses to employees. If bonuses are determined to be permissible, they should be separately identified in the annual budget submitted for approval. This will provide better transparency in the use of public funds.

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Programs

As required by Section 10.554(1)(i)6.a., Rules of the Auditor General, a PACE program authorized pursuant to Section 163.081 or Section 163.082, Florida Statutes, did not operate within the County's geographical boundaries during the fiscal year under audit.

Special District Component Units

Section 10.554(1)(i)5.c., Rules of the Auditor General, requires, if appropriate, that we communicate the failure of a special district that is a component unit of a county, municipality, or special district, to provide the financial information necessary for proper reporting of the component unit within the audited financial statements of the county, municipality, or special district in accordance with Section 218.39(3)(b), Florida Statutes. In connection with our audit, we did not note any special district component units that failed to provide the necessary information for proper reporting in accordance with Section 218.39(3)(b), Florida Statutes.

Honorable Board of County Commissioners and Constitutional Officers
County-Wide Management Letter
September 30, 2024

As required by Section 218.39(3)(c), Florida Statutes, and Section 10.554(1)(i)7, Rules of the Auditor General, the Howard Creek Fire Control District, the Overstreet Fire Control District, the St. Joseph Fire Control District, and the Tupelo Fire Control District and the Highland View Water and Sewer District reported the following:

- 1) The total number of district employees compensated in the last pay period of the fiscal year.

There are no employees of the above Dependent Specials Districts; therefore, there is no compensation to report for the last pay period of the fiscal year.

- 2) The total number of independent contractors to whom nonemployee compensation was paid in the last month of the district's fiscal year.

There were no independent contractors of the above Dependent Specials Districts for the last month of the fiscal year.

- 3) All compensation earned by or awarded to employees, whether paid or accrued, regardless of contingency.

Total paid or accrued compensation to employees is \$0.00.

- 4) All compensation paid or accrued to nonemployee independent contractors, whether paid or accrued, regardless of contingency.

Total paid or accrued compensation to independent contractors is \$0.00.

- 5) Each construction project with a total cost of at least \$65,000 approved by the district that is scheduled to begin after October 1 of the fiscal year being reported, together with the total expenditures of such project.

There are no construction projects to report in this fiscal year.

- 6) A budget variance report based on the budget adopted under Section 189.016(4) Florida Statutes, and the amended budget under Section 189.016(6), Florida Statutes.

A budget variance report is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Regarding Highland View Water & Sewer District, we have the following comments:

- 1) The Board of County Commissioners voted to dissolve its inactive Highland View Water & Sewer District by Resolutions 2015-49, and 2020-43.

Honorable Board of County Commissioners and Constitutional Officers
County-Wide Management Letter
September 30, 2024

- 2) The Board of County Commissioners transferred assets and ownership of the Highland View Water & Sewer System to the City of Port St. Joe by Agreement and Deed of Conveyance, as recorded in ORB 461 Page 219 on 06/23/2008.
- 3) The Highland View Water & Sewer District is not an active Special District under the Official List of Special Districts as managed by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity who filed the Notice of Declaration of Inactive Status (*Exhibit B*) to the appropriate Legislative presiding officers and standing committees who have Special District oversight.
- 4) Any reference in the Management Letter regarding the Highland View Water & Sewer District is that it is in an inactive state awaiting Legislative action to repeal and dissolve the Special District.

Additional Matters

Section 10.554(1)(i)3., Rules of the Auditor General, requires us to communicate noncompliance with provisions of contracts or grant agreements, or fraud, waste, or abuse, that has occurred, or is likely to have occurred, that has an effect on the financial statements that is less than material but which warrants the attention of those charged with governance. In connection with our audit, we did not note any such findings.

Purpose of this Letter

Our management letter is intended solely for the information and use of the Legislative Auditing Committee, members of the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives, the Florida Auditor General, federal and other granting agencies, the Board County Commissioners, and applicable management, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Lanigan & Associates, PC

Tallahassee, Florida
June 6, 2025

EXHIBIT A

**ST. JOSEPH FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT
BUDGET TO ACTUAL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>			Variance with Final Budget - Favorable (Unfavorable)
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Actual</u>	
REVENUES				
Taxes	\$ 1,035,960	\$ 1,035,960	\$ 998,661	\$ (37,299)
Intergovernmental	-	-	342,199	342,199
Investment earnings	-	-	114,850	114,850
Miscellaneous	-	-	79	79
Total revenues	<u>1,035,960</u>	<u>1,035,960</u>	<u>1,455,789</u>	<u>419,829</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Current				
Public safety	401,205	405,189	325,522	79,667
Capital outlay	<u>1,388,709</u>	<u>1,384,725</u>	<u>151,365</u>	<u>1,233,360</u>
Total expenditures	<u>1,789,914</u>	<u>1,789,914</u>	<u>476,887</u>	<u>1,313,027</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>(753,954)</u>	<u>(753,954)</u>	<u>978,902</u>	<u>1,732,856</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers (out)	<u>(145,087)</u>	<u>(145,087)</u>	<u>(138,094)</u>	<u>6,993</u>
Net changes in fund balances	<u>(899,041)</u>	<u>(899,041)</u>	<u>840,808</u>	<u>1,739,849</u>
Fund balances - beginning	<u>1,692,434</u>	<u>1,692,434</u>	<u>1,692,434</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund balances - ending	<u>\$ 793,393</u>	<u>\$ 793,393</u>	<u>\$ 2,533,242</u>	<u>\$ 1,739,849</u>

EXHIBIT A

**TUPELO FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT
BUDGET TO ACTUAL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget - Favorable (Unfavorable)
	Original	Final	Actual	
REVENUES				
Taxes	\$ 90,512	\$ 90,512	\$ 88,437	\$ (2,075)
Intergovernmental	-	-	18,778	18,778
Investment earnings	-	-	4,628	4,628
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-
Total revenues	90,512	90,512	111,843	21,331
EXPENDITURES				
Current				
Public safety	74,898	86,943	46,898	40,045
Capital outlay	81,497	89,452	59,265	30,187
Total expenditures	156,395	176,395	106,163	70,232
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(65,883)	(85,883)	5,680	91,563
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers (out)	(6,892)	(6,892)	(5,823)	1,069
Net changes in fund balances	(72,775)	(92,775)	(143)	92,632
Fund balances - beginning	132,662	132,662	132,662	-
Fund balances - ending	\$ 59,887	\$ 39,887	\$ 132,519	\$ 92,632

EXHIBIT A

**OVERSTREET FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT
BUDGET TO ACTUAL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>			Variance with Final Budget - Favorable (Unfavorable)
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Actual</u>	
REVENUES				
Taxes	\$ 41,091	\$ 41,091	\$ 40,004	\$ (1,087)
Intergovernmental	-	-	7,763	7,763
Investment earnings	-	-	2,550	2,550
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-
Total revenues	41,091	41,091	50,317	9,226
EXPENDITURES				
Current				
Public safety	35,150	35,150	28,735	6,415
Capital outlay	35,809	35,809	-	35,809
Total expenditures	70,959	70,959	28,735	42,224
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(29,868)	(29,868)	21,582	51,450
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers (out)	(3,446)	(3,446)	(2,912)	534
Net changes in fund balances	(33,314)	(33,314)	18,670	51,984
Fund balances - beginning	65,209	65,209	65,209	-
Fund balances - ending	\$ 31,895	\$ 31,895	\$ 83,879	\$ 51,984

EXHIBIT A

**HOWARD CREEK FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT
BUDGET TO ACTUAL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>			Variance with Final Budget - Favorable (Unfavorable)
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Actual</u>	
REVENUES				
Taxes	\$ 23,204	\$ 23,204	\$ 23,029	\$ (175)
Intergovernmental	-	-	3,943	3,943
Investment earnings	-	-	2,688	2,688
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-
Total revenues	<u>23,204</u>	<u>23,204</u>	<u>29,660</u>	<u>6,456</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Current				
Public safety	24,620	24,620	7,207	17,413
Capital outlay	<u>43,740</u>	<u>43,740</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>43,740</u>
Total expenditures	<u>68,360</u>	<u>68,360</u>	<u>7,207</u>	<u>61,153</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>(45,156)</u>	<u>(45,156)</u>	<u>22,453</u>	<u>67,609</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers (out)	<u>(2,010)</u>	<u>(2,010)</u>	<u>(1,698)</u>	<u>312</u>
Net changes in fund balances	<u>(47,166)</u>	<u>(47,166)</u>	<u>20,755</u>	<u>67,921</u>
Fund balances - beginning	<u>68,865</u>	<u>68,865</u>	<u>68,865</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund balances - ending	<u>\$ 21,699</u>	<u>\$ 21,699</u>	<u>\$ 89,620</u>	<u>\$ 67,921</u>

EXHIBIT B
MANAGEMENT LETTER

Ron DeSantis
GOVERNOR



Dane Eagle
SECRETARY

May 21, 2021

The Honorable Chris Sprowls, Speaker
Florida House of Representatives
420 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300

The Honorable Ralph E. Massullo, MD, Chair
House State Affairs Committee
209 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300

The Honorable Wilton Simpson, President
Florida Senate
409 The Capitol
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

The Honorable Jackie Toledo, Chair
House Local Administration and Veterans Affairs
Subcommittee
209 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300

The Honorable Jennifer Bradley, Chair
Senate Committee on Community Affairs
315 Knott Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

Re: Notice of Declaration of Inactive Status

Dear Speaker Sprowls, President Simpson, and Committee Chairs:

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) administers Chapter 189, Florida Statutes (the Uniform Special District Accountability Act), which charges DEO's Special District Accountability Program with duties related to special districts. Among these duties is to follow the procedures of section 189.062, Florida Statutes, to declare inactive any special district when it meets at least one of six criteria. Upon declaring a special district inactive that was created by a special act of the Legislature, DEO must provide a notice of declaration of inactive status referencing each known special act to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, and the standing committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives charged with special district oversight as determined by the presiding officers of each respective chamber and the Legislative Auditing Committee.

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity | Caldwell Building | 107 E. Madison Street | Tallahassee, FL 32399
850.245.7105 | www.FloridaJobs.org
www.twitter.com/FLDEO | www.facebook.com/FLDEO

An equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and service are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
All voice telephone numbers on this document may be reached by persons using TTY/TTD equipment via the Florida Relay Service at 711.

**EXHIBIT B
MANAGEMENT LETTER**

May 21, 2021
Page 2 of 2

Please be advised that DEO has declared the following three special districts inactive:

Calhoun County Transportation Authority (Calhoun County)

- **Known Special Act:** Chapter 76-341, Laws of Florida.
- **Inactive Criteria:** Registered agent letter dated February 17, 2021, notifying DEO that the special district has taken no action for more than two years and has not had a governing body for more than two years (section 189.062(1)(a)1.-2., Florida Statutes).
- **Date Declared Inactive:** April 15, 2021.

Dead Lakes Water Management District (Calhoun and Gulf County)

- **Known Special Act:** Chapter 57-1115, Laws of Florida.
- **Inactive Criteria:** Resolution of the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners dated October 27, 2020, resolving that the special district has had no governing body members and has taken no action for many years (section 189.062(1)(a)1.-2., Florida Statutes); Letter from Calhoun County dated February 17, 2021, notifying DEO that the County is in agreement with Gulf County regarding the need to declare the special district inactive.
- **Date Declared Inactive:** April 22, 2021.

Highland View Water and Sewer District (Gulf County)

- **Known Special Acts:** Chapters 61-2212 and 85-417, Laws of Florida.
- **Inactive Criteria:** Resolution of the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners dated October 27, 2020, resolving that the special district has had no governing body members and has taken no action for many years (section 189.062(1)(a)1.-2., Florida Statutes).
- **Date Declared Inactive:** April 22, 2021.

Section 189.062(3)(a), Florida Statutes, provides that a notice of declaration of inactive status is sufficient notice as required by section 10, Article III of the State Constitution to authorize the Legislature to repeal any special laws so reported and that each special act creating or amending the charter of a special district declared inactive may be repealed by general law.

If you have any questions, please have your office contact Ms. Valerie Wright, Assistant General Counsel, at 850-245-7150.

Sincerely,


James D. Stansbury, Chief
Bureau of Community Planning and Growth

JDS/jg

cc: Carla Hand, Registered Agent for the Calhoun County Transportation Authority
Donald Butler, Registered Agent for the Dead Lakes Water Management District and the
Highland View Water and Sewer District, c/o Kari Summers, Deputy Administrator, Gulf County

LANIGAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS
www.lanigancpa.com

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON
COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 218.415, FLORIDA STATUTES**

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners and Constitutional Officers
Gulf County, Florida

Report on Compliance

We have examined Gulf County, Florida's, (the "County") compliance with Section 218.415, Florida Statutes, during the year ended September 30, 2024, as required by Section 10.556(10)(a), Rules of the Auditor General. Management is responsible for the County's compliance with the specified requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the County's compliance with the specified requirements based on our examination.

Scope

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the County complied, in all material respects, with the specified requirements referenced above. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about whether the County complied with the specified requirements. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion. We are required to be independent and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to the review engagement. Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the County's compliance with specified requirements.

Opinion

In our opinion, the County complied, in all material respects, with the aforementioned requirements for the year ended September 30, 2024.

Lanigan & Associates, PC

Tallahassee, Florida
June 6, 2025

LANIGAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS
www.lanigancpa.com

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE
WITH SECTIONS 365.172(10) AND 365.173(2)(d), FLORIDA STATUTES**

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners and Constitutional Officers
Gulf County, Florida

Report on Compliance

We have examined Gulf County, Florida's, (the "County") compliance with Section 365.172(10) Florida Statutes, *Authorized Expenditures of E911 Fee*, and Section 365.173(2)(d) Florida Statutes, *Distribution and Use of (E911) Funds*, as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, as required by Section 10.556(10)(b), Rules of the Auditor General. Management is responsible for the County's compliance with the specified requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the County's compliance with the specified requirements based on our examination.

Scope

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the County complied, in all material respects, with the specified requirements referenced above. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about whether the County complied with the specified requirements. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion. We are required to be independent and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to the engagement. Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the County's compliance with specified requirements.

Opinion

In our opinion, the County complied, in all material respects, with the aforementioned requirements for the year ended September 30, 2024.

Lanigan & Associates, PC

Tallahassee, Florida
June 6, 2025



GULF COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR

ASHLEY L. FOREHAND, CFC
TAX COLLECTOR
AFOREHAND@GULFCOUNTY-FL.GOV

Port St. Joe Office

1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr Blvd Rm 100
Port St. Joe, FL. 32456
Telephone: (850) 229-6116 / 229-5353
Fax: (850) 229-9224

Wewahitchka Office

P.O. Box 681
Wewahitchka, FL. 32456
Telephone: (850) 639- 2655
Fax: (850) 639-6977

May 6, 2025

Lanigan & Associates, PC
2630 Centennial Place
Tallahassee, Florida 32309

Dear Lanigan & Associates, PC,

We acknowledge receipt of the audit recommendation concerning employee bonus payments issued by the Tax Collector's Office in December 2023 and September 2024.

The Office understands and accepts the importance of transparency and accountability in all fiscal matters, particularly in the use of public funds. We recognize that the referenced bonus payments were not separately identified in the approved budget and were not reviewed or approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

To address this matter and ensure future compliance, the Office will take the following corrective actions:

1. Legal Review:

We will consult with legal counsel to confirm the statutory authority for issuing employee bonuses.

2. BOCC Approval and Budget Inclusion

Any future bonus payments will be separately itemized in the annual budget submitted for approval to the Board of County Commissioners.

3. Performance-Based Awards

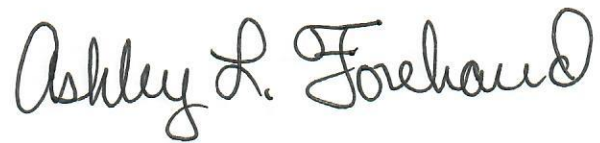
Should bonuses be deemed permissible, they will be tied to clearly defined and documented employee performance criteria.

4. Policy Development

The Office will adopt a formal written policy outlining the parameters for the issuance of bonuses, including eligibility requirements, approval processes, and documentation protocols.

We appreciate the observations provided in the audit report and are committed to implementing measures that strengthen our financial governance and ensure compliance with applicable standards and statutes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashley L. Forehand". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ashley L. Forehand

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE
Michael L. Hammond • County Administrator

1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd. • Room 302 • Port St. Joe, Florida • 32456
850.229.6106 • Fax: 850.564.7503 • mhammond@gulfcounty-fl.gov
DATE & TIME OF MEETINGS: Fourth Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m., E.T.

June 11, 2025

John Keillor, CPA
Lanigan & Associates, P.C.
2630 Centennial Place, Suite 1
Tallahassee, Florida 32308

RE: Gulf County Utilities Function-Segregation of Duties

Mr. Keillor,

Please accept this letter in direct and formal response to your audit review and comment sheet regarding the 2024-001: (BOCC): Utilities Function – Segregation of Duties for the Gulf County Water Department and its administrative oversight and daily management of its billing collections.

Gulf County has received and reviewed the comments and recommendations provided to Gulf County Water Department for its customer billing, customer billing adjustments, posting payments to the utility system and administrative collection for all receipts. Please be advised that Gulf County has taken the following actions and further procedures to address these recommendations:

- Gulf County has employed and designated multiple county staff members independent of one another to segregate and divide the exclusive duties of the itemized accounting, billing and collection responsibilities performed by the Gulf County water department.
- Further, Gulf County has commenced with a thorough review of its internal policies and procedures over the water department utility billing and cash receipt process to enhance and strengthen its current procedures.
- Gulf County has commenced with the cross training of personnel to ensure proper segregation of duties and oversight of independent duties performed by various Gulf County personnel.

SPIKE MCLEMORE
District 1

JACK HUSBAND
District 2

RANDY PRIDGEON
District 3

SANDY QUINN
District 4

PHIL MCCROAN
District 5

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE
Michael L. Hammond • County Administrator

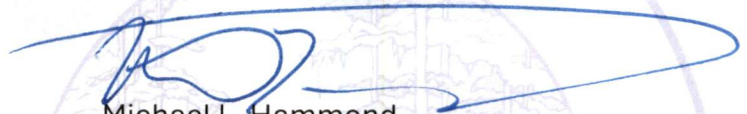
1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd. • Room 302 • Port St. Joe, Florida • 32456

850.229.6106 • Fax: 850.564.7503 • mhammond@gulfcounty-fl.gov

DATE & TIME OF MEETINGS: Fourth Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m., E.T.

In completing these actions and reviewing the current procedures, Gulf County will continue to seek and remove any risk of material misstatements due to errors or fraud not detected by employees assigned with independent duties and cross training of personnel with the Gulf County Water Department.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael L. Hammond
Gulf County Administrator

cc: Rebecca L. Norris, County Clerk
Ralph Roberson, CPA (Roberson & Associates, P.A.)
Jeremy Novak, County Attorney
Clay Smallwood, Assistant County Administrator

SPIKE MCLEMORE
District 1

JACK HUSBAND
District 2

RANDY PRIDGEON
District 3

SANDY QUINN
District 4

PHIL MCCROAN
District 5

**Gulf County, Florida
Clerk of the Circuit Court**



**Special Purpose
Financial Statements**

September 30, 2024

**Gulf County, Florida
Clerk of the Circuit Court**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

September 30, 2024

C O N T E N T S

<i>Financial Section</i>	Page No.
Independent Auditor's Report.....	1
Basic Financial Statements:	
Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds	4
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Governmental Funds	5
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget to Actual – General Fund.....	6
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget to Actual – State Court Operations Fund.....	7
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget to Actual – Modernization Trust Fund	8
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget to Actual – Administrative Order 86-12 Fund.....	9
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position – Custodial Funds.....	10
Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position – Custodial Funds	11
Notes to Financial Statements.....	12
 <i>Supplementary Information</i>	
Combining Statement of Fiduciary Net Position – Custodial Funds.....	19
Combining Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position – Custodial Funds	21
 <i>Internal Control and Compliance Section</i>	
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	23
Independent Auditor's Management Letter	25
Independent Accountant's Report on Compliance with Local Government Investment Policies, Article V Requirements, and Depository Requirements of Sections 218.415, 28.35, 28.36, and 61.181, Florida Statutes	27

LANIGAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
BUSINESS ADVISORS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Honorable Rebecca L. Norris
Gulf County, Florida Clerk of the Circuit Court
Gulf County, Florida

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of each major fund and the remaining aggregate fund information of the Gulf County, Florida Clerk of the Circuit Court (the "Clerk"), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements, as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the each major fund and the remaining aggregate fund information of the Clerk as of September 30, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position thereof, and the respective budgetary comparison for each major fund for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

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 (GAS)*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. 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 Clerk 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 opinion.

Emphasis of a Matter

As discussed in Note 1 to the financial statements, the financial statements referred to above were prepared solely for the purpose of complying with the Rules of the Auditor General of the State of Florida. In conformity with the Rules, the accompanying financial statements are intended to present the financial position and changes in financial position of each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information, only for that portion of the major funds, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Gulf County, Florida that is attributable to the Clerk. They do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of Gulf County, Florida as of September 30, 2024, and the changes in its financial position for the fiscal year then ended

in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to these matters.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

The Clerk's 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 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 Clerk'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 GAS 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 GAS, 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 Clerk'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 Clerk'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.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Clerk's basic financial statements. The combining fiduciary statements, as listed in the table of contents, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the 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. The 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 the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the supplementary information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 1, 2025, on our consideration of the Clerk'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 internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Clerk's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Lanigan & Associates, PC

Tallahassee, Florida
May 1, 2025

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
BALANCE SHEET
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

	Major Funds				
	General Fund	State Court Operations Fund	Modernization Trust Fund	Administrative Order 86-12 Fund	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,096,380	\$ 151,148	\$ 516,627	\$ 97,886	\$ 1,862,041
Accounts receivable	-	170	-	-	170
Prepaid items	198	-	-	-	198
Due from other governments	16,567	23,500	-	-	40,067
Due from other funds	162,838	1,470	-	-	164,308
Total assets	<u>\$ 1,275,983</u>	<u>\$ 176,288</u>	<u>\$ 516,627</u>	<u>\$ 97,886</u>	<u>\$ 2,066,784</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE					
Liabilities:					
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 48,569	\$ 36,290	\$ 2,785	\$ -	\$ 87,644
Due to other governments	-	139,998	-	-	139,998
Due to other funds	998,972	-	-	-	998,972
Total liabilities	<u>1,047,541</u>	<u>176,288</u>	<u>2,785</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,226,614</u>
Fund balance:					
Restricted	-	-	513,842	97,886	611,728
Unassigned	228,442	-	-	-	228,442
Total fund balance	<u>228,442</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>513,842</u>	<u>97,886</u>	<u>840,170</u>
Total liabilities and fund balance	<u>\$ 1,275,983</u>	<u>\$ 176,288</u>	<u>\$ 516,627</u>	<u>\$ 97,886</u>	<u>\$ 2,066,784</u>

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Major Funds				
	General Fund	State Court Operations Fund	Modernization Trust Fund	Administrative Order 86-12 Fund	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES					
Charges for services	\$ 145,360	\$ 199,115	\$ 58,263	\$ -	\$ 402,738
Intergovernmental revenue	97,723	398,732	-	-	496,455
Fines and forfeitures	-	116,783	-	-	116,783
Interest and other income	29,262	5,910	16,963	3,897	56,032
Total revenues	272,345	720,540	75,226	3,897	1,072,008
EXPENDITURES					
General government					
Personnel services	823,264	-	-	-	823,264
Operating expenditures	210,121	-	14,443	-	224,564
Capital outlay	19,992	-	-	-	19,992
Court related					
Personnel services	-	547,522	-	-	547,522
Operating expenditures	-	98,684	8,253	-	106,937
Total expenditures	1,053,377	646,206	22,696	-	1,722,279
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(781,032)	74,334	52,530	3,897	(650,271)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
Transfers from BOCC - appropriated	808,076	-	-	-	808,076
Transfers from BOCC - interest	1,075,980	-	-	-	1,075,980
Transfers to BOCC	(998,972)	-	-	-	(998,972)
Transfers - interfund	-	17,630	-	(17,630)	-
Remittance to State of Florida	-	(91,964)	-	-	(91,964)
Total other financing sources (uses)	885,084	(74,334)	-	(17,630)	793,120
Net changes in fund balances	104,052	-	52,530	(13,733)	142,849
Fund balances - beginning	124,390	-	461,312	111,619	697,321
Fund balances - ending	\$ 228,442	\$ -	\$ 513,842	\$ 97,886	\$ 840,170

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
BUDGET TO ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Original	Final	Actual	Variance with Final Budget Favorable (Unfavorable)
REVENUES				
Charges for services	\$ 134,246	\$ 145,360	\$ 145,360	\$ -
Intergovernmental revenue	65,000	97,723	97,723	-
Interest and other income	23,999	29,262	29,262	-
Total revenues	223,245	272,345	272,345	-
EXPENDITURES				
General government				
Personnel services	778,520	823,264	823,264	-
Operating expenditures	202,546	210,121	210,121	-
Capital outlay	44,553	19,992	19,992	-
Total expenditures	1,025,619	1,053,377	1,053,377	-
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(802,374)	(781,032)	(781,032)	-
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers from BOCC - appropriated	770,374	808,076	808,076	-
Transfers from BOCC - interest	32,000	1,075,980	1,075,980	-
Transfers to BOCC	-	(998,972)	(998,972)	-
Total other financing sources (uses)	802,374	885,084	885,084	-
Net changes in fund balances	-	104,052	104,052	-
Fund balances - beginning	124,390	124,390	124,390	-
Fund balances - ending	\$ 124,390	\$ 228,442	\$ 228,442	\$ -

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
BUDGET TO ACTUAL - STATE COURT OPERATIONS FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Original	Final	Actual	Variance with Final Budget Favorable (Unfavorable)
REVENUES				
Charges for services	\$ 183,963	\$ 199,115	\$ 199,115	\$ -
Intergovernmental revenue	366,876	398,732	398,732	-
Fines and forfeitures	89,620	116,783	116,783	-
Interest and other income	3,495	5,910	5,910	-
Total revenues	643,954	720,540	720,540	-
EXPENDITURES				
Court related				
Personnel services	601,863	547,522	547,522	-
Operating expenditures	42,091	98,684	98,684	-
Total expenditures	643,954	646,206	646,206	-
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	-	74,334	74,334	-
OTHER FINANCING (USES)				
Transfers - Interfund	-	17,630	17,630	-
Remittance to State of Florida	-	(91,964)	(91,964)	-
Total other financing sources (uses)	-	(74,334)	(74,334)	-
Net changes in fund balances	-	-	-	-
Fund balances - beginning	-	-	-	-
Fund balances - ending	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
BUDGET TO ACTUAL - MODERNIZATION TRUST FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Original	Final	Actual	Variance with Final Budget Favorable (Unfavorable)
REVENUES				
Charges for services	\$ 78,600	\$ 58,263	\$ 58,263	\$ -
Interest and other income	300	16,963	16,963	-
Total revenues	78,900	75,226	75,226	-
EXPENDITURES				
General government				
Operating expenditures	45,000	14,443	14,443	-
Capital outlay	152,157	189,919	-	189,919
Court related				
Operating expenditures	30,000	8,253	8,253	-
Capital outlay	132,357	252,349	-	252,349
Total expenditures	359,514	464,964	22,696	442,268
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(280,614)	(389,738)	52,530	442,268
Net changes in fund balances	(280,614)	(389,738)	52,530	442,268
Fund balances - beginning	461,312	461,312	461,312	-
Fund balances - ending	\$ 180,698	\$ 71,574	\$ 513,842	\$ 442,268

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
BUDGET TO ACTUAL - ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 86-12 FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Original	Final	Actual	Variance with Final Budget Favorable (Unfavorable)
REVENUES				
Interest and other income	\$ 150	\$ 3,897	\$ 3,897	\$ -
EXPENDITURES				
General government				
Capital outlay	83,507	83,507	-	83,507
Court related				
Operating expenditures	15,000	15,000	-	15,000
Total expenditures	98,507	98,507	-	98,507
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(98,357)	(94,610)	3,897	98,507
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers from BOCC	-	-	-	-
Transfers to BOCC	(1,000)	17,630	(17,630)	(35,260)
Total other financing sources (uses)	(1,000)	17,630	(17,630)	(35,260)
Net changes in fund balances	(99,357)	(76,980)	(13,733)	63,247
Fund balances - beginning	111,619	111,619	111,619	-
Fund balances - ending	\$ 12,262	\$ 34,639	\$ 97,886	\$ 63,247

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
CUSTODIAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 877,258
Accounts receivable	239
Due from other funds	2,130
Due from other governments	<u>630</u>

Total assets	<u>880,257</u>
--------------	----------------

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable	-
Due to other funds	43,932
Due to other governments	42,856
Due to BOCC	<u>14,864</u>

Total liabilities	<u>101,652</u>
-------------------	----------------

NET POSITION

Restricted	<u><u>\$ 778,605</u></u>
------------	--------------------------

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
CUSTODIAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

ADDITIONS

Deposits/escrow/surplus	\$ 623,300
Service charges/general government	4,322,361
Court related	<u>1,867,842</u>
 Total additions	 <u>6,813,503</u>

DEDUCTIONS

Deposits/escrow/surplus	461,917
Service charges/general government	4,320,147
Court related	<u>1,700,925</u>
 Total deductions	 <u>6,482,989</u>

Net change in fiduciary net position	330,514
 Net position - beginning	 <u>448,091</u>
 Net position - ending	 <u><u>\$ 778,605</u></u>

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 1: <i>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies</i>
--

The accounting policies of the Gulf County, Florida Clerk of the Circuit Court (the “Clerk”) conform with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), as applicable to governments. The following is a summary of significant accounting principles and policies used in the preparation of these special purpose financial statements.

Reporting Entity

Gulf County, Florida (the “County”) is a political subdivision of the State of Florida. It is governed by an elected Board of County Commissioners (the “Board”). The Clerk is an elected official of the County pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Florida, Article VIII, Section 1(d).

The Clerk is a part of the primary government of the County. The Clerk is responsible for the administration and operation of the Clerk’s office, and the Clerk’s financial statements do not include the financial statements of the Board or the other Constitutional Officers of the County.

The Clerk funds non-court operations as a Budget Officer and a Fee Officer pursuant to Florida Statutes, Chapters 28, 129, and 218, respectively. As a Budget Officer, the operations of the Clerk are funded by the County general fund. The receipts from the County general fund are recorded as other financing sources on the Clerk’s general fund financial statements. Any excess of revenues and other financing sources received over expenditures of the general fund are remitted to the County general fund at year-end. The court-related operations of the Clerk are funded from fees and charges authorized under Chapter 2013-44, Laws of Florida and are reported in the court fund. Such provisions may be amended at any time by further action from the Florida Legislature. At year-end, any excess of revenues over court-related expenditures of the court fund are remitted to the State of Florida pursuant to Florida Statute 28.37.

Basis of Presentation

The Clerk’s financial statements are special purpose financial statements that have been prepared solely for the purpose of complying with the Rules of the Auditor General of the State of Florida (the “Rules”). These special purpose financial statements are the fund financial statements required by generally accepted accounting principles. However, these fund financial statements do not constitute a complete presentation because, in conformity with the Rules, the Clerk of Courts has not presented the government-wide financial statements, reconciliations to the government-wide financial statements, or management’s discussion and analysis. Also, certain notes to the financial statements may supplement rather than duplicate the notes included in the County’s county-wide financial statements.

NOTE 1: <i>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)</i>
--

Basis of Presentation (Continued)

The financial transactions of the Clerk are recorded in individual funds. Each fund is accounted for by providing a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund balance, revenues, and expenditures.

These funds are segregated for the purpose of carrying on specific activities or attaining certain objectives in accordance with special regulations, restrictions, or limitations.

The Clerk reports the following major governmental funds:

Governmental Fund Types

- General Fund – The general fund is the general operating fund of the Clerk. It is used to account for all financial resources, except for those required to be accounted for in other funds.
- State Court Operations Fund – Used to account for state court operations.
- Modernization Trust Fund – The modernization trust fund, a special revenue fund is used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally restricted to expenditures for specific purposes.
- Administrative Order 86-12 Fund – This special revenue fund is used to account for additional court costs of traffic infractions to be used for administering traffic violations.

Fiduciary Fund Type

- Custodial Funds – The custodial funds are used to account for assets held by the Clerk as an agent for individuals, private organizations, other governments, and/or other funds.

Measurement Focus/Basis of Accounting

All governmental funds are accounted for on a current financial resources measurement focus. This means that only current assets and current liabilities are generally included on their balance sheets. Their reported fund balance (net current assets) is considered a measure of “available spendable resources.” Their operating statements present increases (revenues and other financing sources) and decreases (expenditures and other financing uses) in net current assets and, accordingly, are said to present a summary of sources and uses of “available, spendable resources” during a period. Basis of accounting refers to when revenues and expenditures are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. Basis of accounting relates to the timing of the measurements made, regardless of the measurement focus applied.

All governmental funds are accounted for using the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when they become measurable and available as net current assets. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectable within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period.

NOTE 1: <i>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)</i>
--

Measurement Focus/Basis of Accounting (Continued)

For this purpose, the government considered revenues to be available if they are collected within 31 days of the end of the current fiscal period.

Expenditures are generally recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related fund liability is incurred. However, principal and interest on long-term debt are recognized when due.

The custodial funds are accounted for using an economic resource measurement focus and accrual basis of accounting requiring a resource flow statement. Liabilities are recognized when an event occurs that compels the Clerk to disburse fiduciary resources, which is when a demand for resources has been made or when no further action, approval, or condition is required to be taken or not by the beneficiary to release the assets.

Budget and Budgetary Accounting

Expenditures, other than those for certain agency funds, are controlled by appropriations in accordance with the budget requirements set forth in Florida Statutes. Budgets are adopted for governmental and special revenue funds. Budgetary control is exercised at the fund level. Budgetary changes within the fund are made at the discretion of the Clerk. Appropriations lapse at the end of the fiscal year to the extent they have not been expended. The budgeted revenues and expenditures in the accompanying budgetary comparison statement reflect all approved amendments.

Florida Statutes Chapter 218.35 governs the preparation, adoption, and administration of the Clerk's annual budget. The Clerk establishes an annual budget for the office which clearly reflects the revenues available to the office and the functions for which the money is to be expended.

The Clerk prepares the budget in three parts:

1. The budget relating to the requirements of the Clerk as the Ex Officio Clerk to the Board, County Auditor, County Recorder, and Custodian or Treasurer of all County funds and other county related duties, and for chapter 29 obligations;
2. The budget relating to the Florida court system, which is filed with the Clerk of Courts Operations Corporation (CCOC) by June 1 preceding the fiscal year of the budget, in the format required by the CCOC. Section 28.36, Florida Statutes, defines the maximum annual budget permitted; and
3. The budget for all other operations of the Clerk.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Clerk considers all highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

NOTE 1: <i>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)</i>
--

Capital Assets

Capital assets purchased in the governmental fund type are recorded as expenditures (capital outlay) at the time of purchase. Assets acquired by the Clerk are reported as capital assets in the statement of net assets as part of the basic financial statement for Gulf County. The Clerk maintains custodial responsibility for the capital assets used by their office.

Liability for Compensated Absences

Permanent full-time employees of the Clerk accrue sick leave based upon pay periods worked and earned vacation time related to length of employment with the Clerk's office. The vacation and sick time must be taken during the year earned and no payment for vacation or sick leave is made at termination.

Related Organizations – Common Expenses

Certain expenditures, which are common to the Board and all Constitutional Officers, are reported as expenses of the Board and, therefore, are not budgeted by or allocated to the Clerk. These expenses relating to the Clerk's courthouse facilities are:

- Occupancy costs
- Janitorial services
- Utilities (except telephone)
- Property insurance

Fund Balance Reporting

The Clerk has implemented the provisions of Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions* (GASB 54), as required. The purpose of GASB 54 is to improve the consistency and usefulness of fund balance information to the financial statement user. The statement establishes fund balance classifications that comprise a hierarchy based primarily on the extent to which the organization is bound to honor constraints on the specific purpose for which amounts in the funds can be spent. Fund balance is reported in five components – non-spendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned:

- Non-Spendable: This component of fund balance consists of amounts that cannot be spent because: (a) they are not expected to be converted to cash, or (b) they are legally or contractually required to remain intact. Examples of this classification are prepaid items, inventories, and principal (corpus) of an endowment fund. The Clerk does not have any non-spendable funds.
- Restricted: This component of fund balances consists of amounts that are constrained either: (a) externally by third parties (creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments), or (b) by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

NOTE 1: <i>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)</i>
--

- Committed: This component of fund balance consists of amounts that can only be used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action (e.g., policy, ordinance, or resolution) of the Clerk's governing authority.
- Assigned: This component of fund balance consists of amounts that are constrained by a less-than formal action of the Clerk's governing authority, or by an individual or body to whom the governing authority has delegated this responsibility. The Clerk has not delegated the responsibility to assign fund balances to any individual or body.
- Unassigned: This classification is used for: (a) negative unrestricted fund balances in any governmental fund, or (b) fund balances within the general fund that are not restricted, committed, or assigned.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the Clerk's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources (committed, assigned, and unassigned) as they are needed. When unrestricted resources (committed, assigned, and unassigned) are available for use, it is the Clerk's policy to use committed resources first, then assigned, and then unassigned as needed.

Distribution of Excess Revenues

Florida Statutes require that the Clerk distribute any excess of revenues over expenditures within the general fund to the board within 31 days following the end of the fiscal year. Accordingly, the amount of excess revenues distributed to the Board at the end of the year is presented in the accompanying special-purpose financial statements as "other financing uses."

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported and disclosed in the accompanying financial statements and notes. Actual results could differ from estimates.

Subsequent Events

The Clerk of the Court evaluated subsequent events through May 1, 2025, the date which the financial statements were available to be issued. The Clerk of the Court did not have any subsequent events requiring disclosure or recording in these financial statements.

NOTE 2: *Interfund Transactions*

During the course of normal operations, numerous transactions occur between funds, such as expenditures or transfers of resources to provide services, service debt, or construct assets. The interfund transactions are not eliminated, and no interest is charged on such advances.

Interfund receivable and payable balances at September 30, 2024, were as follows:

	<u>Interfund Receivable</u>	<u>Interfund Payable</u>
General Fund		
Board of County Commissioners	\$ 162,838	\$ 998,972
State Court Operations Fund		
Board of County Commissioners	1,470	-
Total	<u>\$ 164,308</u>	<u>\$ 998,972</u>

Operating transfers between funds during the year were as follows:

	<u>Transfers In</u>	<u>Transfers Out</u>
General Fund		
Board of County Commissioners	<u>\$ 808,076</u>	<u>\$ 998,972</u>

NOTE 3: *Retirement*

The entity participates in the Florida Retirement System (FRS), a multiple-employer, cost sharing defined public employee retirement system which covers all of the Office's full-time employees. The System is administered by the State of Florida, Department of Administration, Division of Retirement to provide retirement and survivor benefits to participating public employees. Provisions relating to the FRS are established by Chapters 121 and 122, Florida Statutes; Chapter 112, Part IV, Florida Statutes; Chapter 238, Florida Statutes; and FRS Rules, Chapter 60S, Florida Administrative Code; wherein eligibility, contributions, and benefits are defined and described in detail. The FRS is a single retirement system administered by the Department of Management Services, Division of Retirement, and consists of two cost-sharing, multiple-employer retirement plans and other nonintegrated programs. These include a defined-benefit pension plan (Plan), with a Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP), and a defined-contribution plan, referred to as the FRS Investment Plan (Investment Plan).

In addition, all regular employees of the entity are eligible to enroll as members of the Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy (HIS) Program. The HIS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan established and administered in accordance with section 112.363, Florida Statutes. The benefit is a monthly payment to assist retirees of the state-administered retirement systems in paying their health insurance costs. For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, eligible retirees and beneficiaries received a monthly HIS payment equal to the number of years of service credited at retirement multiplied by \$7.50. The minimum payment is \$45 and the maximum payment is \$225 per month, pursuant to section 112.363, Florida Statutes. To be eligible to receive a HIS benefit, a retiree under one of the state-administered retirement systems must provide proof of eligible health insurance coverage, which can include Medicare.

NOTE 3: <i>Retirement (Continued)</i>
--

For financial reporting purposes, the Clerk is deemed to be part of the primary government of the County. A liability related to the Clerk's proportionate share of FRS retirement benefits, along with a detailed plan description, is reported in the financial statements of the County for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024.

NOTE 4: <i>Changes in Long-Term Obligations</i>
--

Under the GASB 34 reporting model, long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and accordingly are not reported as fund liabilities. All long-term liabilities for the Clerk are reported in the government-wide Statement of Net Position. The compensated absences of the Clerk are accounted for in the Statement of Net Position as follows:

	Balance			Balance
	September 30, 2023	Additions	Reductions	September 30, 2024
Compensated absences	\$ 33,429	\$ 50,163	\$ (40,026)	\$ 43,566

NOTE 5: <i>Risk Management</i>

The Clerk is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors or omissions; injuries to employees and the public; or damage to property of others. The Clerk participates in the risk management program through the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners, which uses commercial insurance to cover certain risks from loss.

The Board obtained commercial insurance against losses for the following types of risk:

- Real and personal property damage
- Public employee's bond
- Workers' compensation
- General and automobile liability

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
COMBINING STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
CUSTODIAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Clerk Fee/Tax Deed Holdings Account	Tax Deed Account	Jury and Witness Account	Alimony and Support Account
ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 49,025	\$ 275,766	\$ 6,380	\$ 3,331
Accounts receivable	689	(540)	-	-
Due from other funds	-	1,500	-	-
Due from other governments	-	-	-	-
	<u>49,714</u>	<u>276,726</u>	<u>6,380</u>	<u>3,331</u>
Total assets				
	<u>49,714</u>	<u>276,726</u>	<u>6,380</u>	<u>3,331</u>
LIABILITIES				
Accounts payable	-	-	-	-
Due to other funds	12,042	-	202	90
Due to other governments	27,775	-	-	41
Due to BOCC	2,662	-	-	-
	<u>42,479</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>202</u>	<u>131</u>
Total liabilities				
	<u>42,479</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>202</u>	<u>131</u>
NET POSITION				
Restricted	<u>\$ 7,235</u>	<u>\$ 276,726</u>	<u>\$ 6,178</u>	<u>\$ 3,200</u>

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
COMBINING STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
CUSTODIAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Clerk's Bond Fund	Registry of the Court	Clerk's Trust Account	Total Custodial Funds
ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 110,525	\$ 202,161	\$ 230,070	\$ 877,258
Accounts receivable	-	-	90	239
Due from other funds	-	-	630	2,130
Due from other governments	-	-	630	630
Total assets	110,525	202,161	231,420	880,257
LIABILITIES				
Accounts payable	-	-	-	-
Due to other funds	-	-	31,598	43,932
Due to other governments	-	-	15,040	42,856
Due to BOCC	-	-	12,202	14,864
Total liabilities	-	-	58,840	101,652
NET POSITION				
Restricted	\$ 110,525	\$ 202,161	\$ 172,580	\$ 778,605

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
COMBINING STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
CUSTODIAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Clerk Fee/Tax Deed Holdings Account	Tax Deed Account	Jury and Witness Account	Alimony and Support Account
ADDITIONS				
Deposits/escrow/surplus	\$ -	\$ 623,300	\$ -	\$ -
Service charges/general government	4,322,361	-	-	-
Court related	-	-	7,724	102,498
Total additions	4,322,361	623,300	7,724	102,498
DEDUCTIONS				
Deposits/escrow/surplus	-	461,917	-	-
Service charges/general government	4,320,147	-	-	-
Court related	-	-	8,666	102,498
Total deductions	4,320,147	461,917	8,666	102,498
Net change in fiduciary net position	2,214	161,383	(942)	-
Net position - beginning	5,021	115,343	7,120	3,200
Net position - ending	<u>\$ 7,235</u>	<u>\$ 276,726</u>	<u>\$ 6,178</u>	<u>\$ 3,200</u>

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
COMBINING STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
CUSTODIAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Clerk's Bond Fund	Registry of the Court	Clerk's Trust Account	Total Custodial Funds
ADDITIONS				
Deposits/escrow/surplus	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 623,300
Service charges/general government	-	-	-	4,322,361
Court related	171,928	327,290	1,258,402	1,867,842
Total additions	171,928	327,290	1,258,402	6,813,503
DEDUCTIONS				
Deposits/escrow/surplus	-	-	-	461,917
Service charges/general government	-	-	-	4,320,147
Court related	124,578	253,855	1,211,328	1,700,925
Total deductions	124,578	253,855	1,211,328	6,482,989
Net change in fiduciary net position	47,350	73,435	47,074	330,514
Net position - beginning	63,175	128,726	125,506	448,091
Net position - ending	\$ 110,525	\$ 202,161	\$ 172,580	\$ 778,605

INTERNAL CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE SECTION

LANIGAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
BUSINESS ADVISORS

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

The Honorable Rebecca L. Norris
Gulf County, Florida Clerk of the Circuit Court
Gulf County, Florida

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 each major fund and remaining aggregate fund information of Gulf County, Florida Clerk of the Circuit Court (the "Clerk") as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Clerk's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated May 1, 2025.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

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

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

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Clerk'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 of 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*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Clerk'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 Clerk's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Lanigan & Associates, PC

Tallahassee, Florida
May 1, 2025

LANIGAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
BUSINESS ADVISORS

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S
MANAGEMENT LETTER**

The Honorable Rebecca L. Norris
Gulf County, Florida Clerk of the Circuit Court
Gulf County, Florida

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the financial statements of the Gulf County, Florida Clerk of the Circuit Court (the "Clerk") as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, and have issued our report thereon dated May 1, 2025.

Auditor's Responsibility

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Florida Auditor General.

Other Reporting Requirements

We have issued our 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*; and Independent Accountant's Report on an examination conducted in accordance with *AICPA Professional Standards*, AT-C Section 315, regarding compliance requirements in accordance with Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General. Disclosures in those reports, which are dated May 1, 2025, should be considered in conjunction with this management letter.

Prior Audit Findings

Section 10.554(1)(i)1., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that we determine whether or not corrective actions have been taken to address findings and recommendations made in the preceding annual financial audit report. There were no recommendations made in the preceding annual financial audit report.

Official Title and Legal Authority

Section 10.554(1)(i)4., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that the name or official title and legal authority for the primary government and each component unit of the reporting entity be

disclosed in this management letter, unless disclosed in the notes to the financial statements. This information is disclosed in Note 1 of the notes to financial statements.

Financial Management

Section 10.554(1)(i)2., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that we communicate any recommendations to improve financial management. In connection with our audit, we did not have any such recommendations.

Additional Matters

Section 10.554(1)(i)3., Rules of the Auditor General, requires us to communicate noncompliance with provisions of contracts or grant agreements, or fraud, waste, or abuse, that has occurred, or is likely to have occurred, that has an effect on the financial statements that is less than material but warrants the attention of those charged with governance. In connection with our audit, we did not note any such findings.

Purpose of this Letter

Our management letter is intended solely for the information and use of the Legislative Auditing Committee, members of the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives, the Florida Auditor General, Federal and other granting agencies, the Board of County Commissioners, and applicable management, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Lanigan & Associates, PC

Tallahassee, Florida
May 1, 2025

LANIGAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
BUSINESS ADVISORS

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE
WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT POLICIES, ARTICLE V
REQUIREMENTS, AND DEPOSITORY REQUIREMENTS OF SECTIONS
218.415, 28.35, 28.36, AND 61.181, FLORIDA STATUTES**

The Honorable Rebecca L. Norris
Gulf County, Florida Clerk of the Circuit Court
Gulf County, Florida

Report on Compliance

We have examined the Gulf County, Florida Clerk of the Circuit Court's (the "Clerk") compliance with the local government investment policy requirements of Section 218.415, Florida Statutes, Article V requirements of Sections 28.35 and 28.36, Florida Statutes, and depository requirements for alimony transactions, support, maintenance and support payments of Section 61.181, Florida Statutes, for the year ended September 30, 2024. Management is responsible for the Clerk's compliance with those requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Clerk's compliance based on our examination.

Scope

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Clerk complied, in all material respects, with the specified requirements referenced above. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about whether the Clerk complied with the specified requirements. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion. We are required to be independent and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to the engagement. Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the Clerk's compliance with specified requirements.

Opinion

In our opinion, the Clerk complied, in all material respects, with the aforementioned requirements for the year ended September 30, 2024.

Lanigan & Associates, PC

Tallahassee, Florida
May 1, 2025

**Gulf County, Florida
Property Appraiser**



**Special Purpose
Financial Statements**

September 30, 2024

Gulf County, Florida Property Appraiser

Financial Statements

September 30, 2024

C O N T E N T S

<i>Financial Section</i>	Page No.
Independent Auditor's Report.....	1
Basic Financial Statements:	
Balance Sheet – General Fund	4
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget to Actual – General Fund	5
Notes to Financial Statements.....	6
 <i>Internal Control and Compliance Section</i>	
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	12
Independent Auditor's Management Letter	14
Independent Accountant's Report on Compliance with Florida Statute Section 218.415 – Investment of Public Funds.....	16

LANIGAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
BUSINESS ADVISORS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Honorable Mitch Burke
Gulf County, Florida Property Appraiser
Gulf County, Florida

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the general fund of the Gulf County, Florida Property Appraiser (the "Property Appraiser"), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the general fund of the Property Appraiser as of September 30, 2024, 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 Opinion

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 (GAS)*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. 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 Property Appraiser 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 opinion.

Emphasis of a Matter

As discussed in Note 1 to the financial statements, the financial statements referred to above were prepared solely for the purpose of complying with the Rules of the Auditor General of the State of Florida. In conformity with the Rules, the accompanying financial statements are intended to present the financial position and changes in financial position of the general fund, only for that portion of the general fund, of Gulf County, Florida that is attributable to the Property Appraiser. They do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of Gulf County, Florida as of September 30, 2024, and the changes in its financial position for the fiscal year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to these matters.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

The Property Appraiser's 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 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 Property Appraiser'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 GAS 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 GAS, 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 Property Appraiser'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 Property Appraiser'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.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 3, 2025, on our consideration of the Property Appraiser's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, rules, 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 internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Property Appraiser's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Lanigan & Associates, PC

Tallahassee, Florida
June 3, 2025

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA PROPERTY APPRAISER
BALANCE SHEET
GENERAL FUND
AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 38,079
---------------------------	-----------

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

Liabilities:

Due to BOCC	38,079
-------------	--------

Fund balance	-
--------------	---

Total liabilities and fund balance	\$ 38,079
------------------------------------	-----------

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA PROPERTY APPRAISER
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGET TO ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget Favorable (Unfavorable)
	Original	Final	Actual	
REVENUES				
Other income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 448	\$ 448
Total revenues	-	-	448	448
EXPENDITURES				
General government				
Personnel services	\$ 930,006	\$ 716,089	\$ 678,010	\$ 38,079
Operating expenditures	-	165,660	165,660	-
Capital outlay	-	-	-	-
Total expenditures	930,006	881,749	843,670	38,079
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(930,006)	(881,749)	(843,670)	38,079
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers in	930,006	881,749	881,749	-
Transfers out	-	-	(38,079)	(38,079)
Total other financing sources (uses)	930,006	881,749	843,670	(38,079)
Net changes in fund balances	-	-	-	-
Fund balance - beginning	-	-	-	-
Fund balance - ending	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROPERTY APPRAISER
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

NOTE 1: <i>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies</i>
--

The accounting policies of the Gulf County, Florida Property Appraiser (the “Property Appraiser”) conform with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), as applicable to governments. The following is a summary of significant accounting principles and policies used in the preparation of these special purpose financial statements.

Reporting Entity

Gulf County, Florida (the “County”) is a political subdivision of the state of Florida. It is governed by an elected Board of County Commissioners (the “Board”) and an appointed County Administrator, as provided by Section 125.73 of the Florida Statutes. The County Administrator is responsible for the administration of all departments of which the Board has the authority to control pursuant to the general laws of Florida.

The Property Appraiser is an elected official of Gulf County, Florida pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Florida, Article VIII, Section 1(d). The Property Appraiser is part of the primary government of Gulf County, Florida. Although the Board and the Florida Department of Revenue approve the Property Appraiser’s total operating budget, the Property Appraiser is responsible for the administration and the operation of the Property Appraiser’s office. There are no separate legal entities (component units) for which the Property Appraiser is considered to be financially accountable.

The operations of the Property Appraiser are funded by the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners. The receipts from the Board are recorded as other financing sources on the Property Appraiser’s financial statements and as other financing uses on the Board’s financial statements. Any excess of revenues and other financial sources received over expenditures are remitted to the Board at year end.

Fund Accounting

Accounts are organized on the basis of fund types, each of which is considered to be a separate accounting entity. The operations of each fund are accounted for with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund balance, revenues, and expenditures as appropriate. Government resources are allocated to and accounted for in individual funds based on the purpose for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled. The Property Appraiser utilizes the following fund types:

Governmental Fund Types

- General Fund – The general fund is the general operating fund of the Property Appraiser. It is used to account for all financial resources, except for those required to be accounted for in other funds.

NOTE 1: <i>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)</i>
--

Basis of Accounting

Basis of accounting refers to when revenues and expenditures are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements and relates to the timing of the measurements made, regardless of the measurement focus applied.

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared using the modified accrual basis of accounting for governmental funds and agency funds. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when they become both measurable and available to finance expenditures of the current period. Expenditures are recorded when the liability is incurred, if measurable, except for principal and interest on long-term obligations which is recorded when due.

The Property Appraiser considers receivable collected within 60 days after year end to be available and susceptible to accrual as revenues of the current year. Charges for services and interest earned are susceptible to accrual.

Measurement Focus

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to the fixed assets and long-term liabilities associated with a fund are determined by its measurement focus. All governmental funds are accounted for on a spending or “financial flow” measurement focus. This means that generally, only current assets and current liabilities are included in the balance sheet. Governmental fund operating statements present increases (revenues and other financing sources) and decreases (expenditures and other financing uses) in net current assets. Accordingly, they present a summary of sources and uses of “available spendable resources” during a period.

Budget and Budgetary Accounting

Florida Statutes, Chapter 195.087 governs the preparation, adoption and administration of the annual budget of the Property Appraiser. The budget and subsequent budget amendments of the Property Appraiser are submitted to the Florida Department of Revenue (FDOR) for approval. A copy of the budget is also provided to the Board.

Line-item expenditures in excess of budget are authorized to the extent that total expenditures do not exceed the total budgeted expenditures. Budget transfers between appropriation categories (personal services, operating expenditures, capital outlay, and debt service) must be approved by FDOR. Transfers between expenditure items within the same appropriation category do not need approval by FDOR. The budget is prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting. General fund appropriations lapse at the end of the fiscal year to the extent they have not been expended.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Property Appraiser considers all highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

NOTE 1: <i>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)</i>
--

Capital Assets

Capital assets purchased in the governmental fund type are recorded as expenditures (capital outlay) at the time of purchase. Assets acquired by the Property Appraiser are reported as capital assets in the statement of net assets as part of the basic financial statement for Gulf County. The Property Appraiser maintains custodial responsibility for the capital assets used by their office.

Liability for Compensated Absences

Permanent full-time employees of the Property Appraiser accrue sick leave based upon pay periods worked and earned vacation time related to length of employment with the Property Appraiser's office. The vacation and sick time must be taken during the year earned and no payment for vacation or sick leave is made at termination.

Related Organizations – Common Expenses

Certain expenditures, which are common to the Board and all Constitutional Officers, are reported as expenses of the Board and, therefore, are not budgeted by or allocated to the Property Appraiser. These expenses relating to the Property Appraiser's courthouse facilities are:

- Occupancy costs
- Janitorial services
- Utilities (except telephone)
- Property insurance

Distribution of Excess Revenues

Florida Statutes require that the Property Appraiser distribute any excess of revenues over expenditures within the general fund to the board within 31 days following the end of the fiscal year. Accordingly, the amount of excess revenues distributed to the Board at the end of the year is presented in the accompanying special-purpose financial statements as "other financing uses."

Fund Balance

Fund balance for governmental funds reports 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 the funds may be spent. The Property Appraiser is a county constitutional officer, and therefore, any funds remaining at the end of the fiscal year are returned to the Board of County Commissioners. Unassigned fund balance represents funds available for spending at the government's discretion.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the Property Appraiser's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources (committed, assigned, and unassigned) as they are needed. When unrestricted resources (committed, assigned, and unassigned) are available for use, it is the Property Appraiser's policy to use committed resources first, then assigned, and then unassigned, as needed.

NOTE 1: <i>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)</i>
--

Subsequent Events

The Property Appraiser evaluated subsequent events through June 3, 2025, the date which the financial statements were available to be issued. The Property Appraiser did not have any subsequent events requiring disclosure or recording in these financial statements.

NOTE 2: <i>Cash and Investments</i>
--

All Property Appraiser depositories are banks designated by the State Treasurer as qualified public depositories. Chapter 280, Florida Statutes “Florida Security for Public Deposits Act” provides procedures for public depositories to insure monies in banks and savings, and that loans are collateralized with the Treasurer as an agent for the public entities. All Property Appraiser cash consists of checking accounts and interest-bearing time deposits in a local bank.

NOTE 3: <i>Interfund Transactions</i>
--

During the course of normal operations, numerous transactions occur between funds, such as expenditures or transfers of resources to provide services, service debt, or construct assets. The inter-fund transactions are not eliminated, and no interest is charged on such advances.

Inter-fund receivable and payable balances at September 30, 2024, were as follows:

	<u>Interfund Receivable</u>	<u>Interfund Payable</u>
General Fund		
Board of County Commissioners	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 38,079</u>

Operating transfers between funds during the year were as follows:

	<u>Transfers in</u>	<u>Transfers Out</u>
General Fund		
Board of County Commissioners	<u>\$ 881,749</u>	<u>\$ 38,079</u>

NOTE 4: <i>Retirement</i>

The Property Appraiser participates in the Florida Retirement System (FRS), a multiple-employer, cost sharing defined public employee retirement system which covers all the Property Appraiser’s full-time employees. The System is administered by the State of Florida, Department of Administration, Division of Retirement to provide retirement and survivor benefits to participating public employees. Provisions relating to the FRS are established by Chapters 121 and 122, Florida Statutes; Chapter 112, Part IV, Florida Statutes; Chapter 238, Florida Statutes; and FRS Rules, Chapter 60S, Florida Administrative Code; wherein eligibility, contributions, and benefits are defined and described in detail. The FRS is a single retirement system administered by the Department of Management Services, Division of Retirement, and consists of two cost-sharing, multiple-employer retirement plans and other nonintegrated programs.

NOTE 4: <i>Retirement (Continued)</i>
--

These include a defined-benefit pension plan (Plan), with a Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP), and a defined-contribution plan, referred to as the FRS Investment Plan (Investment Plan).

In addition, all regular employees of the entity are eligible to enroll as members of the Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy (HIS) Program. The HIS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan established and administered in accordance with section 112.363, Florida Statutes. The benefit is a monthly payment to assist retirees of the state-administered retirement systems in paying their health insurance costs. For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, eligible retirees and beneficiaries received a monthly HIS payment equal to the number of years of service credited at retirement multiplied by \$7.50. The minimum payment is \$45 and the maximum payment is \$225 per month, pursuant to section 112.363, Florida Statutes. To be eligible to receive a HIS benefit, a retiree under one of the state-administered retirement systems must provide proof of eligible health insurance coverage, which can include Medicare.

For financial reporting purposes, the Property Appraiser is deemed to be part of the primary government of the County. A liability related to the Property Appraiser's proportionate share of FRS retirement benefits, along with a detailed plan description, is reported in the financial statements of the County for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024.

NOTE 5: <i>Risk Management</i>

The Property Appraiser is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors or omissions; injuries to employees and the public; or damage to property of others. The Property Appraiser participates in the risk management program through the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners, which uses commercial insurance to cover certain risks from loss.

The Board obtained commercial insurance against losses for the following types of risk:

- Real and personal property damage
- Public employee's bond
- Workers' compensation
- General and automobile liability

INTERNAL CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE SECTION

LANIGAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
BUSINESS ADVISORS

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

The Honorable Mitch Burke
Gulf County, Florida Property Appraiser
Gulf County, Florida

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the general fund of Gulf County, Florida Property Appraiser (the "Property Appraiser") as of September 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Property Appraiser's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated June 3, 2025.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

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

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

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Property Appraiser's financial statements are free of 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 of 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*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the organization'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 organization's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Lanigan & Associates, PC

Tallahassee, Florida
June 3, 2025

LANIGAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
BUSINESS ADVISORS

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S
MANAGEMENT LETTER**

The Honorable Mitch Burke
Gulf County, Florida Property Appraiser
Gulf County, Florida

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the financial statements of Gulf County, Florida, Property Appraiser as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, and have issued our report dated June 3, 2025.

Auditor's Responsibility

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Florida Auditor General.

Other Reporting Requirements

We have issued our 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*; and Independent Accountant's Reports on an examination conducted in accordance with *AICPA Professional Standards*, AT-C Section 315, regarding compliance requirements in accordance with Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General. Disclosures in those reports, which are dated June 3, 2025, should be considered in conjunction with this management letter.

Prior Audit Findings

Section 10.554(1)(i)1., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that we determine whether or not corrective actions have been taken to address findings and recommendations made in the preceding annual financial audit report. There were no recommendations made in the preceding annual financial audit report.

Official Title and Legal Authority

Section 10.554(1)(i)4., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that the name or official title and legal authority for the primary government and each component unit of the reporting entity be disclosed in this management letter, unless disclosed in the notes to the financial statements. This information is disclosed in Note 1 of the notes to financial statements.

Financial Management

Section 10.554(1)(i)2., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that we communicate any recommendations to improve financial management. In connection with our audit, we did not note any such recommendations.

Additional Matters

Section 10.554(1)(i)3., Rules of the Auditor General, requires us to communicate noncompliance with provisions of contracts or grant agreements, or abuse, that have occurred, or are likely to have occurred, that have an effect on the financial statements that is less than material but which warrants the attention of those charged with governance. In connection with our audit, we did not note any such findings.

Purpose of this Letter

Our management letter is intended solely for the information and use of the Legislative Auditing Committee, members of the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives, the Florida Auditor General, Federal and other granting agencies, the Board of County Commissioners, and applicable management, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Lanigan & Associates, PC

Tallahassee, Florida
June 3, 2025

LANIGAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
BUSINESS ADVISORS

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH
FLORIDA STATUTE SECTION 218.415 – INVESTMENT OF PUBLIC
FUNDS**

To the Honorable Mitch Burke
Gulf County, Florida Property Appraiser
Gulf County, Florida

Report on Compliance

We have examined the Gulf County, Florida Property Appraiser (the "Property Appraiser") compliance with Section 218.415, Florida Statutes, regarding the investment of public funds during the year ended September 30, 2024. Management is responsible for the Property Appraiser's compliance with those requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Property Appraiser's compliance based on our examination.

Scope

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Property Appraiser complied, in all material respects, with the specified requirements referenced above. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about whether the Property Appraiser complied with the specified requirements. The nature, timing and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgement, including an assessment of the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion. We are required to be independent and to meet our ethical responsibilities in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to the engagement. Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the Property Appraiser's compliance with specified requirements.

Opinion

In our opinion, the Property Appraiser complied, in all material respects, with Section 218.415, Florida Statutes, regarding the investment of public funds during the year ended September 30, 2024.

Lanigan & Associates, PC

Tallahassee, Florida
June 3, 2025

**Gulf County, Florida
Sheriff**



**Special Purpose
Financial Statements**

September 30, 2024

**Gulf County, Florida
Sheriff**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

September 30, 2024

C O N T E N T S

<i>Financial Section</i>	Page No.
Independent Auditor’s Report.....	1
Basic Financial Statements:	
Balance Sheet – General Fund	4
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget to Actual - General Fund	5
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position – Custodial Funds	6
Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position – Custodial Funds	7
Notes to Financial Statements.....	8
 <i>Internal Control and Compliance Section</i>	
Independent Auditor’s Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	15
Independent Auditor’s Management Letter	17
Independent Accountant’s Report on Compliance with Florida Statute Section 218.415 – Investment of Public Funds.....	19

LANIGAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
BUSINESS ADVISORS
www.lanigancpa.com

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Honorable Mike Harrison
Gulf County, Florida Sheriff
Gulf County, Florida

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the general fund and the remaining aggregate fund information of the Gulf County, Florida Sheriff (the "Sheriff"), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the general fund and the remaining aggregate fund information of the Sheriff as of September 30, 2024, 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 Opinion

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 (GAS)*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. 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 Sheriff 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 opinion.

Emphasis of a Matter

As discussed in Note 1 to the financial statements, the financial statements referred to above were prepared solely for the purpose of complying with the Rules of the Auditor General of the State of Florida. In conformity with the Rules, the accompanying financial statements are intended to present the financial position and changes in financial position of each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information, only for that portion of the major funds, and the aggregate remaining fund information, of Gulf County, Florida that is attributable to the Sheriff. They do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of Gulf County, Florida as of September 30, 2024, and the changes in its financial position for the fiscal year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to these matters.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

The Sheriff's 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 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 Sheriff'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 GAS 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 GAS, 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 Sheriff'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 Sheriff'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.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 15, 2025, on our consideration of the Sheriff'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 internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Lanigan & Associates, PC

Tallahassee, Florida
April 15, 2025

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA SHERIFF
BALANCE SHEET
GENERAL FUND
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

ASSETS

Cash	\$ 314,515
Accounts receivable	6,270
Due from BOCC	<u>179,447</u>
 Total assets	 <u><u>\$ 500,232</u></u>

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

Liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 405,160
Due to other governments	958
Due to BOCC	<u>94,114</u>
 Total liabilities	 <u>500,232</u>

Fund balance	<u>-</u>
--------------	----------

Total liabilities and fund balance	<u><u>\$ 500,232</u></u>
------------------------------------	--------------------------

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA SHERIFF
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
BUDGET TO ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Original	Final	Actual	Variance with Final budget Favorable (Unfavorable)
REVENUES				
Charges for services	\$ 540,557	\$ 616,909	\$ 608,500	\$ (8,409)
Miscellaneous	-	-	66,636	66,636
Total revenues	540,557	616,909	675,136	58,227
EXPENDITURES				
Public safety				
Personnel services	3,639,650	3,716,002	3,680,115	35,887
Operating expenditures	729,970	729,970	729,970	-
Capital outlay	346,598	346,598	346,598	-
Total expenditures	4,716,218	4,792,570	4,756,683	35,887
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(4,175,661)	(4,175,661)	(4,081,547)	94,114
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers in	4,175,661	4,175,661	4,175,661	-
Transfer out	-	-	(94,114)	(94,114)
Total other financing sources (uses)	4,175,661	4,175,661	4,081,547	(94,114)
Net changes in fund balances	-	-	-	-
Fund balances - beginning	-	-	-	-
Fund balances - ending	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA SHERIFF
STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
CUSTODIAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Individual Depository
ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 38,981
LIABILITIES	
Due to individuals and others	38,981
NET POSITION	\$ -

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA SHERIFF
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
CUSTODIAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

ADDITIONS	\$ 48,258
DEDUCTIONS	<u>48,258</u>
Net change in fiduciary net position	-
Net position - beginning	<u>-</u>
Net position - ending	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
SHERIFF
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

NOTE 1: <i>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies</i>
--

The accounting policies of the Gulf County, Florida Sheriff (the “Sheriff”) conform with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), as applicable to governments. The following is a summary of significant accounting principles and policies used in the preparation of these special purpose financial statements.

Reporting Entity

Gulf County, Florida (the “County”) is a political subdivision of the state of Florida. It is governed by an elected Board of County Commissioners and an appointed County Administrator, as provided by Section 125.73 of the Florida Statutes. The County Administrator is responsible for the administration of all departments of which the Board has the authority to control pursuant to the general laws of Florida.

The Sheriff is an elected official of Gulf County, Florida pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Florida, Article VIII, Section 1(d). The Sheriff is part of the primary government of Gulf County, Florida. Although the Board of County Commissioners approves the Sheriff’s total operating budget, the Sheriff is responsible for the administration and the operation of the Sheriff’s office. There are no separate legal entities (component units) for which the Sheriff is considered to be financially accountable.

The operations of the Sheriff are funded by the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners. The receipts from the Board are recorded as other financing sources on the Sheriff’s financial statements and as other financing uses on the Board’s financial statements. Any excess of revenues and other financial sources received over expenditures are remitted to the Board at year end.

Fund Accounting

Accounts are organized on the basis of fund types, each of which is considered to be a separate accounting entity. The operations of each fund are accounted for with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund balance, revenues, and expenditures as appropriate. Government resources are allocated to and accounted for in individual funds based on the purpose for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled.

The Sheriff reports the following major governmental funds:

Governmental Fund Type

- General Fund – The general fund is the general operating fund of the Sheriff. It is used to account for all financial resources, except for those required to be accounted for in other funds.

NOTE 1: <i>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)</i>
--

Fiduciary Fund Type

- Custodial Fund – The custodial funds are used to account for assets held by the Sheriff as an agent for individuals, private organizations, other governments, and/or other funds.

Basis of Accounting

Basis of accounting refers to when revenues and expenditures are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements and relates to the timing of the measurements made, regardless of the measurement focus applied.

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared using the modified accrual basis of accounting for governmental funds and agency funds. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when they become both measurable and available to finance expenditures of the current period. Expenditures are recorded when the liability is incurred, if measurable, except for principal and interest on long-term obligations which is recorded when due.

The Sheriff considers receivable collected within 60 days after year end to be available and susceptible to accrual as revenues of the current year. Charges for services and interest earned are susceptible to accrual.

Measurement Focus

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to the fixed assets and long-term liabilities associated with a fund are determined by its measurement focus. All governmental funds are accounted for on a spending or “financial flow” measurement focus. This means that generally, only current assets and current liabilities are included in the balance sheet. Governmental fund operating statements present increases (revenues and other financing sources) and decreases (expenditures and other financing uses) in net current assets. Accordingly, they present a summary of sources and uses of “available spendable resources” during a period.

Budget and Budgetary Accounting

General governmental revenues and expenditures accounted for in budgetary funds are controlled by a formal integrated budgetary accounting system in accordance with Florida Statutes. An annual budget is adopted for the general fund.

The Sheriff’s annual budget is monitored at varying levels of classification detail. However, for purposes of budgetary control, expenditures cannot legally exceed the total annual budget appropriations at the individual fund level. All appropriations lapse at year-end.

Budget to actual comparisons are provided in the financial statements for the general fund. All budget amounts presented in the accompanying financial statements have been adjusted for legally authorized amendments of the annual budget for the year. Budgets are prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting.

NOTE 1: <i>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)</i>
--

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Sheriff considers all highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

Capital Assets

Capital assets purchased in the governmental fund type are recorded as expenditures (capital outlay) at the time of purchase. Assets acquired by the Sheriff are reported as capital assets in the statement of net assets as part of the basic financial statement for Gulf County. The Sheriff maintains custodial responsibility for the capital assets used by their office.

Liability for Compensated Absences

The Sheriff accrues a liability for employees' rights to receive compensation for future absences when certain conditions are met. The Sheriff does not, nor is legally required to, accumulate expendable available resources to liquidate this obligation. Accordingly, the liability for the compensated absences is not reported in the governmental fund. However, the current and long-term portion of the liability for compensated absences is reported at the county wide financial statement level.

Related Organizations – Common Expenses

Certain expenditures, which are common to the Board and all Constitutional Officers, are reported as expenses of the Board and, therefore, are not budgeted by or allocated to the Sheriff. These expenses relating to the Sheriff's courthouse facilities are:

- Occupancy costs
- Janitorial services
- Utilities (except telephone)
- Property insurance

Distribution of Excess Revenues

Florida Statutes require that the Sheriff distribute any excess of revenues over expenditures within the general fund to the board within 31 days following the end of the fiscal year. Accordingly, the amount of excess revenues distributed to the Board at the end of the year is presented in the accompanying special-purpose financial statements as "other financing uses."

Subsequent Events

The Sheriff evaluated subsequent events through April 15, 2025, the date which the financial statements were available to be issued. The Sheriff did not have any subsequent events requiring disclosure or recording in these financial statements.

NOTE 1: <i>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)</i>
--

Fund Balance

Fund balance for governmental funds report 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 the funds may be spent. The Sheriff is a county constitutional officer, and therefore, any funds remaining at the end of the fiscal year are returned to the Board of County Commissioners. Unassigned fund balance represents funds available for spending at the government's discretion.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the Sheriff's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources (committed, assigned, and unassigned) as they are needed. When unrestricted resources (committed, assigned, and unassigned) are available for use, it is the Sheriff's policy to use committed resources first, then assigned, and then unassigned, as needed.

NOTE 2: <i>Interfund Transactions</i>
--

During the course of normal operations, numerous transactions occur between funds, such as expenditures or transfers of resources to provide services, service debt, or construct assets. The inter-fund transactions are not eliminated, and no interest is charged on such advances.

Inter-fund receivable and payable balances at September 30, 2024, were as follows:

	<u>Interfund Receivable</u>	<u>Interfund Payable</u>
General Fund		
Board of County Commissioners	<u>\$ 179,447</u>	<u>\$ 94,114</u>

Operating transfers between funds during the year were as follows:

	<u>Transfers In</u>	<u>Transfers Out</u>
General Fund		
Board of County Commissioners	<u>\$ 4,175,661</u>	<u>\$ 94,114</u>

NOTE 3: *Retirement*

The entity participates in the Florida Retirement System (FRS), a multiple-employer, cost sharing defined public employee retirement system which covers all of the Sheriff's full-time employees. The System is administered by the State of Florida, Department of Administration, Division of Retirement to provide retirement and survivor benefits to participating public employees. Provisions relating to the FRS are established by Chapters 121 and 122, Florida Statutes; Chapter 112, Part IV, Florida Statutes; Chapter 238, Florida Statutes; and FRS Rules, Chapter 60S, Florida Administrative Code; wherein eligibility, contributions, and benefits are defined and described in detail. The FRS is a single retirement system administered by the Department of Management Services, Division of Retirement, and consists of two cost-sharing, multiple-employer retirement plans and other nonintegrated programs. These include a defined-benefit pension plan (Plan), with a Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP), and a defined-contribution plan, referred to as the FRS Investment Plan (Investment Plan).

In addition, all regular employees of the entity are eligible to enroll as members of the Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy (HIS) Program. The HIS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan established and administered in accordance with section 112.363, Florida Statutes. The benefit is a monthly payment to assist retirees of the state-administered retirement systems in paying their health insurance costs. For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, eligible retirees and beneficiaries received a monthly HIS payment equal to the number of years of service credited at retirement multiplied by \$7.50. The minimum payment is \$45 and the maximum payment is \$225 per month, pursuant to section 112.363, Florida Statutes.

To be eligible to receive a HIS benefit, a retiree under one of the state-administered retirement systems must provide proof of eligible health insurance coverage, which can include Medicare.

For financial reporting purposes, the Sheriff is deemed to be part of the primary government of the County. A liability related to the Sheriff's proportionate share of FRS retirement benefits, along with a detailed plan description, is reported in the financial statements of the County for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024.

NOTE 4: *Changes in Long-Term Obligations*

Under the GASB 34 reporting model, long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and accordingly are not reported as fund liabilities. All long-term liabilities for the Sheriff are reported in the government-wide Statement of Net Position. The compensated absences of the Sheriff are accounted for in the Statement of Net Position as follows:

	Balance				Balance
	October 01, 2023	Additions	Reductions		September 30, 2024
Compensated absences	\$ 387,624	\$ 417,614	\$ (352,158)	\$	453,080

NOTE 5: <i>Risk Management</i>

The Sheriff participates in the Florida Sheriff Self-Insurance Fund, which is considered a public entity risk pool which purchases insurance policies on behalf of its members. The pool's members are not obligated for risk associated with such coverage. Coverage under these programs include; general liability, public employees blanket bond, automobiles, and money and securities coverage.

The Sheriff provides workers' compensation coverage under a retrospectively rated commercial insurance policy through the Board. Premiums are accrued based on the ultimate cost to date of the Sheriff's experience for this type of risk.

The Sheriff has determined that it was not economically justifiable to carry comprehensive coverage on all vehicles. The Sheriff evaluates vehicles by age and condition to determine if comprehensive coverage is feasible, otherwise the Sheriff carries liability insurance on the aforementioned vehicles.

In addition, the Sheriff participates in the Florida Self-Insurance Fund for risks related to professional liability and public officials' coverage. The funding agreement provides that the liability fund will be self-sustaining through member premiums and that it will be reinsured through commercial companies. Aggregate coverage provided by the liability fund is \$10,000,000 for professional liability and \$10,000,000 for public officials' coverage.

NOTE 6: <i>Interlocal Agreements</i>

The Gulf County Sheriff has an interlocal agreement with the City of Wewahitchka, whereby personnel from the Sheriff's office provide law enforcement services to the City of Wewahitchka. As consideration therefore, the Sheriff receives payments of \$50,000 annually from the City.

The Gulf County Sheriff entered into a service agreement with the City of Port St. Joe Police Department, whereby the Sheriff provides all dispatching services required within the City of Port St. Joe. The City of Port St. Joe pays the Gulf County Sheriff the sum of \$85,000 per year in consideration for these services.

The Sheriff has an interlocal agreement with the Gulf County School Board (the "District"), whereby the Sheriff provides School Resource Officers to the District. As consideration, the Sheriff received payments of \$37,000 per month from October 2023 through June 2024 and \$38,500 from July 2024 through September 2024. The Sheriff received \$448,500 for the year ended September 30, 2024.

The Sheriff has an agreement with Big Bend Community Based Care (the "BBCBC"), whereby the Sheriff provides officers to respond to children who are at risk of harming themselves or others. As consideration, the Sheriff received payments of \$6,250 per month from BBCBC. The Sheriff received \$75,000 during the year ended September 30, 2024.

NOTE 7: <i>Post Employment Benefits Other Than Pensions</i>
--

In accordance with Florida Statutes Section 112.0801, the Sheriff participates with Gulf County in offering retiring employees the opportunity to continue participating in the group insurance plan. Retirees who do not choose to continue participation lose eligibility to participate in the future.

Retirees and their eligible dependents shall be offered the same health and hospitalization insurance coverage as is offered to active employees at a premium cost of no more than the premium cost applicable to active employees. The County subsidizes the premium rates paid by the retirees by allowing them to participate in the plan at blended group (implicitly subsidized) premium rates for both active and retired employees. These rates provide an implicit subsidy for retirees because, on an actuarial basis, their current and future claims are expected to result in higher costs to the plan on average than those of active employees. No stand alone report is issued for this plan.

The details of the plan, methodology, and costs are more fully described in the Gulf County Notes to the Financial Statements.

NOTE 8: <i>Commitments and Contingencies</i>

Litigation – From time to time, the Sheriff is involved as a defendant or plaintiff in certain litigation and claims arising from the ordinary course of operations. It is reasonably possible that the liability for known and unknown claims existing at the balance sheet date may be material. However, the responsibility for such claims is with the County’s Risk Management Program. Accordingly, no contingent liabilities have been accrued in the accompanying financial statements.

Grants – The Sheriff is the recipient of grants that are subject to special compliance requirements and audits by the grantor agencies that may result in disallowed expense amount. These amounts constitute a contingent liability of the Sheriff. The Sheriff does not believe any contingent liabilities, if any exist, to be material to the financial statements.

INTERNAL CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE SECTION

LANIGAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
BUSINESS ADVISORS

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

The Honorable Mike Harrison
Gulf County, Florida Sheriff
Gulf County, Florida

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 general fund and remaining aggregate fund information of Gulf County, Florida Sheriff (the "Sheriff") as of September 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Sheriff's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated April 15, 2025.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

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

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

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Sheriff'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*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Sheriff'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 Sheriff's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Lanigan & Associates, PC

Tallahassee, Florida
April 15, 2025

LANIGAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
BUSINESS ADVISORS

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S
MANAGEMENT LETTER**

The Honorable Mike Harrison
Gulf County, Florida Sheriff
Gulf County, Florida

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the financial statements of the Gulf County, Florida Sheriff as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, and have issued our report dated April 15, 2025.

Auditor's Responsibility

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Florida Auditor General.

Other Reporting Requirements

We have issued our 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*; and Independent Account's Reports on an examination conducted in accordance with *AICPA Professional Standards*, AT-C Section 315, regarding compliance requirements in accordance with Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General. Disclosures in those reports, which are dated April 15, 2025, should be considered in conjunction with this management letter.

Prior Audit Findings

Section 10.554(1)(i)1., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that we determine whether or not corrective actions have been taken to address findings and recommendations made in the preceding annual financial audit report. Corrective actions have been taken to address findings and recommendations made in the preceding annual financial audit report.

Official Title and Legal Authority

Section 10.554(1)(i)4., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that the name or official title and legal authority for the primary government and each component unit of the reporting entity be disclosed in this management letter, unless disclosed in the notes to the financial statements. This information is disclosed in Note 1 of the notes to financial statements.

Financial Management

Section 10.554(1)(i)2., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that we communicate any recommendations to improve financial management. In connection with our audit, we did not have any such recommendations.

Additional Matters

Section 10.554(1)(i)3., Rules of the Auditor General, requires us to communicate noncompliance with provisions of contracts or grant agreements, or abuse, that have occurred, or are likely to have occurred, that have an effect on the financial statements that is less than material but which warrants the attention of those charged with governance. In connection with our audit, we did not note any such findings.

Purpose of this Letter

Our management letter is intended solely for the information and use of the Legislative Auditing Committee, members of the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives, the Florida Auditor General, Federal and other granting agencies, the Board of County Commissioners, and applicable management, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Lanigan & Associates, PC

Tallahassee, Florida
April 15, 2025

LANIGAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
BUSINESS ADVISORS

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH
FLORIDA STATUTE SECTION 218.415 – INVESTMENT OF PUBLIC
FUNDS**

The Honorable Mike Harrison
Gulf County, Florida Sheriff
Gulf County, Florida

Report on Compliance

We have examined the Gulf County, Florida Sheriff's (the "Sheriff") compliance with Section 218.415, Florida Statutes, regarding the investment of public funds during the year ended September 30, 2024. Management is responsible for the Sheriff's compliance with the specified requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Sheriff's compliance with the specified requirements based on our examination.

Scope

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Sheriff complied, in all material respects, with the specified requirements referenced above. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about whether the Sheriff complied with the specified requirements. The nature, timing and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgement, including an assessment of the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion. We are required to be independent and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to the engagement. Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the Sheriff's compliance with specified requirements.

Opinion

In our opinion, the Sheriff complied, in all material respects, with Section 218.415, Florida Statutes, regarding the investment of public funds during the year ended September 30, 2024.

Lanigan & Associates, PC

Tallahassee, Florida
April 15, 2025

**Gulf County, Florida
Supervisor of Elections**



**Special Purpose
Financial Statements**

September 30, 2024

Gulf County, Florida Supervisor of Elections

Financial Statements

September 30, 2024

C O N T E N T S

<i>Financial Section</i>	Page No.
Independent Auditor's Report.....	1
Basic Financial Statements:	
Balance Sheet – General Fund.....	4
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget to Actual – General Fund.....	5
Notes to Financial Statements.....	6
 <i>Internal Control and Compliance Section</i>	
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	12
Independent Auditor's Management Letter	14
Independent Accountant's Report on Compliance with Florida Statute Section 218.415 – Investment of Public Funds.....	16

LANIGAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
BUSINESS ADVISORS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Honorable Rhonda H. Pierce
Gulf County, Florida Supervisor of Elections
Gulf County, Florida

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the general fund of the Gulf County, Florida Supervisor of Elections (the "Supervisor of Elections"), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the general fund of the Supervisor of Elections as of September 30, 2024, 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 Opinion

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 (GAS)*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. 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 Supervisor of Elections 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 opinion.

Emphasis of a Matter

As discussed in Note 1 to the financial statements, the financial statements referred to above were prepared solely for the purpose of complying with the Rules of the Auditor General of the State of Florida. In conformity with the Rules, the accompanying financial statements are intended to present the financial position and changes in financial position of the general fund, only for that portion of the general fund, of Gulf County, Florida that is attributable to the Supervisor of Elections. They do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of Gulf County, Florida as of September 30, 2024, and the changes in its financial position for the fiscal year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to these matters.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

The Supervisor of Elections' 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 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 Supervisor of Election'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 GAS 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 GAS, 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 Supervisor of Elections' 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 Supervisor of Elections' 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.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 22, 2025, on our consideration of the Supervisor of Elections' 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 internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Supervisor of Elections' internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Lanigan & Associates, PC

Tallahassee, Florida
May 22, 2025

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
BALANCE SHEET
GENERAL FUND
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 98,678
Prepaid items	-
Total assets	<u>98,678</u>

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

Liabilities

Accrued Liabilities	11,731
Due to BOCC	<u>86,947</u>
Total liabilities	<u>98,678</u>

Fund balance:

Assigned	-
Unassigned	<u>-</u>
Total fund balance	<u>-</u>

Total liabilities and fund balance	<u>\$ 98,678</u>
------------------------------------	------------------

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
BUDGET TO ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Original	Final	Actual	Variance with Final Budget Favorable (Unfavorable)
REVENUES				
Grant revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other income	-	-	448	448
Total revenues	-	-	448	448
EXPENDITURES				
General government				
Personnel services	386,250	386,250	386,250	-
Operating expenditures	244,465	244,465	173,072	71,393
Total expenditures	630,715	630,715	559,322	71,393
Excess (deficiency) of revenues (under) expenditures	(630,715)	(630,715)	(558,874)	71,841
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES				
Transfers in	630,715	630,715	645,821	15,106
Transfers out	-	-	(86,947)	(86,947)
Total other financing sources (uses)	630,715	630,715	558,874	(71,841)
Net changes in fund balances	-	-	-	-
Fund balance - beginning	-	-	-	-
Fund balance - ending	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

NOTE 1: <i>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies</i>
--

The accounting policies of the Gulf County, Florida Supervisor of Elections (the “Supervisor of Elections”) conform with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), as applicable to governments. The following is a summary of significant accounting principles and policies used in the preparation of these special purpose financial statements.

Reporting Entity

Gulf County, Florida (the “County”) is a political subdivision of the state of Florida. It is governed by an elected Board of County Commissioners and an appointed County Administrator, as provided by Section 125.73 of the Florida Statutes. The County Administrator is responsible for the administration of all departments of which the Board has the authority to control pursuant to the general laws of Florida.

The Supervisor of Elections is an elected official of Gulf County, Florida pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Florida, Article VIII, Section 1(d). The Supervisor of Elections is part of the primary government of Gulf County, Florida. Although the Board of County Commissioners approve the Supervisor of Elections’ total operating budget, the Supervisor of Elections is responsible for the administration and the operation of the Supervisor of Elections’ office. There are no separate legal entities (component units) for which the Supervisor of Elections is considered to be financially accountable.

The operations of the Supervisor of Elections are funded by the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners. The receipts from the Board are recorded as other financing sources on the Supervisor of Elections’ financial statements and as other financing uses on the Board’s financial statements. Any excess of revenues and other financial sources received over expenditures are remitted to the Board at year end.

Fund Accounting

Accounts are organized on the basis of fund types, each of which is considered to be a separate accounting entity. The operations of each fund are accounted for with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund balance, revenues, and expenditures as appropriate. Government resources are allocated to and accounted for in individual funds based on the purpose for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled. The Supervisor of Elections utilizes the following fund types:

Governmental Fund Types

- General Fund – The general fund is the general operating fund of the Supervisor of Elections. It is used to account for all financial resources, except for those required to be accounted for in other funds.

NOTE 1: <i>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)</i>
--

Basis of Accounting

Basis of accounting refers to when revenues and expenditures are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements and relates to the timing of the measurements made, regardless of the measurement focus applied.

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared using the modified accrual basis of accounting for governmental funds and agency funds. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when they become both measurable and available to finance expenditures of the current period. Expenditures are recorded when the liability is incurred, if measurable, except for principal and interest on long-term obligations which is recorded when due.

The Supervisor of Elections considers receivable collected within 60 days after year end to be available and susceptible to accrual as revenues of the current year. Charges for services and interest earned are susceptible to accrual.

Measurement Focus

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to the fixed assets and long-term liabilities associated with a fund are determined by its measurement focus. All governmental funds are accounted for on a spending or “financial flow” measurement focus. This means that generally, only current assets and current liabilities are included in the balance sheet. Governmental fund operating statements present increases (revenues and other financing sources) and decreases (expenditures and other financing uses) in net current assets. Accordingly, they present a summary of sources and uses of “available spendable resources” during a period.

Budget and Budgetary Accounting

General governmental revenues and expenditures accounted for in budgetary funds are controlled by a formal integrated budgetary accounting system in accordance with Florida Statutes. An annual budget is adopted for the general fund.

The Supervisor of Elections’ annual budget is monitored at varying levels of classification detail. However, for purposes of budgetary control, expenditures cannot legally exceed the total annual budget appropriations at the individual fund level. All appropriations lapse at year-end.

Budget to actual comparisons are provided in the financial statements for the general fund. All budget amounts presented in the accompanying financial statements have been adjusted for legally authorized amendments of the annual budget for the year. Budgets are prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting.

NOTE 1: <i>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)</i>
--

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Supervisor of Elections considers all highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

Capital Assets

Capital assets purchased in the governmental fund type are recorded as expenditures (capital outlay) at the time of purchase. Assets acquired by the Supervisor of Elections are reported as capital assets in the statement of net assets as part of the basic financial statement for Gulf County. The Supervisor of Elections maintains custodial responsibility for the capital assets used by their office.

Related Organizations – Common Expenses

Certain expenditures, which are common to the Board and all Constitutional Officers, are reported as expenses of the Board and, therefore, are not budgeted by or allocated to the Supervisor of Elections. These expenses relating to the Supervisor of Elections' courthouse facilities are:

- Occupancy costs
- Janitorial services
- Utilities (except telephone)
- Property insurance

Distribution of Excess Revenues

Florida Statutes require that the Supervisor of Elections distribute any excess of revenues over expenditures within the general fund to the board within 31 days following the end of the fiscal year. Accordingly, the amount of excess revenues distributed to the Board at the end of the year is presented in the accompanying special-purpose financial statements as "other financing uses."

Fund Balance

Fund balance for governmental funds report 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 the funds may be spent. The Supervisor of Elections is a county constitutional officer, and therefore, any funds remaining at the end of the fiscal year are returned to the Board of County Commissioners. Unassigned fund balance represents funds available for spending at the government's discretion.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the Supervisor of Elections' policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources (committed, assigned, and unassigned) as they are needed. When unrestricted resources (committed, assigned, and unassigned) are available for use, it is the Supervisor of Elections' policy to use committed resources first, then assigned, and then unassigned, as needed.

NOTE 1: <i>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)</i>
--

Subsequent Events

The Supervisor of Elections evaluated subsequent events through May 22, 2025, the date which the financial statements were available to be issued. The Supervisor of Elections did not have any subsequent events requiring disclosure or recording in these financial statements.

NOTE 2: <i>Cash and Investments</i>
--

All Supervisor of Elections depositories are banks designated by the State Treasurer as qualified public depositories. Chapter 280, Florida Statutes “Florida Security for Public Deposits Act” provides procedures for public depositories to insure monies in banks and savings and loans are collateralized with the Treasurer as an agent for the public entities. All Supervisor of Elections cash consists of checking accounts and interest-bearing time deposits in a local bank.

NOTE 3: <i>Interfund Transactions</i>
--

During the course of normal operations, numerous transactions occur between funds, such as expenditures or transfers of resources to provide services, service debt, or construct assets. The inter-fund transactions are not eliminated, and no interest is charged on such advances.

Inter-fund receivable and payable balances at September 30, 2024, were as follows:

	<u>Interfund Receivable</u>	<u>Interfund Payable</u>
General Fund		
Board of County Commissioners	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 86,947</u>

Operating transfers between funds during the year were as follows:

	<u>Transfers In</u>	<u>Transfers Out</u>
General Fund		
Board of County Commissioners	<u>\$ 645,821</u>	<u>\$ 86,947</u>

NOTE 4: *Retirement*

The Supervisor of Elections participates in the Florida Retirement System (FRS), a multiple-employer, cost sharing defined public employee retirement system which covers all of the Supervisor of Elections' full-time employees. The System is administered by the State of Florida, Department of Administration, Division of Retirement to provide retirement and survivor benefits to participating public employees. Provisions relating to the FRS are established by Chapters 121 and 122, Florida Statutes; Chapter 112, Part IV, Florida Statutes; Chapter 238, Florida Statutes; and FRS Rules, Chapter 60S, Florida Administrative Code; wherein eligibility, contributions, and benefits are defined and described in detail. The FRS is a single retirement system administered by the Department of Management Services, Division of Retirement, and consists of two cost-sharing, multiple-employer retirement plans and other nonintegrated programs. These include a defined-benefit pension plan (Plan), with a Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP), and a defined-contribution plan, referred to as the FRS Investment Plan (Investment Plan).

In addition, all regular employees of the entity are eligible to enroll as members of the Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy (HIS) Program. The HIS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan established and administered in accordance with section 112.363, Florida Statutes. The benefit is a monthly payment to assist retirees of the state-administered retirement systems in paying their health insurance costs. For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, eligible retirees and beneficiaries received a monthly HIS payment equal to the number of years of service credited at retirement multiplied by \$7.50. The minimum payment is \$45 and the maximum payment is \$225 per month, pursuant to section 112.363, Florida Statutes. To be eligible to receive a HIS benefit, a retiree under one of the state-administered retirement systems must provide proof of eligible health insurance coverage, which can include Medicare.

For financial reporting purposes, the Supervisor of Elections is deemed to be part of the primary government of the County. A liability related to the Supervisor of Elections' proportionate share of FRS retirement benefits, along with a detailed plan description, is reported in the financial statements of the County for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024.

NOTE 5: *Risk Management*

The Supervisor of Elections is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors or omissions; injuries to employees and the public; or damage to property of others. The Supervisor of Elections participates in the risk management program through the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners, which uses commercial insurance to cover certain risks from loss.

The Board obtained commercial insurance against losses for the following types of risk:

- Real and personal property damage
- Public employee's bond
- Workers' compensation
- General and automobile liability

INTERNAL CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE SECTION

LANIGAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
BUSINESS ADVISORS

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

The Honorable Rhonda H. Pierce
Gulf County, Florida Supervisor of Elections
Gulf County, Florida

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 general fund of the Gulf County, Florida Supervisor of Elections (the "Supervisor of Elections") as of September 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Supervisor of Elections' basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated May 22, 2025.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

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

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

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Supervisor of Elections' financial statements are free of 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 of 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*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the organization'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 organization's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Lanigan & Associates, PC

Tallahassee, Florida
May 22, 2025

LANIGAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
BUSINESS ADVISORS

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S
MANAGEMENT LETTER**

The Honorable Rhonda H. Pierce
Gulf County, Florida Supervisor of Elections
Gulf County, Florida

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the financial statements of Gulf County, Florida Supervisor of Elections as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, and have issued our report dated May 22, 2025.

Auditor's Responsibility

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Florida Auditor General.

Other Reporting Requirements

We have issued our 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; and Independent Accountant's Reports on an examination conducted in accordance with AICPA Professional Standards, AT-C Section 315, regarding compliance requirements in accordance with Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General. Disclosures in those reports, which are dated May 22, 2025 should be considered in conjunction with this management letter.

Prior Audit Findings

Section 10.554(1)(i)1., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that we determine whether or not corrective actions have been taken to address findings and recommendations made in the preceding annual financial audit report. There were no recommendations made in the preceding annual financial audit report.

Official Title and Legal Authority

Section 10.554(1)(i)4., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that the name or official title and legal authority for the primary government and each component unit of the reporting entity be disclosed in this management letter, unless disclosed in the notes to the financial statements. This information is disclosed in Note 1 of the notes to financial statements. There are no component units related to the Supervisor of Elections.

Financial Management

Section 10.554(1)(i)2., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that we communicate any recommendations to improve financial management. In connection with our audit, we did not note any such recommendations.

Additional Matters

Section 10.554(1)(i)3., Rules of the Auditor General, requires us to communicate noncompliance with provisions of contracts or grant agreements, or abuse, that have occurred, or are likely to have occurred, that have an effect on the financial statements that is less than material but which warrants the attention of those charged with governance. In connection with our audit, we did not note any such findings.

Purpose of this Letter

Our management letter is intended solely for the information and use of the Legislative Auditing Committee, members of the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives, the Florida Auditor General, Federal and other granting agencies, the Board of County Commissioners, and applicable management, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Lanigan & Associates, PC

Tallahassee, Florida
May 22, 2025

LANIGAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
BUSINESS ADVISORS

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH
FLORIDA STATUTE SECTION 218.415 – INVESTMENT OF PUBLIC
FUNDS**

The Honorable Rhonda H. Pierce
Gulf County, Florida Supervisor of Elections
Gulf County, Florida

Report on Compliance

We have examined the Gulf County, Florida Supervisor of Elections (the “Supervisor of Elections”) compliance with Section 218.415, Florida Statutes, regarding the investment of public funds during the year ended September 30, 2024. Management is responsible for the Supervisor of Elections’ compliance with those requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Supervisor of Elections’ compliance based on our examination.

Scope

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Supervisor of Elections complied, in all material respects, with the specified requirements referenced above. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about whether the Supervisor of Elections complied with the specified requirements. The nature, timing and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgement, including an assessment of the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion. We are required to be independent and meet our ethical responsibilities in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to the engagement. Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the Supervisor of Elections’ compliance with specified requirements.

Opinion

In our opinion, the Supervisor of Elections complied, in all material respects, with Section 218.415, Florida Statutes, regarding the investment of public funds during the year ended September 30, 2024.

Lanigan & Associates, PC

Tallahassee, Florida
May 22, 2025

**Gulf County, Florida
Tax Collector**



**Special Purpose
Financial Statements**

September 30, 2024

**Gulf County, Florida
Tax Collector**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

September 30, 2024

C O N T E N T S

<i>Financial Section</i>	Page No.
Independent Auditor’s Report.....	1
Basic Financial Statements:	
Balance Sheet – General Fund	4
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget to Actual - General Fund	5
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position – Custodial Funds	6
Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position – Custodial Funds	7
Notes to Financial Statements.....	8
 <i>Supplementary Information</i>	
Combining Schedule of Fiduciary Net Position – Custodial Funds	13
Combining Schedule of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position – Custodial Funds	14
 <i>Internal Control and Compliance Section</i>	
Independent Auditor’s Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	15
Independent Auditor’s Management Letter	17
Independent Accountant’s Report on Compliance with Florida Statute Section 218.415 – Investment of Public Funds	19
Management’s Response to Management Letter Recommendation.....	20

LANIGAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
BUSINESS ADVISORS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

The Honorable Ashley L. Forehand
Gulf County, Florida Tax Collector
Gulf County, Florida

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the general fund and the remaining aggregate fund information of the Gulf County, Florida Tax Collector (the “Tax Collector”), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the general fund and the remaining aggregate fund information of the Tax Collector as of September 30, 2024, 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 Opinion

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 (GAS)*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. 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 Tax Collector 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 opinion.

Emphasis of a Matter

As discussed in Note 1 to the financial statements, the financial statements referred to above were prepared solely for the purpose of complying with the Rules of the Auditor General of the State of Florida. In conformity with the Rules, the accompanying financial statements are intended to present the financial position and changes in financial position of each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information, only for that portion of the major funds, and the aggregate remaining fund information, of Gulf County, Florida that is attributable to the Tax Collector. They do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of Gulf County, Florida as of September 30, 2024, and the changes in its financial position for the fiscal year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to these matters.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

The Tax Collector's 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 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 Tax Collector'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 GAS 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 GAS, 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 Tax Collector'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 Tax Collector'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.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Tax Collector's basic financial statements. The combining schedule of fiduciary net position – custodial funds and the combining schedule of changes in fiduciary net position – custodial funds are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The supplementary information mentioned above 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. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the supplementary information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 18, 2025, on our consideration of the Tax Collector'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 internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Tax Collector's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Lanigan & Associates, PC

Tallahassee, Florida
April 18, 2025

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA TAX COLLECTOR
BALANCE SHEET
GENERAL FUND
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	<u>General Fund</u>
ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 7,052
Due from other governments	<u>9,624</u>
Total assets	<u><u>\$ 16,676</u></u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	
Liabilities:	
Accounts payable	<u>\$ 16,676</u>
Fund balance	<u>-</u>
Total liabilities and fund balance	<u><u>\$ 16,676</u></u>

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA TAX COLLECTOR
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
BUDGET TO ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget Favorable (Unfavorable)
	Original	Final	Actual	
REVENUES				
Tourist Development collections	\$ 135,000	\$ 147,774	\$ 147,774	\$ -
Total revenues	<u>135,000</u>	<u>147,774</u>	<u>147,774</u>	<u>-</u>
EXPENDITURES				
General government				
Personal services	669,747	669,747	669,747	-
Operating expenditures	<u>142,734</u>	<u>161,823</u>	<u>161,823</u>	<u>-</u>
Total expenditures	<u>812,481</u>	<u>831,570</u>	<u>831,570</u>	<u>-</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>(677,481)</u>	<u>(683,796)</u>	<u>(683,796)</u>	<u>-</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES				
Transfers from BOCC	<u>677,481</u>	<u>683,796</u>	<u>683,796</u>	<u>-</u>
Total other financing sources	<u>677,481</u>	<u>683,796</u>	<u>683,796</u>	<u>-</u>
Net changes in fund balance	-	-	-	-
Fund balance - beginning	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund balance - ending	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA TAX COLLECTOR
STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
CUSTODIAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 545,314
LIABILITIES	
Due to individuals	40,448
Due to BOCC	1,305
Due to other governments	503,561
Total liabilities	545,314
NET POSITION	\$ -

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA TAX COLLECTOR
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
CUSTODIAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

ADDITIONS

Taxes	\$ 47,028,719
Permits, fees, and special assessments	<u>3,394,755</u>

Total additions	<u>50,423,474</u>
-----------------	-------------------

DEDUCTIONS

Payments to other governments	27,922,679
Payments to BOCC	20,448,501
Payments to individuals	2,052,269
Payments to constitutional officers	<u>25</u>

Total deductions	<u>50,423,474</u>
------------------	-------------------

Net change in fiduciary net position	-
--------------------------------------	---

Net position - beginning	<u>-</u>
--------------------------	----------

Net position - ending	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>
-----------------------	--------------------

**GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
TAX COLLECTOR
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

NOTE 1: <i>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies</i>
--

The accounting policies of the Gulf County, Florida Tax Collector (the “Tax Collector”) conform with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), as applicable to governments. The following is a summary of significant accounting principles and policies used in the preparation of these special purpose financial statements.

Reporting Entity

Gulf County, Florida (the “County”) is a political subdivision of the state of Florida. It is governed by an elected Board of County Commissioners and an appointed County Administrator, as provided by Section 125.73 of the Florida Statutes. The County Administrator is responsible for the administration of all departments of which the Board has the authority to control pursuant to the general laws of Florida.

The Tax Collector is an elected official of Gulf County, Florida pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Florida, Article VIII, Section 1(d). The Tax Collector is part of the primary government of Gulf County, Florida. Although the Board of County Commissioners approve the Tax Collector’s total operating budget, the Tax Collector is responsible for the administration and the operation of the Tax Collector’s office. There are no separate legal entities (component units) for which the Tax Collector is considered to be financially accountable.

The operations of the Tax Collector are funded by the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners. The receipts from the Board are recorded as other financing sources on the Tax Collector’ financial statements and as other financing uses on the Board’s financial statements. Any excess of revenues and other financial sources received over expenditures are remitted to the Board at year end.

Fund Accounting

Accounts are organized on the basis of fund types, each of which is considered to be a separate accounting entity. The operations of each fund are accounted for with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund balance, revenues and expenditures as appropriate. Government resources are allocated to and accounted for in individual funds based on the purpose for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled.

The Tax Collector reports the following fund types:

Governmental Fund Types

- General Fund – The general fund is the general operating fund of the Tax Collector. It is used to account for all financial resources, except for those required to be accounted for in other funds.

NOTE 1: <i>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)</i>
--

Fiduciary Fund Type

- Custodial Funds – The custodial funds are used to account for assets held by the Tax Collector as an agent for individuals, private organizations, other governments and/or other funds.

Basis of Accounting

Basis of accounting refers to when revenues and expenditures are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements and relates to the timing of the measurements made, regardless of the measurement focus applied.

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared using the modified accrual basis of accounting for governmental funds and agency funds. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when they become both measurable and available to finance expenditures of the current period. Expenditures are recorded when the liability is incurred, if measurable, except for principal and interest on long-term obligations which is recorded when due.

The Tax Collector considers receivables collected within 60 days after year end to be available and susceptible to accrual as revenues of the current year. Charges for services and interest earned are susceptible to accrual.

Measurement Focus

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to the fixed assets and long-term liabilities associated with a fund are determined by its measurement focus. All governmental funds are accounted for on a spending or “financial flow” measurement focus. This means that generally, only current assets and current liabilities are included in the balance sheet. Governmental fund operating statements present increases (revenues and other financing sources) and decreases (expenditures and other financing uses) in net current assets. Accordingly, they present a summary of sources and uses of “available spendable resources” during a period.

Budget and Budgetary Accounting

General governmental revenues and expenditures accounted for in budgetary funds are controlled by a formal integrated budgetary accounting system in accordance with Florida Statutes. An annual budget is adopted for the general fund.

The Tax Collector’s annual budget is monitored at varying levels of classification detail. However, for purposes of budgetary control, expenditures cannot legally exceed the total annual budget appropriations at the individual fund level. All appropriations lapse at year-end.

Budget to actual comparisons are provided in the financial statements for the general fund. All budget amounts presented in the accompanying financial statements have been adjusted for legally authorized amendments of the annual budget for the year. Budgets are prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting.

NOTE 1: <i>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)</i>
--

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Tax Collector considers all highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

Capital Assets

Capital assets purchased in the governmental fund type are recorded as expenditures (capital outlay) at the time of purchase. Assets acquired by the Tax Collector are reported as capital assets in the statement of net assets as part of the basic financial statement for Gulf County. The Tax Collector maintains custodial responsibility for the capital assets used by her office.

Liability for Compensated Absences

The Tax Collector accrues a liability for employees' rights to receive compensation for future absences when certain conditions are met. The Tax Collector does not, nor is legally required to, accumulate expendable available resources to liquidate this obligation. Accordingly, the liability for the compensated absences is not reported in the governmental fund. However, the current and long-term portion of the liability for compensated absences is reported at the county wide financial statement level.

Related Organizations – Common Expenses

Certain expenditures, which are common to the Board and all Constitutional Officers, are reported as expenses of the Board and, therefore, are not budgeted by or allocated to the Tax Collector. These expenses relating to the Tax Collector's courthouse facilities are:

- Occupancy costs
- Janitorial services
- Utilities (except telephone)
- Property insurance

Distribution of Excess Revenues

Florida Statutes require that the Tax Collector distribute any excess of revenues over expenditures within the general fund to the board within 31 days following the end of the fiscal year. Accordingly, the amount of excess revenues distributed to the Board at the end of the year is presented in the accompanying special-purpose financial statements as "other financing uses."

Subsequent Events

The Tax Collector evaluated subsequent events through April 18, 2025, the date which the financial statements were available to be issued. The Tax Collector did not have any subsequent events requiring disclosure or recording in these financial statements.

NOTE 1: <i>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)</i>
--

Fund Balance

Fund balance for governmental funds report 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 the funds may be spent. The Tax Collector is a county constitutional officer, and therefore, any funds remaining at the end of the fiscal year are returned to the Board of County Commissioners. Unassigned fund balance represents funds available for spending at the government's discretion.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the Tax Collector's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources (committed, assigned, and unassigned) as they are needed. When unrestricted resources (committed, assigned, and unassigned) are available for use, it is the Tax Collector's policy to use committed resources first, then assigned, and then unassigned, as needed.

NOTE 2: <i>Interfund Transactions</i>
--

During the course of normal operations, numerous transactions occur between funds, such as expenditures or transfers of resources to provide services, service debt, or construct assets. The inter-fund transactions are not eliminated, and no interest is charged on such advances.

Operating transfers between funds during the year were as follows:

	<u>Transfers in</u>	<u>Transfers Out</u>
General Fund		
Board of County Commissioners	\$ 683,796	\$ -

NOTE 3: <i>Retirement</i>

The entity participates in the Florida Retirement System (FRS), a multiple-employer, cost sharing defined public employee retirement system which covers all of the Tax Collector's full-time employees. The System is administered by the State of Florida, Department of Administration, Division of Retirement to provide retirement and survivor benefits to participating public employees. Provisions relating to the FRS are established by Chapters 121 and 122, Florida Statutes; Chapter 112, Part IV, Florida Statutes; Chapter 238, Florida Statutes; and FRS Rules, Chapter 60S, Florida Administrative Code; wherein eligibility, contributions, and benefits are defined and described in detail. The FRS is a single retirement system administered by the Department of Management Services, Division of Retirement, and consists of two cost-sharing, multiple-employer retirement plans and other nonintegrated programs. These include a defined-benefit pension plan (Plan), with a Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP), and a defined-contribution plan, referred to as the FRS Investment Plan (Investment Plan).

NOTE 3: Retirement (Continued)

In addition, all regular employees of the entity are eligible to enroll as members of the Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy (HIS) Program. The HIS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan established and administered in accordance with section 112.363, Florida Statutes. The benefit is a monthly payment to assist retirees of the state-administered retirement systems in paying their health insurance costs. For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, eligible retirees and beneficiaries received a monthly HIS payment equal to the number of years of service credited at retirement multiplied by \$7.50. The minimum payment is \$45 and the maximum payment is \$225 per month, pursuant to section 112.363, Florida Statutes.

To be eligible to receive a HIS benefit, a retiree under one of the state-administered retirement systems must provide proof of eligible health insurance coverage, which can include Medicare.

For financial reporting purposes, the Tax Collector is deemed to be part of the primary government of the County. A liability related to the Tax Collector's proportionate share of FRS retirement benefits, along with a detailed plan description, is reported in the financial statements of the County for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024.

NOTE 4: Changes in Long-Term Obligations

Under the GASB 34 reporting model, long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and accordingly are not reported as fund liabilities. All long-term liabilities for the Tax Collector are reported in the government-wide Statement of Net Position. The compensated absences of the Tax Collector are accounted for in the Statement of Net Position as follows:

	Balance				Balance
	October 01, 2023	Additions*	Reductions		September 30, 2024
Compensated absences	\$ 21,127	\$ (1,275)	\$ -	\$	19,852

**The change in the compensated absences liability is presented as a net change.*

NOTE 5: Risk Management

The Tax Collector is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors or omissions; injuries to employees and the public; or damage to property of others. The Tax Collector participates in the risk management program through the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners, which uses commercial insurance to cover certain risks from loss.

The Board obtained commercial insurance against losses for the following types of risk:

- Real and personal property damage
- Public employee's bond
- Workers' compensation
- General and automobile liability

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA TAX COLLECTOR
COMBINING SCHEDULE OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
CUSTODIAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	<u>Tax Fund</u>	<u>Tag Fund</u>	<u>Total Custodial Funds</u>
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>\$ 536,515</u>	<u>\$ 8,799</u>	<u>\$ 545,314</u>
LIABILITIES			
Due to individuals	40,448	-	40,448
Due to BOCC	1,305	-	1,305
Due to other governments	<u>494,762</u>	<u>8,799</u>	<u>503,561</u>
Total liabilities	<u>536,515</u>	<u>8,799</u>	<u>545,314</u>
NET POSITION	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA TAX COLLECTOR
COMBINING SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
CUSTODIAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Tax Fund	Tag Fund	Total Custodial Funds
ADDITIONS			
Taxes	\$ 47,028,719	\$ -	\$ 47,028,719
Permits, fees, and special assessments	-	3,394,755	3,394,755
Total additions	47,028,719	3,394,755	50,423,474
DEDUCTIONS			
Payments to other governments	24,907,184	3,015,495	27,922,679
Payments to BOCC	20,085,310	363,191	20,448,501
Payments to individuals	2,036,225	16,044	2,052,269
Payments to constitutional officers	-	25	25
Total deductions	47,028,719	3,394,755	50,423,474
Net change in fiduciary net position	-	-	-
Net position - beginning	-	-	-
Net position - ending	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

INTERNAL CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE SECTION

LANIGAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
BUSINESS ADVISORS

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

The Honorable Ashley L. Forehand
Gulf County, Florida Tax Collector
Gulf County, Florida

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 each major fund and remaining aggregate fund information of Gulf County, Florida Tax Collector (the "Tax Collector") as of September 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Tax Collector's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated April 18, 2025.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

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

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

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Tax Collector'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*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Tax Collector'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 Tax Collector's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Lanigan & Associates, PC

Tallahassee, Florida
April 18, 2025

LANIGAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
BUSINESS ADVISORS

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S
MANAGEMENT LETTER**

The Honorable Ashley L. Forehand
Gulf County, Florida Tax Collector
Gulf County, Florida

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the financial statements of Gulf County, Florida Tax Collector as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, and have issued our report dated April 18, 2025.

Auditor's Responsibility

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General.

Other Reporting Requirements

We have issued our 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*; and Independent Accountant's Reports on an examination conducted in accordance with *AICPA Professional Standards*, AT-C Section 315, regarding compliance requirements in accordance with Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General. Disclosures in those reports, which are dated April 18, 2025, should be considered in conjunction with this management letter.

Prior Audit Findings

Section 10.554(1)(i)1., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that we determine whether or not corrective actions have been taken to address findings and recommendations made in the preceding annual financial audit report. There were no recommendations made in the preceding annual financial audit report.

Official Title and Legal Authority

Section 10.554(1)(i)4., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that the name or official title and legal authority for the primary government and each component unit of the reporting entity be disclosed in this management letter, unless disclosed in the notes to the financial statements. This information is disclosed in Note 1 of the notes to financial statements.

Financial Management

Section 10.554(1)(i)2., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that we communicate any recommendations to improve financial management. In connection with our audit, we make the following recommendations:

Finding:

During our audit of the Tax Collector's Office, we noted that employee bonuses were paid in both December 2023 and September 2024. These bonus payments were not separately identified and included in the budget approved by the Board of County Commissioners. Furthermore, the Office has not demonstrated that it has legal authority to issue bonuses of this nature.

Recommendation:

We recommend the Tax Collector's Office consult with legal counsel to evaluate the appropriateness and legality of issuing bonuses to employees. If bonuses are determined to be permissible, they should be separately identified in the annual budget submitted for approval. This will provide better transparency in the use of public funds.

Additional Matters

Section 10.554(1)(i)3., Rules of the Auditor General, requires us to communicate noncompliance with provisions of contracts or grant agreements, or abuse, that have occurred, or are likely to have occurred, that have an effect on the financial statements that is less than material but which warrants the attention of those charged with governance. In connection with our audit, we did not note any such findings.

Purpose of this Letter

Our management letter is intended solely for the information and use of the Legislative Auditing Committee, members of the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives, the Florida Auditor General, Federal and other granting agencies, the Board of County Commissioners, and applicable management, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Lanigan & Associates, PC

Tallahassee, Florida
April 18, 2025

LANIGAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
BUSINESS ADVISORS

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH
FLORIDA STATUTE SECTION 218.415 – INVESTMENT OF PUBLIC
FUNDS**

The Honorable Ashley L. Forehand
Gulf County, Florida Tax Collector
Gulf County, Florida

Report on Compliance

We have examined the Gulf County, Florida Tax Collector (the "Tax Collector") compliance with Section 218.415, Florida Statutes, regarding the investment of public funds during the year ended September 30, 2024. Management is responsible for the Tax Collector's compliance with the specified requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Tax Collector's compliance with the specified requirements based on our examination.

Scope

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Tax Collector complied, in all material respects, with the specified requirements referenced above. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about whether the Tax Collector complied with the specified requirements. The nature, timing and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgement, including an assessment of the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion. We are required to be independent and to meet our ethical responsibilities in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to the engagement. Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the Tax Collector's compliance with specified requirements.

Opinion

In our opinion, the Tax Collector complied, in all material respects, with Section 218.415, Florida Statutes, regarding the investment of public funds during the year ended September 30, 2024.

Lanigan & Associates, PC

Tallahassee, Florida
April 18, 2025



GULF COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR

ASHLEY L. FOREHAND, CFC
TAX COLLECTOR
AFOREHAND@GULFCOUNTY-FL.GOV

Port St. Joe Office

1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr Blvd Rm 100
Port St. Joe, FL. 32456
Telephone: (850) 229-6116 / 229-5353
Fax: (850) 229-9224

Wewahitchka Office

P.O. Box 681
Wewahitchka, FL. 32456
Telephone: (850) 639- 2655
Fax: (850) 639-6977

May 6, 2025

Lanigan & Associates, PC
2630 Centennial Place
Tallahassee, Florida 32309

Dear Lanigan & Associates, PC,

We acknowledge receipt of the audit recommendation concerning employee bonus payments issued by the Tax Collector's Office in December 2023 and September 2024.

The Office understands and accepts the importance of transparency and accountability in all fiscal matters, particularly in the use of public funds. We recognize that the referenced bonus payments were not separately identified in the approved budget and were not reviewed or approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

To address this matter and ensure future compliance, the Office will take the following corrective actions:

1. Legal Review:

We will consult with legal counsel to confirm the statutory authority for issuing employee bonuses.

2. BOCC Approval and Budget Inclusion

Any future bonus payments will be separately itemized in the annual budget submitted for approval to the Board of County Commissioners.

3. Performance-Based Awards

Should bonuses be deemed permissible, they will be tied to clearly defined and documented employee performance criteria.

4. Policy Development

The Office will adopt a formal written policy outlining the parameters for the issuance of bonuses, including eligibility requirements, approval processes, and documentation protocols.

We appreciate the observations provided in the audit report and are committed to implementing measures that strengthen our financial governance and ensure compliance with applicable standards and statutes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashley L. Forehand". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ashley L. Forehand