

**COLUMBIA COUNTY,
FLORIDA**

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024
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Tax Collector	
Sheriff	
Supervisor of Elections	

INTRODUCTORY SECTION

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
LIST OF PRINCIPAL OFFICIALS
September 30, 2024**

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>
Board of County Commissioners	
District I	Kevin Parnell
District II	Rocky Ford
District III	Robby Hollingsworth
District IV	Everett Phillips
District V	Timothy Murphy
County Attorney	Joel Foreman
Clerk of Circuit Court	James M. Swisher, Jr.
Property Appraiser	Jeff Hampton
Sheriff	Mark Hunter
Supervisor of Elections	Tomi S. Brown
Tax Collector	Kyle Keen

FINANCIAL SECTION



Powell and Jones CPA

1359 S.W. Main Blvd.
Lake City, FL 32025
Phone 386.755.4200

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Honorable Board of County Commissioners
and Constitutional Officers
Columbia County, Florida

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 Columbia County, Florida, as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Columbia County, Florida's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above 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 Columbia County, Florida, 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 and standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, 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 Columbia County, Florida, 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 Columbia County, Florida'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 generally accepted auditing standards 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 generally accepted auditing standards 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 Columbia County, Florida'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 Columbia County, Florida'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, budgetary comparison information, and the pension and OPEB schedules, 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 Columbia County, Florida's basic financial statements. The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and State Financial Assistance is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. 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 Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and State Financial Assistance is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

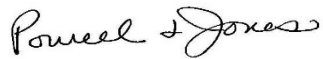
Other Information

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

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

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated September 30, 2025, on our consideration of Columbia 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 to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the County's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Powell and Jones CPA
Lake City, Florida
September 30, 2025

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

The County's management discussion and analysis presents an overview of the County's financial activities for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024. The analysis provides summary financial information for the County and should be read in conjunction with the County's financial statements.

The County has implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement 34, *Basic Financial Statements - and Management's Discussion and Analysis - for State and Local Governments*. This statement requires governmental entities to report finances in accordance with specific guidelines. Among those guidelines are the components of this section dealing with management's discussion and analysis.

Its intent is to provide a brief, objective, and easily readable analysis of the County's financial performance for the year and its financial position at fiscal year end September 30, 2024.

Overview of the Financial Statements

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the County's basic financial statements. The County's basic financial statements consist of: 1) government-wide financial statements, 2) fund financial statements, and 3) notes to the financial statements. The Government-wide financial statements present an overall picture of the County's financial position and results of operations. The Fund financial statements present financial information for the County's major funds. The Notes to the financial statements provide additional information concerning the County's finances that are not disclosed in the government-wide or fund financial statements.

Government-wide financial statements

The government-wide financial statements consist of the statement of net position and the statement of activities, and are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the County's finances, in a manner similar to a private-sector business. Emphasis is placed on the net position of governmental activities and business-type activities and the change in net position. Governmental activities are primarily supported by property and non ad valorem taxes, sales and use taxes, federal and state grants, and state shared revenues. Business-type activities are supported by charges to the users of those activities.

The statement of net position presents information on all assets and liabilities of the County, with the difference between the two reported as net position. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the County is improving or deteriorating. Net position is reported in three categories: 1) invested in capital assets, net of related debt, 2) restricted, and 3) unrestricted. Assets, liabilities, and net position are reported for all Governmental Activities separate from those of business-type activities.

The statement of activities presents information on all revenues and expenses of the County and the change in net position. Expenses are reported by major function and program revenues relating to those functions are reported, providing the net cost of all functions provided by the County. To assist in understanding the County's operations, expenses have been reported as governmental activities or business-type activities. Governmental activities financed by the County include public safety, physical environment, transportation, economic environment, human

services, culture and recreation, and general government services. Business-type activities financed by user charges include the landfill and sewer operations.

Fund Financial Statements

A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts, and is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives in accordance with special regulations, restrictions, or limitations. All of the funds of the County can be divided into three categories: governmental funds, proprietary funds, and fiduciary funds.

Governmental fund financial statements provide information on the current assets and liabilities of the funds, changes in current financial resources (revenues and expenditures), and current available resources.

Proprietary fund financial statements provide information on all assets and liabilities of the fund, changes in the economic resources (revenues and expenses), and total economic resources.

Fund financial statements include a balance sheet and a statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances for all governmental funds. A statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances - budget and actual, is provided for the County's general fund and major special revenue, capital projects, and debt service funds as required supplementary information. For the proprietary funds, which includes business-type activities, a statement of net position; a statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position; and a statement of cash flows are presented. A combining statement of fiduciary net position is presented for the County's agency funds.

Fund financial statements provide more detailed information about the County's activities. Individual funds are established by the County to track revenues that are restricted to certain uses, comply with legal requirements, or account for the use of state and federal grants.

The *government-wide financial statements* and the *fund financial statements* provide different pictures of the County. The government-wide financial statements provide an overall picture of the County's financial standing, split between governmental activities and business-type activities. These statements are comparable to private-sector companies and give a good understanding of the County's overall financial health and how the County paid for the various activities, or functions, provided by the County. All assets of the County, including buildings, land, roads, and bridges are reported in the statement of net position. All liabilities, including principal outstanding on bonds, landfill closure liabilities, and future employee benefits obligated but not paid by the County, are included. The statement of activities includes depreciation on all long lived assets of the County, but transactions between the different functions of the County have been eliminated in order to avoid "doubling up" the revenues and expenses.

The *fund financial statements* provide a picture of the major funds of the County and a column for all non-major funds. In the case of governmental activities, outlays for long lived assets are reported as expenditures, and long-term liabilities are not included in the fund financial statements. To provide a link from the *fund financial statements* to the *government-wide financial statements*, a reconciliation is provided from the fund financial statements to the *government wide financial statements*.

Notes to the Financial Statements

The notes to the financial statements provide additional detail concerning the financial activities and financial balances of the County. Additional information about the accounting practices of the County, investments of the County, long-term debt, and pension plan are some of the items included in the notes to the financial statements.

Financial Highlights

Total assets of the County exceeded total liabilities by \$201,496,565 (net position). Unrestricted net position for governmental activities was \$1,094,302 and for business-type activities was \$343,977. Governmental Activities restricted net position is \$33,137,067 and was \$-0- for Business-type Activities.

Total net position increased by \$22,393,029. Governmental Activities net position increased by \$7,081,707 which is primarily attributable to capital grants. Business-type Activities net position increased by \$15,311,322, the majority of this increase was due to capital contributions and positive operating results.

Governmental Activities revenues increased by \$16,531,589 to \$109,842,998. This increase in revenue was due primarily to increases in capital grant revenue and property tax revenue. Governmental Activities expenses increased by \$844,110 to \$95,809,447. This modest increase in expenses was less than rising inflation and reflects effective budgetary management.

Business-type activities revenues decreased by \$3,026,320 to \$13,451,236, and business-type expenses decreased by \$3,548,222 to \$5,088,758.

Financial Analysis of the County

As noted earlier, net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. At September 30, 2024, the assets and deferred outflows of resources of the County exceeded liabilities and deferred inflows of resources by \$201,496,565.

The following schedule provides a summary of the assets, liabilities, and net position of the County.

Net Position

	Governmental	Business-type	Total Government	
			2024	2023
Assets				
Current assets	\$ 90,048,367	\$ 1,813,052	\$ 91,861,419	\$ 97,156,309
Restricted assets	-	16,348,655	16,348,655	14,975,441
Capital assets	137,571,618	44,977,610	182,549,228	155,709,929
Total assets	<u>227,619,985</u>	<u>63,139,317</u>	<u>290,759,302</u>	<u>267,841,679</u>
Deferred Outflows of Resources				
Related to pensions and OPEB	<u>15,652,214</u>	<u>306,112</u>	<u>15,958,326</u>	<u>14,292,845</u>
Liabilities				
Current liabilities	12,083,367	1,958,685	14,042,052	13,281,582
Noncurrent liabilities	68,654,255	16,662,030	85,316,285	86,244,421
Total liabilities	<u>80,737,622</u>	<u>18,620,715</u>	<u>99,358,337</u>	<u>99,526,003</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources				
Related to pensions and OPEB	<u>5,751,869</u>	<u>110,857</u>	<u>5,862,726</u>	<u>3,507,986</u>
Net Position				
Net position invested in capital assets, net of related debt	122,551,339	44,369,880	166,921,219	138,694,716
Net position - restricted	33,137,067	-	33,137,067	30,537,340
Net position - unrestricted	1,094,302	343,977	1,438,279	9,868,480
Total net position	<u>\$ 156,782,708</u>	<u>\$ 44,713,857</u>	<u>\$ 201,496,565</u>	<u>\$ 179,100,536</u>

83% of the County's net position reflects its investment in capital assets (land, buildings, infrastructure, and equipment), less any related outstanding debt used to acquire those assets. The County uses these capital assets to provide services to citizens; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. Although the County's investment in its capital assets is reported net of related debt, it should be noted that the resources needed to repay this debt must be provided from other sources, since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate these liabilities.

An additional 16% of the County's net position represents resources that are dedicated or subject to restrictions on how they may be used. The remaining balance of unrestricted net position, 1%, may be used to meet the government's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.

Governmental activities revenues and transfers in exceeded expenses by \$7,081,709. The increase in Governmental Activities net position is due primarily to the County's capital asset additions and reduced transportation expenses in the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024. There was an increase in Business-type Activities net position of \$15,311,322.

The following schedule provides a summary of the changes in net position.

Changes in Net Position

	Governmental Activities	Business-type Activities	Total Government	
			2024	2023
Revenues:				
Program revenues				
Charges for services	\$ 9,297,923	\$ 5,074,596	\$ 14,372,519	\$ 13,003,919
Operating grants/ contributions	16,947,557	93,750	17,041,307	28,179,222
Capital grants/contributions	8,764,642	6,696,344	15,460,986	1,344,737
General revenues				
Property taxes	30,451,890	-	30,451,890	27,133,636
Sales and use taxes	20,533,110	-	20,533,110	19,468,498
Federal and State shared revenues	17,102,250	168,550	17,270,800	16,844,410
Interest	3,459,828	1,147,190	4,607,018	2,248,943
Gain (loss) on disposition of fixed assets	187,747	(48,292)	139,455	253,177
Other	3,098,051	319,098	3,417,149	1,447,424
Total revenues	109,842,998	13,451,236	123,294,234	109,923,966
Expenses:				
General government	14,601,184	-	14,601,184	16,763,126
Public safety	39,607,853	-	39,607,853	40,211,952
Physical environment	6,355,295	5,088,758	11,444,053	15,491,382
Transportation	20,921,932	-	20,921,932	18,129,168
Economic environment	3,318,165	-	3,318,165	3,433,703
Human services	4,160,507	-	4,160,507	3,761,807
Culture/recreation	3,227,345	-	3,227,345	2,740,691
Court related	3,235,971	-	3,235,971	2,694,169
Interest on long-term debt	381,195	-	381,195	376,319
Total expenses	95,809,447	5,088,758	100,898,205	103,602,317
Transfers in (out)	(6,951,844)	6,951,844	-	-
Increase (decrease) in net position	\$ 7,081,707	\$ 15,314,322	\$ 22,396,029	\$ 6,366,649

Property taxes provide 28% of the revenues for Governmental Activities, while sales taxes provide 19%. Most of the Governmental Activities resources are spent for Public Safety (41%), General Government (15%), Transportation (22%), Human Services (4%), and Physical Environment (7%).

FUND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Governmental Funds

General Fund

The County's General Fund is the main operating fund of the County. It is used to account for the general revenues of the County. As of September 30, 2024, the General Fund reported an ending fund balance of \$32,631,521, of which \$147,236 was restricted, \$2,112,573 was nonspendable, and \$270,022 was assigned for specific projects.

During the fiscal year, total revenues of \$51,822,356 exceeded total expenditures of \$21,548,323 by \$30,274,033. After accounting for net transfers and other financing sources, the fund balance increased by \$5,551,584.

Other Governmental Funds

The County Transportation Trust Fund accounts for motor fuel taxes designated for the annual maintenance of roads, bridges, right-of-way, drainage systems, etc. The County has the legal authority to levy ad valorem taxes for the Transportation Fund, but has elected not to do so. During the year, expenditures and transfers out exceeded revenues and, sales of equipment by \$716,986 and resulted in an ending fund balance of \$12,213,466.

The Municipal Services Fund accounts for expenditures incurred for the solid waste collection and fire control services in the unincorporated area, and other services which primarily benefit residents of the unincorporated area of the County. Financing is provided by non-ad valorem assessments and other revenues derived from the unincorporated area. For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, revenues and transfers in exceeded expenditures by \$1,285,628.

The Economic Development Fund is utilized to promote economic development in the County and to manage economic development agreements with industrial entities in the County. During the year revenues exceeded expenditures and transfers out by \$129,438.

The American Rescue Plan Act Fund is used to account for the government funding under the American Rescue Plan Act and the expenditure of those funds. During the year, revenues exceeded expenditures by \$240,040.

The Sheriff General Fund is the general operating fund of the Sheriff, a Constitutional Officer. The primary source of funds are transfers from the Board of County Commission General Fund. Expenditures for the year were \$20,059,823 and by law this fund has no ending fund balance.

The County Facilities Fund accounts for the construction and improvement of major County facilities and infrastructure, rather than only road resurfacing. Financing is provided primarily by State construction grants, bond proceeds, and transfers from other Board funds. During the year, expenditures and transfers out exceeded revenues by \$10,373,306, resulting in an ending fund balance of \$5,625,910.

General Fund Budget

Actual revenues for the General Fund exceeded budgeted revenue and transfers in by \$4,939,766. This was primarily due to shared revenue and grants in excess of anticipated amounts. Budgeted expenditures and transfers out were greater than actual by \$5,064,221. This was due to lower levels of spending for public assistance and recreation than anticipated.

Proprietary Funds

The Landfill Enterprise Fund accounts for the revenues, expenses, assets, and liabilities associated with the County-operated solid waste disposal facility. This fund is substantially financed by tipping fees charged to users of the services. Total assets as of September 30, 2024, were \$31,202,967, total liabilities were \$16,180,999, net deferred outflows/inflows related to the Florida State Retirement System pension liability were \$152,815 and net position was \$15,174,783. Total income, including interest and grants, was \$5,949,550. Total expenses were \$3,975,514. This increased net position by \$1,974,036 to \$15,174,783.

The Utilities Fund accounts for the financial activities associated with the County operated water and sewer services. Total assets at September 30, 2024, were \$39,698,537, total liabilities were \$10,201,903, and net position was \$29,539,074. Total income, and transfers in were \$14,609,929. Total expenses, including interest expense, were \$1,269,643, leaving a net change in net position of \$13,340,286.

CAPITAL ASSETS ACTIVITY

The County's capital assets for its governmental and business-type activities as of September 30, 2024, is \$182,549,228 (net of accumulated depreciation). This investment in capital assets includes land, buildings, equipment, infrastructure, and construction in progress, net of depreciation. General fixed assets are recorded at cost. For assets purchased before 2003, assets were recorded at cost or fair market value.

The most significant change in capital assets during the fiscal year was the ongoing construction of various roads and road improvements, utility improvements and the mega industrial park sewer plant.

The following schedule provides a summary of the County's capital assets balances for the year ended September 30, 2024, compared to the prior year:

	Capital Assets			
	Governmental	Business-type	Total Government	
	Activities	Activities	2024	2023
Land and land interests	\$ 17,336,749	\$ 2,087,118	\$ 19,423,867	\$ 17,232,574
Construction in progress	9,012,320	35,005,625	44,017,945	20,182,115
Infrastructure	198,651,014	17,915,574	216,566,588	207,576,241
Buildings and improvements	95,488,288	508,514	95,996,802	95,297,905
Equipment	35,113,656	5,735,853	40,849,509	39,876,988
Right to use leased assets	6,972,048	217,792	7,189,840	5,058,324
	<u>362,574,075</u>	<u>61,470,476</u>	<u>424,044,551</u>	<u>385,224,147</u>
Less accumulated depreciation	(225,002,457)	(16,492,866)	(241,495,323)	(229,514,218)
Total	<u>\$ 137,571,618</u>	<u>\$ 44,977,610</u>	<u>\$ 182,549,228</u>	<u>\$ 155,709,929</u>

DEBT MANAGEMENT

Governmental Activities Debt

During the year, total long-term debt decreased by \$1,213,733. This was primarily due to routine principal payments that exceeded increases in other long-term liabilities. The following schedule shows the balances of the County's long-term debt at year end:

Revenue bonds	\$ 12,458,651
Leases	4,053,524
Compensated absences	3,691,586
County's proportionate share FRS pension liability	50,828,034
Other post-employment benefits	221,998
	<u>\$ 71,253,793</u>

Business-type Activities Debt

The County has received loans from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in support of its utility services. The total balances payable of these loans and the other debt of the proprietary funds of the County at September 30, 2024 are shown in the table below:

Department of Environmental Protection Loans	\$	452,745
Leases		154,985
Compensated absences		139,806
Landfill Closure Liability		15,013,699
Net pension liability		995,617
	\$	<u>16,756,852</u>

OTHER FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Economic Factors and Next Year’s Budget

- The 2024 unemployment rate for the County, was 4.0%.
- The estimated population for the County in 2024 was 73,977.
- The ad valorem tax millage rate for the County was 7.815 mills in 2024, which was the same as the prior year.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

This financial report is designed to present users with a general overview of the County’s finances and to demonstrate the County’s accountability. Questions concerning this report or requests for additional information should be addressed to the County Manager, P. O. Drawer 1529, Lake City, Florida 32025, or by calling (386) 758-1005.

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
September 30, 2024

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>	<u>Business - type Activities</u>	<u>Total</u>
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash	\$ 46,377,686	\$ 6,166,660	\$ 52,544,346
Accounts receivable, net	180,089	725,950	906,039
Internal balances	6,365,053	(6,365,053)	-
Due from fiduciary funds	238,747	-	238,747
Due from other governmental units	10,755,012	1,241,006	11,996,018
Inventories	58,089	-	58,089
Prepaid expenses	538,674	-	538,674
Investments	25,535,017	44,489	25,579,506
Total current assets	<u>90,048,367</u>	<u>1,813,052</u>	<u>91,861,419</u>
Noncurrent Assets			
Restricted assets			
Cash	-	99,295	99,295
Investments	-	16,249,360	16,249,360
Total restricted assets	<u>-</u>	<u>16,348,655</u>	<u>16,348,655</u>
Capital assets:			
Nondepreciable capital assets	26,349,069	37,092,743	63,441,812
Depreciable capital assets, net	107,350,167	7,700,622	115,050,789
Lease assets, net	3,872,382	184,245	4,056,627
Total capital assets	<u>137,571,618</u>	<u>44,977,610</u>	<u>182,549,228</u>
Total assets	<u>227,619,985</u>	<u>63,139,317</u>	<u>290,759,302</u>
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Related to pensions and OPEB	15,652,214	306,112	15,958,326
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts payable	2,826,220	1,752,148	4,578,368
Accrued wages	2,482,966	62,608	2,545,574
Due to other governmental units	15,277	-	15,277
Accrued compensated absences, current portion	553,738	20,971	574,709
Interest payable	-	2,047	2,047
Deposits	3,900	47,059	50,959
Other current liabilities	30,204	-	30,204
Unearned revenue	4,125,262	-	4,125,262
Notes payable, current portion	1,491,896	52,674	1,544,570
Leases payable, current portion	553,904	21,178	575,082
Total current liabilities	<u>12,083,367</u>	<u>1,958,685</u>	<u>14,042,052</u>
Noncurrent Liabilities			
Non-current portion:			
Notes payable, net of current	10,966,755	400,071	11,366,826
Capital leases	-	-	-
Bonds payable, net of current	-	-	-
Leases payable, net of current	3,499,620	133,807	3,633,427
Accrued compensated absences, net of current	3,137,848	118,835	3,256,683
OPEB liability	221,998	-	221,998
Estimated landfill closure liability	-	15,013,699	15,013,699
Net pension liability	50,828,034	995,618	51,823,652
Total noncurrent liabilities	<u>68,654,255</u>	<u>16,662,030</u>	<u>85,316,285</u>
Total liabilities	<u>80,737,622</u>	<u>18,620,715</u>	<u>99,358,337</u>

(Continued)

See notes to financial statements

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
September 30, 2024

	Governmental Activities	Business - type Activities	Total
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Related to pensions and OPEB	\$ 5,751,869	\$ 110,857	\$ 5,862,726
NET POSITION			
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	122,551,339	44,369,880	166,921,219
Restricted	33,137,067	-	33,137,067
Unrestricted	1,094,302	343,977	1,438,279
Total net position	\$ 156,782,708	\$ 44,713,857	\$ 201,496,565

See notes to financial statements.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
BALANCE SHEET
September 30, 2024**

	Special Revenue Funds					Capital Projects Funds			Total Governmental Funds
	County General Fund	County Transpor- tation Trust	Municipal Services	Economic Development	American Rescue Plan Act	Sheriff Operating	County Facilities	Other Governmental Funds	
ASSETS									
Cash	\$ 3,173,298	\$ 8,636,669	\$ 10,126,408	\$ 2,227,855	\$ 4,242,666	\$ 1,177,787	\$ 638,351	\$ 16,154,652	\$ 46,377,686
Accounts receivable	59,096	-	48,480	-	-	13,609	-	58,904	180,089
Due from other funds	15,069,909	2,618,370	491,274	477,811	269,507	151,622	31,672	4,036,971	23,147,136
Due from other governmental units	1,620,628	551,456	70,732	111,468	-	98,813	5,653,424	2,648,491	10,755,012
Inventories	-	58,089	-	-	-	-	-	-	58,089
Prepaid items	400,000	95,958	-	-	-	42,716	-	-	538,674
Investments	21,917,544	811,175	-	-	-	-	-	2,806,298	25,535,017
Total assets	\$ 42,240,475	\$ 12,771,717	\$ 10,736,894	\$ 2,817,134	\$ 4,512,173	\$ 1,484,547	\$ 6,323,447	\$ 25,705,316	\$ 106,591,703
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES									
Liabilities									
Accounts payable	724,427	219,608	181,911	4,302	-	220,360	693,637	781,975	2,826,220
Due to other funds	8,488,626	-	3,106,622	-	-	64,482	-	4,883,606	16,543,336
Due to other governmental units	-	-	5,089	-	-	-	-	10,188	15,277
Accrued wages	391,407	338,643	305,124	14,602	-	1,199,705	-	233,485	2,482,966
Deposits	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,900	-	3,900
Other current liabilities	4,494	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,710	30,204
Unearned revenues	-	-	3,654	-	3,592,472	-	-	529,136	4,125,262
Total liabilities	9,608,954	558,251	3,602,400	18,904	3,592,472	1,484,547	697,537	6,464,100	26,027,165
Fund balances									
Nonspendable:									
Inventories	-	58,089	-	-	-	-	-	-	58,089
Prepaid items	400,000	95,958	-	-	-	-	-	-	495,958
Utilities fund loan	1,712,573	-	482,839	-	-	-	-	-	2,195,412
Restricted	147,236	12,059,419	6,651,655	-	919,701	-	-	14,240,304	34,018,315
Assigned	270,022	-	-	2,798,230	-	-	5,625,910	5,000,912	13,695,074
Unassigned	30,101,690	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,101,690
Total fund balances	32,631,521	12,213,466	7,134,494	2,798,230	919,701	-	5,625,910	19,241,216	80,564,538
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$ 42,240,475	\$ 12,771,717	\$ 10,736,894	\$ 2,817,134	\$ 4,512,173	\$ 1,484,547	\$ 6,323,447	\$ 25,705,316	

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

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and are therefore not reported in the funds:	137,571,618
Long-term debt transactions are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds:	
Notes payable	(12,458,651)
Leases payable	(4,053,524)
Accrued compensated absences	(3,691,586)
Net pension liability	(50,828,034)
Deferred outflows/inflows of resources	9,900,345
OPEB obligation	(221,998)
Net position of governmental activities	\$ 156,782,708

See notes to financial statements.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024**

	Special Revenue Funds					Capital Projects Funds			
	General Fund	County Transportation Trust	Municipal Services	Economic Development	American Rescue Plan Act	Sheriff Operating	County Facilities	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES									
Taxes	\$ 35,486,264	\$ 7,849,821	\$ 1,761,861	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,887,054	\$ 50,985,000
Special assessments	-	-	11,508,784	-	-	-	-	4,492	11,513,276
Intergovernmental	10,723,411	5,650,271	393,597	1,413,151	-	186,741	6,633,068	6,300,934	31,301,173
Charges for services	3,040,440	3,135	933,062	-	-	330,896	-	4,990,390	9,297,923
Fines and forfeitures	129,247	-	-	-	-	43,744	-	159,926	332,917
Interest	1,233,283	387,127	360,944	125,985	240,040	21,125	428,786	662,538	3,459,828
Miscellaneous	1,209,711	648,888	250,963	336	-	518,951	3,740	132,545	2,765,134
Total revenues	51,822,356	14,539,242	15,209,211	1,539,472	240,040	1,101,457	7,065,594	18,137,879	109,655,251
EXPENDITURES									
Current expenditures									
General government	7,324,467	-	37,898	-	-	-	62,500	6,327,935	13,752,800
Public safety	6,433,246	-	9,017,728	-	-	20,982,928	29,825	384,613	36,848,340
Physical environment	1,991,661	-	4,253,641	-	-	-	-	-	6,245,302
Transportation	-	10,410,500	-	-	-	-	468,422	5,019,645	15,898,567
Economic environment	317,152	-	18,382	760,034	-	-	-	2,199,985	3,295,553
Human services	4,043,365	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,043,365
Culture/recreation	805,679	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,946,483	2,752,162
Court-related	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,235,971	3,235,971
Capital outlay									
General government	160,638	-	-	-	-	-	446,586	17,338	624,562
Public safety	156,353	-	249,532	-	-	1,011,141	103,985	228,536	1,749,547
Physical environment	110,759	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	110,759
Transportation	-	1,778,963	-	-	-	-	11,535,746	2,123,486	15,438,195
Human service	39,496	-	-	-	-	-	22,898	-	62,394
Culture/recreation	17,628	-	-	-	-	-	872,966	-	890,594
Debt service									
Principal	111,084	727,511	364,467	-	-	60,643	-	1,167,329	2,431,034
Interest	36,795	52,988	28,750	-	-	5,111	-	257,551	381,195
Total expenditures	21,548,323	12,969,962	13,970,398	760,034	-	22,059,823	13,542,928	22,908,872	107,760,340
Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures	30,274,033	1,569,280	1,238,813	779,438	240,040	(20,958,366)	6,477,334	(4,770,993)	1,894,911
Other financing sources (uses)									
Sale of fixed assets	139,722	66,240	9,675	-	-	-	-	57,643	273,280
Lease proceeds	-	1,111,466	-	-	-	74,956	-	-	1,186,422
Interfund transfers in	571,777	-	37,140	-	-	20,883,410	2,385,000	4,532,725	28,410,052
Interfund transfers out	(25,433,948)	(2,030,000)	-	(650,000)	-	-	(6,280,972)	(966,976)	(35,361,896)
Total other financing sources (uses)	(24,722,449)	(852,294)	46,815	(650,000)	-	20,958,366	(3,895,972)	3,623,392	(5,492,142)
Net change in fund balances	5,551,584	716,986	1,285,628	129,438	240,040	-	(10,373,306)	(1,147,601)	(3,597,231)
Fund balances beginning of year	27,079,937	11,496,480	5,848,866	2,668,792	679,661	-	15,999,216	20,388,817	84,161,769
Fund balances end of year	32,631,521	12,213,466	7,134,494	2,798,230	919,701	-	5,625,910	19,241,216	80,564,538
See notes to financial statements.									

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES,
EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES OF
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds \$ (3,597,231)

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

Governmental funds report capital outlay as expenditures.

However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation expense. Losses on dispositions are not recorded in governmental funds.

Transfers of equipment to other funds and adjustments	3,565,397	
Loss on disposition of equipment	(85,533)	
Expenditures for capital assets	18,876,051	
Less current year depreciation and adjustments	(12,253,408)	
		10,102,507

Repayments of notes, capital leases and bonds are expenditures in the governmental funds, but the repayment reduces long-term liabilities in the statement of net position. Debt proceeds increase fund balance in governmental funds but are increases in liabilities in the Statement of Net Position.

Principal payments	2,431,034	
Net lease additions over terminations	(1,186,422)	
		1,244,612

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

Net change in compensated absences	(311,793)	
Net change in accrued interest expense	19,300	
Net change in the OPEB obligation	(14,550)	
Net change in net pension liability	295,464	
Net change in deferred inflows/outflows	(656,602)	
		(668,181)

\$ 7,081,707

See notes to financial statements.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
PROPRIETARY FUNDS
September 30, 2024

	Business type -Activities		
	Enterprise Funds		
	Landfill Enterprise	Utilities	Total
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 6,166,460	\$ 200	\$ 6,166,660
Accounts receivable net of allowance for uncollectible accounts	626,517	99,433	725,950
Due from other funds	1,397,134	-	1,397,134
Due from other governmental units	-	1,241,006	1,241,006
Investments	44,489	-	44,489
Total current assets	8,234,600	1,340,639	9,575,239
Noncurrent Assets			
Restricted assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	99,295	-	99,295
Investments	16,249,360	-	16,249,360
Total restricted assets	16,348,655	-	16,348,655
Fixed assets			
Nondepreciable			
Land	908,279	1,178,839	2,087,118
Construction in progress	217,967	34,787,658	35,005,625
Depreciable			
Buildings	508,514	-	508,514
Improvements other than buildings	12,308,841	5,606,733	17,915,574
Equipment	5,641,241	94,612	5,735,853
Leased assets	178,817	38,975	217,792
Accumulated depreciation/amortization	(13,143,947)	(3,348,919)	(16,492,866)
Total fixed assets	6,619,712	38,357,898	44,977,610
Total noncurrent assets	22,968,367	38,357,898	61,326,265
Total assets	31,202,967	39,698,537	70,901,504
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Related to pensions and OPEB	239,577	66,535	306,112
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts payable	71,757	1,680,391	1,752,148
Accrued wages	52,370	10,238	62,608
Due to other funds	-	7,762,187	7,762,187
Interest payable	-	2,047	2,047
Accrued compensated absences, current portion	16,621	4,350	20,971
Deposits	22,149	24,910	47,059
Note payable, current portion	-	52,674	52,674
Leases payable, current portion	12,707	8,471	21,178
Total current liabilities	175,604	9,545,268	9,720,872

(Continued)

See notes to financial statements

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
PROPRIETARY FUNDS (continued)
September 30, 2024

	Business type -Activities		
	Enterprise Funds		
	Landfill Enterprise	Utilities	Total
Noncurrent Liabilities			
Net pension liability	779,215	\$ 216,403	\$ 995,618
Notes payable, net of current	-	400,071	400,071
Leases payable, net of current	112,867	20,940	133,807
Landfill closure liability	15,013,699	-	15,013,699
Accrued compensated absences, net of current	99,614	19,221	118,835
Total noncurrent liabilities	16,005,395	656,635	16,662,030
Total liabilities	16,180,999	10,201,903	26,382,902
 DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Related to pensions and OPEB	86,762	24,095	110,857
 NET POSITION			
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	6,494,138	37,875,742	44,369,880
Unrestricted (deficit)	8,680,645	(8,336,668)	343,977
Total net position	\$ 15,174,783	\$ 29,539,074	\$ 44,713,857

See notes to financial statements.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION
PROPRIETARY FUNDS
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

	Business- type Activities		
	Enterprise Funds		
	Landfill Enterprise	Utilities	Totals
OPERATING REVENUES			
Franchise fees	\$ 168,550	\$ -	\$ 168,550
Charges for services			
Garbage/solid waste revenue	4,420,371	-	4,420,371
Water and wastewater revenue	-	654,225	654,225
Miscellaneous	119,689	199,409	319,098
Total operating revenues	4,708,610	853,634	5,562,244
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Landfill and water/wastewater utilities			
Personnel services	1,162,855	300,947	1,463,802
Operating expenses	1,504,253	662,097	2,166,350
Depreciation/amortization	636,355	292,104	928,459
Total operating expenses	3,303,463	1,255,148	4,558,611
Operating income (loss)	1,405,147	(401,514)	1,003,633
NONOPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)			
Gain (loss) on disposal of capital assets	(156,399)	108,107	(48,292)
Landfill closure liability adjustment	(504,841)	-	(504,841)
Interest earnings	1,147,190	-	1,147,190
Debt service costs			
Interest	(10,811)	(14,495)	(25,306)
Total nonoperating revenues (expenses)	475,139	93,612	568,751
Income (loss) before contributions and transfers	1,880,286	(307,902)	1,572,384
Operating grants	93,750	-	93,750
Capital grants	-	6,696,344	6,696,344
Transfers in/(out)	-	6,951,844	6,951,844
	93,750	13,648,188	13,741,938
Change in net position	1,974,036	13,340,286	15,314,322
Net position at beginning of year	13,200,747	16,198,788	29,399,535
Net position at end of year	\$ 15,174,783	\$ 29,539,074	\$ 44,713,857

See notes to financial statements.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
PROPRIETARY FUNDS
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

Business - type Activities
Enterprise Funds

	<u>Landfill Enterprise</u>	<u>Utilities</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cash Flows From Operating Activities			
Cash flows received from services	\$ 4,516,013	\$ 809,459	\$ 5,325,472
Cash paid for employees and benefits	(1,566,114)	(329,653)	(1,895,767)
Cash paid to vendors	(1,181,783)	(669,500)	(1,851,283)
Net cash provided by (used for) operating activities	<u>1,768,116</u>	<u>(189,694)</u>	<u>1,578,422</u>
Cash Flows From Noncapital Financing Activities			
Operating grants received	93,750	-	93,750
Transfers (to)/from other funds	(1,397,134)	11,280,613	9,883,479
Net cash provided by (used for) noncapital financing activities	<u>(1,303,384)</u>	<u>11,280,613</u>	<u>9,977,229</u>
Cash Flows From Capital and Related Financing Activities			
Proceeds from capital grants	-	6,696,344	6,696,344
Payments to acquire or construct capital assets	(511,305)	(17,594,524)	(18,105,829)
Principal paid on bonds	-	(92,430)	(92,430)
Gain (loss) on disposal of assets	37,482	-	37,482
Interest paid on capital debt	(10,811)	(14,495)	(25,306)
Net cash used for capital and related financing activities	<u>(484,634)</u>	<u>(11,005,105)</u>	<u>(18,186,083)</u>
Cash Flows From Investing Activities			
Net purchase of investments	(227,956)	-	(227,956)
Net cash provided by (used for) investing activities	<u>(227,956)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(227,956)</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash	(247,858)	85,814	(162,044)
Cash at beginning of year	<u>6,513,613</u>	<u>(132,715)</u>	<u>6,380,898</u>
Cash at end of year	<u>\$ 6,265,755</u>	<u>\$ (46,901)</u>	<u>\$ 6,218,854</u>
Cash is shown in the financial statements as:			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 6,166,460	\$ 200	\$ 6,166,660
Restricted assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	99,295	-	99,295
	<u>\$ 6,265,755</u>	<u>\$ 200</u>	<u>\$ 6,265,955</u>

(Continued)

See notes to financial statements.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
PROPRIETARY FUNDS (continued)
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

	Business - type Activities		
	Enterprise Funds		
	Landfill Enterprise	Utilities	Total
Reconciliation of operating income (loss) to net cash provided by (used for) operating activities			
Operating Income (loss)	\$ 1,405,147	\$ (401,514)	\$ 1,003,633
Adjustments to reconcile operating income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Depreciation	636,355	292,104	928,459
(Increase) decrease in assets:			
Accounts receivable	(192,597)	(44,105)	(236,702)
Deferred outflows of resources	(8,758)	1,855	(6,903)
Increase (decrease) in liabilities:			
Accounts payable	(62,421)	-	(62,421)
Accrued wages	15,737	(1,811)	13,926
Accrued compensated absences	8,364	(2,496)	5,868
Interest payable	-	(596)	(596)
Lease payable	-	(6,807)	(6,807)
Net pension liability	(66,032)	(34,053)	(100,085)
Deferred inflows of resources	31,761	7,799	39,560
Deposits	560	(70)	490
Total adjustments	362,969	211,820	574,789
Net cash provided by (used for) operating activities	\$ 1,768,116	\$ (189,694)	\$ 1,578,422

See notes to financial statements.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
FIDUCIARY FUNDS
STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
September 30, 2024**

	Custodial Funds
ASSETS	
Cash	\$ 3,935,186
Due from other funds	123,576
Other current assets	147
Total assets	4,058,909
 LIABILITIES	
Court fees payable	539,395
Due to other funds	362,323
Due to other governmental units	1,871,925
Total liabilities	2,773,643
NET POSITION	\$ 1,285,266

See notes to financial statements.

See notes to financial statements.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
FIDUCIARY FUNDS
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

	Custodial Funds
ADDITIONS	
Funds held for others	\$ 7,393,623
Cash bonds	119,097
Taxes collected for other governments	74,938,811
Tax Collector licenses and fees	7,834,926
Sheriff civil fees	94,276
Fines, fees and court costs	8,560,047
Total additions	98,940,780
 DEDUCTIONS	
Funds held for others	7,554,197
Cash bonds	176,223
Fines, fees and court costs	8,554,817
Taxes and fees payable	7,834,927
Sheriff civil fees	95,766
Property taxes and fees payables	74,934,807
Total deductions	99,150,737
Change in net position	(209,957)
Net position - beginning of year	1,495,223
Net position - end of year	\$ 1,285,266

See notes to financial statements.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
September 30, 2024

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Columbia County, Florida, (the “County”) is a political subdivision of the State pursuant to Article VIII, Section 1(a) of the Constitution of the State of Florida. The County is governed by the Board of County Commissioners and five elected constitutional officers (Clerk of the Circuit Court, Property Appraiser, Sheriff, Supervisor of Elections, and Tax Collector) in accordance with State statutes and regulations. The constitutional officers maintain separate accounting records and budgets from the Board of County Commissioners. The Constitution of the State of Florida, Article VIII, Section 1(d) created the constitutional officers and Article VIII, Section 1(e), created the Board of County Commissioners.

The financial statements of the County have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to government units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the standard-setting body for governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. Pronouncements of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued after November 30, 1989, are not applied in the preparation of the financial statements of the proprietary fund types in accordance with GASB Statement 20. The GASB periodically updates its codification of the existing Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards which, along with subsequent GASB pronouncements (Statements and Interpretations), constitutes GAAP for governmental units.

A. Reporting Entity

The concept underlying the definition of the reporting entity is that elected officials are accountable to their constituents for their actions. The reporting entity’s financial statements should allow users to distinguish between the primary government (the Board) and its component units. However, some component units, because of the closeness of their relationships with the Board, should be blended as though they are part of the Board. Otherwise, most component units should be discretely presented. As required by generally accepted accounting principles, the financial reporting entity consists of (1) the primary government (the Board), (2) organizations for which the County is financially accountable, and (3) other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the County are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity’s financial statements to be misleading or incomplete. The County is financially accountable if it appoints a voting majority of the organization’s governing body and (a) it is able to impose its will on that organization or (b) there is a potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to, or impose specific financial burdens on, the County. The County may be financially accountable if an organization is fiscally dependent on the County regardless of whether the organization has (a) a separately elected governing body, (b) a governing board appointed by a higher level of government, or (c) a jointly appointed board. Based on these criteria, County management examined all organizations which are legally separate in order to determine which organizations, if any, should be included in the Board’s special purpose financial statements. Management determined that there were no organizations that should be included in the County’s financial statements as a component unit.

B. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

The basic financial statements of the County are comprised of the following:

- Government-wide financial statements
- Fund financial statements
- Notes to the financial statements

1. Government-wide Financial Statements

Government-wide financial statements display information about the reporting government as a whole, except for its fiduciary activities. These statements include separate columns for the governmental and business-type activities of the primary government (including its blended component unit. For the most part, the effect of interfund activity has been removed from these statements. Governmental activities, which normally are 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 the legally separate component unit for which the primary government is financially accountable.

Government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting, as are the proprietary fund and agency fund financial statements. Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets, and liabilities resulting from exchange and exchange-like transactions are recognized when the exchange takes place. Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets, and liabilities resulting from nonexchange transactions are recognized in accordance with the requirements of GASB Statement 33 - Accounting and Financial Reporting for Nonexchange Transactions.

Program revenues include charges for services, special assessments, and payments made by parties outside of the reporting government's citizenry, if that money is restricted to a particular program. Program revenues are netted with program expenses in the statement of activities to present the net cost of each program.

Amounts paid to acquire capital assets are capitalized as assets in the government-wide financial statements, rather than reported as an expenditure. Proceeds of long-term debt are recorded as liabilities in the government-wide financial statements, rather than as an other financing source. Amounts paid to reduce long-term indebtedness of the reporting government are reported as a reduction of the related liability, rather than as an expenditure.

As a general rule the effect of interfund activity has been eliminated from the government-wide financial statements. As applicable, the County also chooses to eliminate the indirect costs between governmental activities to avoid a "doubling up" effect.

2. Fund Financial Statements

The underlying accounting system of the County is organized and operated on the basis of separate funds, 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 equity, revenues and expenditures or expenses, as appropriate. Governmental resources are allocated to and accounted for in individual funds based upon the purposes for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled.

Fund financial statements for the primary government's governmental and proprietary funds are presented after the government-wide financial statements. These statements display information about major funds individually, and nonmajor funds in the aggregate for governmental and enterprise funds.

Governmental Funds

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collected 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 75 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. Franchise fees, licenses, sales taxes, gas taxes, operating and capital grants, and interest associated with the current fiscal period are all considered to be susceptible to accrual and so have been recognized as revenues of the current fiscal period. All other revenue items are considered to be measurable only when cash is received by the County.

Under the current financial resources measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities are generally included on the balance sheet. The reported fund balance is considered to be a measure of "available spendable resources." Governmental funds operating statements present increases (revenues and other financing sources) and decreases (expenditures and other financing uses) in net current assets. Accordingly, they are said to present a summary of sources and uses of "available spendable resources" during a period.

Any noncurrent portions of long-term receivables (special assessments) due to governmental funds are reported on their balance sheets in spite of their spending measurement focus.

Noncurrent portions of other long-term receivables are offset by deferred inflows of resources.

Because of their spending measurement focus, expenditure recognition for governmental fund types excludes amounts represented by noncurrent liabilities. Since they do not affect net current assets, such long-term amounts are not recognized as governmental fund type expenditures or fund liabilities.

Amounts expended to acquire capital assets are recorded as expenditures in the year that resources were expended, rather than as fund assets. The proceeds of long-term debt are recorded as an other financing source rather than as a fund liability. However, debt service expenditures, as well as expenditures related to compensated absences and claims and judgments, are recorded only when payment is due.

Proprietary Funds

The County's Landfill Enterprise Fund and Utilities Fund are proprietary funds. In the fund financial statements, proprietary funds are presented using the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when they are earned and expenses are recognized when the related goods and services are delivered. In the fund financial statements, proprietary funds are presented using the economic resources measurement focus. This means that all assets and all liabilities (whether current or noncurrent) associated with their activity are included on their balance sheets.

Proprietary fund type operating statements present increases (revenues) and decreases (expenses) in total net assets. The County applies all GASB pronouncements as well as all FASB Statements and Interpretations, APB Opinions and Accounting Research Bulletins, issued on or before November 30, 1989, which do not conflict with or contradict GASB pronouncements.

Proprietary fund operating revenues, such as charges for services, result from exchange transactions associated with the principal activity of the fund. Exchange transactions are those in which each party receives and gives up essentially equal values. Nonoperating revenues, such as subsidies, taxes, and investment earnings, result from nonexchange transactions or ancillary activities.

Amounts paid to acquire capital assets are capitalized as assets in the fund financial statements, rather than reported as an expenditure. Proceeds of long-term debt are recorded as a liability in the fund financial statements, rather than as an other financing source. Amounts paid to reduce long-term indebtedness are reported as a reduction of the related liabilities, rather than as an expense.

C. Basis of Presentation

GASB Statement 34 sets forth minimum criteria (percentage of the assets, liabilities, revenues or expenditures/expenses of either fund category and the governmental and enterprise combined) for the determination of major funds. The County has used GASB 34 minimum criteria for major fund determination and has also electively disclosed funds which either had debt outstanding or specific community focus as major funds. The nonmajor funds are combined in a column in the fund financial statements and detailed in the combining section.

1. Governmental Major Funds:

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

County Transportation Trust Fund - The County Transportation Trust Fund accounts for expenditures incurred for the maintenance and repairs of County roads. Financing is provided by local option fuel taxes and distributions of state shared fuel taxes and other revenues.

Municipal Services Fund - The Municipal Services Fund accounts for expenditures incurred for the solid waste collection and fire services in the unincorporated area, and other services which primarily benefit residents of the unincorporated area of the County. Financing is provided by non ad valorem assessments and other revenues derived from the unincorporated area.

Economic Development Fund - The Economic Development Fund is utilized to promote economic development in the County and to manage economic development agreements with industrial entities in the County.

American Rescue Plan Act Fund - The American Rescue Plan Act Fund is used to administer and account for funding received under the American Rescue Plan Act.

Sheriff Operating Fund - The Operating Fund of the Sheriff is used to account for all financial resources, which are generated from operations of the Office or any other resources not required to be accounted for in another fund.

County Facilities Fund - The County Facilities Fund provides dedicated resources to maintain, operate, and improve county-owned buildings and grounds. This fund ensures that essential public facilities—such as administrative offices, courthouses, public safety buildings, parks, libraries, and community centers—are safe, functional, and accessible for residents and staff.

2. Proprietary Funds:

Landfill Enterprise Fund - The Landfill Enterprise Fund accounts for the revenues, expenses, assets, and liabilities associated with the County operated solid waste disposal services.

Utilities Fund - The Utilities Fund accounts for revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities associated with the County operated water and sewer services.

D. Assets, Liabilities and Net Position or Equity

1. Cash and Cash Equivalents

The County maintains a cash pool that is available for use by most funds. Earnings from the pooled cash are allocated to the respective funds based on applicable cash participation by each fund. The cash pool is managed such that all participating funds have the ability to deposit and withdraw cash as if they were demand deposit accounts. Therefore, all balances representing participants' equity in the cash pools are classified as cash and cash equivalents for financial statement purposes. In addition, longer-term investments are held by certain of the County's funds and are reported as investments on these statements.

2. Investments

Investments, consisting of investments in the Florida Local Government Surplus Funds Trust Fund and Florida Counties Investment Trust Fund and money market funds, are stated at cost which approximates market value. All such investments are secured as required by State law. Other investments of the County are stated at market value as described in note 4.

3. Allowance for Doubtful Accounts

No allowances for doubtful accounts are maintained since all fund accounts receivable are considered collectible as reported at September 30, 2024.

4. Receivables and Payables

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."

All receivables are shown net of an allowance for doubtful accounts. Any receivables in excess of 180 days would comprise the trade accounts receivable allowance for doubtful accounts.

5. Inventories

Inventories are valued at cost, which approximates market, using the "first-in, first-out" method of accounting. Supplies inventories of certain governmental funds are recorded as expenditures when consumed rather than when purchased.

6. Restricted Assets

Certain net position of the County is classified as restricted assets on the statement of net position because its use is limited either by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation; or

by restrictions imposed externally by creditors, grantors, contributions, or laws or regulations of other governments. In a fund with both restricted and unrestricted assets, qualified expenses are considered to be paid first from restricted net position and then from unrestricted net position.

7. Encumbrances

Encumbrance accounting, under which purchase orders, contracts, and other commitments for the expenditures of monies are recorded in order to reserve that portion of the applicable appropriation, is employed as an extension of formal budgetary integration in the General Fund, County-administered Special Revenue Funds, Capital Projects Funds, and the Enterprise Funds. Material encumbrances outstanding at year end, if any, are reported as reservations of fund balances since they do not constitute expenditures or liabilities.

8. Capital Assets

Capital assets, which include property, plant, equipment, and infrastructure assets (e.g., roads, bridges, right-of-ways, and similar items), are reported in the applicable governmental or business-type activities column in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the County as assets with an initial, individual cost of \$5,000 or more and an estimated useful life in excess of one year. Except for roads and bridges constructed prior to October 1, 1981, assets are recorded at historical cost. Roads and bridges constructed prior to October 1, 1981 are reported at estimated historical cost, or not reported. Donated capital assets are recorded at acquisition value at the date of donation.

The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend its useful life are not capitalized.

Major outlays for capital assets and improvements are capitalized as projects are constructed. Interest incurred during the construction phase of capital assets of business-type activities is included as part of the capitalized value of the assets constructed.

The County holds legal title to the capital assets used in the operations of the Board, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Property Appraiser, Supervisor of Elections and Tax Collector, as is accountable for them under Florida Law.

The Sheriff is accountable for and thus maintains capital asset records pertaining only to equipment used in his operations.

Property, plant, and equipment of the County, as well as component units, are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

Assets	Years
Building and improvements	5 - 40
Machinery and equipment	3 - 12
Road and bridge construction	20 - 40

9. Deferred outflows/inflows of resources

An acquisition of net position by the County that is applicable to a future reporting period is required to be classified as a Deferred Inflow of Resources under Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement Number 65. Deferred Outflows of Resources represent a consumption of net position that applies to a future period and therefore will not be recognized as expended until then. The County reports deferred inflows and outflows of resources in compliance with GASB 68 that are related to its share of the Florida State Pension System net pension liability.

10. Net position flow assumption

Sometimes the County will fund outlays for a particular purpose from both restricted (e.g., restricted bond or grant proceeds) and unrestricted resources. In order to calculate the amounts to report as restricted – net position and unrestricted – net position in the government-wide and proprietary fund financial statements, a flow assumption must be made about the order in which the resources are considered to be applied. It is the government’s policy to consider restricted net position to have been depleted before using unrestricted net position.

11. Fund balance flow assumption

Sometimes the County will fund outlays for a particular purpose from both restricted and unrestricted resources (the total of committed, assigned, and unassigned fund balance). In order to calculate the amounts to report as restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned fund balance in the governmental fund financial statements a flow assumption must be made about the order in which the resources are considered to be applied. It is the government’s policy to consider restricted fund balance to have been depleted before using any of the components of unrestricted fund balances. Further, when the components of unrestricted fund balance can be used for the same purpose, committed fund balance is depleted first, followed by assigned fund balance. Unassigned fund balance is applied last.

12. Program revenue

Amounts reported as program revenues include 1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by given function or segments and 2) grants and contributions (including special assessments) that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or segment. All taxes, including those dedicated for specific purposes and other internally dedicated resources are reported as general revenues rather than as program revenues.

13. Capitalization of Interest

Interest costs related to bond issues are capitalized during the construction period. These costs are netted against applicable interest earnings on construction fund investments.

14. Unearned Revenues

Unearned revenues reported in government-wide financial statements represent revenues received, but not earned in accordance with grant or other contractual requirements. These unearned revenues reported in governmental fund financial statements represent amounts which are measurable but not available and, in accordance with the modified accrual basis of accounting, are recognized as revenue in the fiscal year in which they are earned.

15. Accrued Compensated Absences

The County accrues accumulated unpaid vacation and sick leave when earned by the employee. The current portion is the amount estimated to be used in the following year. The noncurrent portion is the amount estimated to be used in subsequent fiscal years. Both the current and noncurrent estimated accrued compensated absences amounts for governmental funds are maintained separately and represent a reconciling item between the fund and government-wide presentation.

16. Obligation for Bond Arbitrage Rebate

Pursuant to Section 148(f) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, the County must rebate to the United States Government the excess of interest earned from the investment of certain debt proceeds and pledged revenues over the yield rate of the applicable debt. The County uses the “revenue

reduction” approach in accounting to rebatable arbitrage. This approach treats excess earnings as a reduction of revenue. The County has no arbitrage liability outstanding as of September 30, 2024.

17. Landfill Closure Costs

Under the terms of current state and federal regulations, the County was required to place a final cover on closed landfill areas, and to perform certain monitoring and maintenance functions for a period of twenty years after closure. The County recognizes these costs of post-closure maintenance annually. Required obligations for closure and post-closure costs are recognized in the Landfill Fund.

18. Capital Contributions

The capital contributions from developers are reported on the statement of activities under capital grants and contributions.

19. Leases

The County is a lessee for noncancellable leases of a building and equipment. A lease liability and an intangible right-to-use asset are recognized in the government-wide financial statements. The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments and is amortized based on the given rate over the remaining term of the lease.

Key estimates and judgements related to leases include the determination of the (1) discount rate, (2) lease term, and (3) lease payments. The County monitors changes in circumstances that would require a remeasurement of a 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.

20. Reclassification

Certain amounts in the prior year’s financial statements have been reclassified to conform to the current year’s presentation. These reclassifications were made to improve comparability on a year-over-year basis and had no effect on previously reported net position, fund balance, or changes in net position/fund balance.

NOTE 2. RECONCILIATION OF GOVERNMENT-WIDE AND FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

A. Explanation of Differences Between the Governmental Fund Balance Sheet and the Government-wide Statement of Net Position.

“Total fund balances” of the County’s governmental funds, \$84,188,161, differs from “net position” of governmental activities, \$149,727,393, reported in the statement of net position. This difference primarily results from the long-term economical focus of the statement of net position versus the current financial resources focus of the governmental fund balance sheet.

Capital related items

When capital assets (property, plant, equipment) that are to be used in governmental activities are purchased or constructed, the cost of these assets are reported as expenditures in governmental funds. However, the statement of net position included those capital assets among the assets of the County as a whole.

Cost of capital assets	\$ 362,574,075
Accumulated depreciation	(225,002,457)
Total	<u>\$ 137,571,618</u>

Long-term debt transactions

Long-term liabilities applicable to the County’s governmental activities are not due and payable in the current period and accordingly are not reported as fund liabilities. All liabilities (both current and long-term) are reported in the statement of net position. Balances at September 30, 2024, were:

Notes payable	\$ (12,458,651)
Accrued compensated absences	(3,691,586)
Leases payable	(4,053,524)
OPEB liability	(221,998)
Net pension liability	(50,828,034)
Total	<u>\$ (71,253,793)</u>

Deferred outflows/inflows of resources

Deferred outflows of resources represent a consumption of net position in a future period while deferred inflows of resources represent an acquisition of net position in a future period and accordingly, are not reported in the governmental fund statements. However, the statement of net position includes those deferred outflows /inflows of resources.

Deferred outflows of resources	\$ 15,652,214
Deferred inflows of resources	(5,751,869)
	<u>\$ 9,900,345</u>

NOTE 2. RECONCILIATION OF GOVERNMENT-WIDE AND FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

A. Explanation of Differences Between the Governmental Fund Balance Sheet and the Government-Wide Statement of Net Position

	Total Governmental Funds	Capital Related Items	Long-Term Debt Transactions	Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources	Statement of Net Position
ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 46,377,686	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 46,377,686
Accounts receivable - net	180,089	-	-	-	180,089
Due from other funds	23,147,136	-	-	-	23,147,136
Due from other governmental units	10,755,012	-	-	-	10,755,012
Investments	25,535,017	-	-	-	25,535,017
Inventories	58,089	-	-	-	58,089
Prepaid expense	538,674	-	-	-	538,674
Capital assets - net	-	137,571,618	-	-	137,571,618
Total assets	106,591,703	137,571,618	-	-	244,163,321
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES					
	-	-	-	15,652,214	15,652,214
LIABILITIES					
Liabilities:					
Accounts payable	\$ 2,826,220	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,826,220
Due to other funds	16,543,336	-	-	-	16,543,336
Due to other governmental units	15,277	-	-	-	15,277
Accrued wages	2,482,966	-	-	-	2,482,966
Deposits	3,900	-	-	-	3,900
Other current liabilities	30,204	-	-	-	30,204
Unearned revenues	4,125,262	-	-	-	4,125,262
Accrued compensated absences	-	-	3,691,586	-	3,691,586
Leases payable	-	-	4,053,524	-	4,053,524
Revenue bonds payable	-	-	12,458,651	-	12,458,651
OPEB liability	-	-	221,998	-	221,998
County's proportionate share FRS pension plan	-	-	50,828,034	-	50,828,034
Total liabilities	26,027,165	-	71,253,793	-	97,280,958
DEFERRED INFLOW OF RESOURCES					
	-	-	-	5,751,869	5,751,869
Fund balances/net position	\$ 80,564,538	\$ 137,571,618	\$ (71,253,793)	\$ 9,900,345	\$ 156,782,708

NOTE 2. RECONCILIATION OF GOVERNMENT-WIDE AND FUND FINANCIAL

B. Explanation of Differences Between Governmental Fund Operating Statements and the Statement of Activities

The “net change in fund balances” for governmental funds of \$12,419,530 differs from the “change in net position” for governmental activities of \$7,081,709 reported in the statement of activities. These differences arise primarily from the long-term economic focus of the statement of activities versus the current financial resources focus of the governmental funds. The effect of the differences is illustrated below.

Capital related items

When capital assets that are to be used in governmental activities are purchased or constructed, the resources expended for those assets are reported as expenditures in governmental funds. However, in the statement of activities, the costs of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense. As a result, fund balances decrease by the amount of financial resources expended, whereas net position decreases by the amount of depreciation expense charged for the year. The statement of activities reports gains or losses arising from the disposition of capital assets. Conversely, governmental funds do not report these gains or losses.

Capital outlay and other additions	\$ 18,876,051
Depreciation expense	(8,688,011)
Other additions and deletions	(85,533)
Difference	<u>\$ 10,102,507</u>

Repayments of debt principal are reported as an expenditure in the governmental funds and, thus, have the effect of reducing fund balance because current financial resources have been used. However, the principal payments reduce the liabilities in the statement of net position and do not result in an expense in the statement of activities. Loan proceed and lease financings are reported as other financing sources in the governmental funds but are recorded as liabilities in the statement of net position and do not result in resources in the statement of activities.

Principal payments	\$ 2,431,034
Lease additions	(1,186,422)
	<u>\$ 1,244,612</u>

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

Net change in compensated absences	\$ (311,793)
Net change in accrued interest	19,300
Net change in net pension liability	295,464
Net change deferred outflows/inflows	(656,602)
Net change in fund balance in OPEB liability	(14,550)
	<u>\$ (668,181)</u>

NOTE 2. RECONCILIATION OF GOVERNMENT-WIDE AND FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

B. Explanation of Differences Between Government Fund Operating Statements and the Statement of Activities

	Total Governmental Funds	Capital Related Items	Long-term Debt Transactions	Compensated Absences	Accrued Interest	Net Pension Liability	Pension Deferred Outflows/ Inflows of Resources	OPEB Deferred Outflows/ Inflows of Resources	OPEB Liability	Statement of Activities
REVENUES										
Taxes	\$ 50,985,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,985,000
Special assessments	11,513,276	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,513,276
Intergovernmental	31,301,173	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31,301,173
Charges for services	9,297,923	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,297,923
Fines and forfeitures	332,917	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	332,917
Interest	3,459,828	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,459,828
Miscellaneous	2,765,134	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,765,134
Total revenues	109,655,251	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	109,655,251
EXPENDITURES										
Current Expenditures										
General government	13,752,800	739,753	-	23,587	-	(63,332)	142,621	(8,795)	14,550	14,601,184
Public safety	36,848,340	2,309,666	-	214,774	-	(187,751)	422,824	-	-	39,607,853
Physical environment	6,245,302	91,586	-	13,190	-	(4,167)	9,384	-	-	6,355,295
Transportation	15,898,567	4,973,039	-	40,256	(19,300)	(23,457)	52,827	-	-	20,921,932
Economic environment	3,295,553	19,006	-	863	-	(2,190)	4,933	-	-	3,318,165
Human services	4,043,365	90,293	-	24,902	-	(1,554)	3,501	-	-	4,160,507
Culture/recreation	2,752,162	464,668	-	(5,779)	-	(13,013)	29,307	-	-	3,227,345
Court related	3,235,971	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,235,971
Capital Outlay										
General government	624,562	(624,562)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public safety	1,749,547	(1,749,547)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Physical environment	110,759	(110,759)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	15,438,195	(15,438,195)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Human service	62,394	(62,394)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Culture/recreation	890,594	(890,594)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Debt Service										
Principal	2,431,034	-	(2,431,034)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	381,195	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	381,195
Total expenditures	107,760,340	(10,188,040)	(2,431,034)	311,793	(19,300)	(295,464)	665,397	(8,795)	14,550	95,809,447
Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures	1,894,911	10,188,040	2,431,034	(311,793)	19,300	295,464	(665,397)	8,795	(14,550)	13,845,804
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)										
Gain/loss on disposition of fixed assets	273,280	(85,533)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	187,747
Lease Proceeds	1,186,422	-	(1,186,422)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers in	28,410,052	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28,410,052
Transfers out	(35,361,896)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(35,361,896)
Total other financing sources (uses)	(5,492,142)	(85,533)	(1,186,422)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(6,764,097)
Net change in fund balances	(3,597,231)	10,102,507	1,244,612	(311,793)	19,300	295,464	(665,397)	8,795	(14,550)	7,081,707
Fund balances at beginning of year	84,161,769	127,469,111	(17,756,787)	(3,379,793)	(19,300)	(51,123,498)	10,633,496	(76,549)	(207,448)	149,701,001
Fund balances/net position at end of year	\$ 80,564,538	\$ 137,571,618	\$ (16,512,175)	\$ (3,691,586)	\$ -	\$ (50,828,034)	\$ 9,968,099	\$ (67,754)	\$ (221,998)	\$ 156,782,708

NOTE 3. STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Budgets and Budgetary Accounting

The County uses the following procedures in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the financial statements.

1. Prior to September 15, the County Manager serving as Budget Officer submits to the Board of County Commissioners a tentative budget for the fiscal year commencing October 1.
2. Public hearings are conducted by the Board of County Commissioners to obtain taxpayer comments.
3. Prior to September 30, the budget is legally enacted through passage of a resolution by the Board of County Commissioners.
4. The Constitutional Officers submit, at various times, to the Board and to certain divisions within the Department of Revenue, State of Florida, a proposed operating budget for the fiscal year commencing the following October 1. The operating budget includes proposed expenditures and the means of financing them, as set forth in Chapter 129 of the *Florida Statutes*.
5. The Department of Revenue, State of Florida, has the final authority on the operating budgets for the Tax Collector and the Property Appraiser, which are classified as separate special revenue funds.
6. The Board of County Commissioners is authorized to amend fixed appropriations by motion to the extent that appropriations do not exceed the total approved budget of the fund; or appropriate for the special purpose intended, reserves or unanticipated receipts. Appropriations lapse at year end. No supplemental appropriations were necessary during the year. Various such amendments were made during the year.
7. Formal budgetary integration is employed as a management control device in all governmental funds.
8. Governmental fund budgets are initially adopted on the modified accrual basis. The legally amended budgetary data presented in the accompanying financial statements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, are shown on this basis of accounting. Therefore, the actual and budgetary data are on a comparable basis. The Enterprise Funds budgets are adopted on the accrual basis.
9. Legal control of the budget is exercised pursuant to applicable provisions of *Florida Statutes*.
10. Appropriations for the County lapse at the close of the fiscal year.
11. The following is a comparison of the appropriations to total expenses for the proprietary funds for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024.

	<u>Appropriations</u>	<u>Expenses and Asset Acquisitions</u>	<u>Variance Positive (Negative)</u>
Enterprise funds			
Landfill enterprise			
Expenditures	\$ 3,120,553	\$ 3,303,463	\$ (182,910)
Fixed asset acquisition	1,023,500	493,603	529,897
	<u>\$ 4,144,053</u>	<u>\$ 3,797,066</u>	<u>\$ 346,987</u>
Utilities			
Expenditures	\$ 1,365,813	\$ 1,255,148	\$ 110,665
Fixed asset acquisition	26,716,000	17,602,327	9,113,673
	<u>\$ 28,081,813</u>	<u>\$ 18,857,475</u>	<u>\$ 9,224,338</u>

NOTE 4. CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS AND INVESTMENTS

The County maintains a cash pool that is available for use by all funds except those whose cash and investments must be segregated due to bond covenants or other legal restrictions.

1. Deposits

At September 30, 2024, the carrying amount of the County's cash deposits was \$ 51,620,474. All cash deposits with financial institutions were 100% insured by federal depository insurance or by collateral provided by qualified public depositories to the State Treasurer pursuant to the Public Depository Security Act of the State of Florida. The Act established a Trust Fund, maintained by the State Treasurer, which is a multiple financial institution pool with the ability to assess its member financial institutions for collateral shortfalls if a member fails.

2. Investments

As of September 30, 2024, the County had the following investments:

<u>Investment</u>	<u>Weighted Average Maturity</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Category</u>
U.S. Treasuries	2.95 Years	\$ 33,395,025	79.84%	N/A
Certificates of Deposit, Money Market	Daily - 3 Years	8,088,344	19.34%	N/A
State Board of Administration Local Government				
Local Government Surplus Trust Fund Florida PRIME	.06 Years	44,489	0.10%	AAAm
Florida Local Government Day to Day Fund	.08 Years	301,008	0.72%	AAAm
Total Investments		<u>\$ 41,828,866</u>	<u>100.00%</u>	

Fair Value Measurement

The County categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by generally accepted accounting principles. The hierarchy is based on the valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of assets, as determined by the County's investment advisors. Level 1 inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets; Level 2 inputs are significant other observable inputs; Level 3 inputs are significant unobservable inputs. The County's fair value measurements for U.S. Treasuries is categorized as Level 2 and are valued by the County's custodian agency using independent pricing services. The pricing services may use valuation models or matrix pricing, which consider benchmark yields, reported trades, broker/dealer

quotes, benchmark securities, bids or offers, and reference data. Florida PRIME is valued at amortized cost. There are no restrictions or limitations on withdrawals, however, Florida PRIME may, on the occurrence of an event that has material impact on liquidity or operations, impose restrictions on withdrawals for up to 48 hours. The County's investment in the Florida Trust Day to Day Fund, an external local government investment pool, organized under the laws of the State of Florida, is presented at Net Asset Value (NAV), which reflects fair value. The objectives of the Florida Trust are to generate investment income while maintaining safety and liquidity. There were no unfunded commitments as of September 30, 2024. Investments may be redeemed weekly/daily based on similar investments of other clients.

Credit Risk

The County mitigates credit risk, which is the risk that an issuer or other counterparty to an investment will not fulfill its obligations. Florida Statutes, and various bond covenants authorize investments in certificates of deposit, money market accounts and savings accounts provided that any such deposits are secured by the Florida Security for Public Deposits Act, Chapter 280 Florida Statutes; repurchase agreements guaranteed by the United States Government; the Local Government Surplus Funds Trust Fund, obligations by the Florida State Board of Administration, Florida Local Government Investment Trust Fund, obligations of the U.S. Government, obligations of government agencies unconditionally guaranteed by the U.S. Government, obligations of the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, including Federal Home Mortgage Corporation participation certificates, obligations of the Federal Home Loan Bank, obligations of the Government National Mortgage Association, obligations of the Federal National Mortgage Association and Securities of any management type investment company or investment trust registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, 15 U.S.C. ss. 80a-1 et seq., provided the portfolio is limited to U.S. Government obligations and to repurchase agreements fully collateralized by U.S. Government obligations. The Board invested only in these types of instruments during the fiscal year.

Custodial Credit Risk of Deposits

There is a risk that in the event of failure of the depository financial institution, the government will not be able to recover the deposits. All cash resources of the County are placed in banks which are qualified public depositories, as required by the 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 proceed from the sale of 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. The Board's investment policy pursuant to Section 218.415 (18), Florida Statutes requires securities to be registered and shall be held with a third party custodian and all securities purchased by, and all collateral obtained by, the Board shall be held in the name of the Board. The securities must be held in an account separate and apart from the assets of the financial institution. As of September 30, 2024, the Board's investment portfolio in U.S. Treasuries, was held by Ramond James, money market funds were held by Millennium Bank and the Florida Trust Day to Day Fund was held by UMB Bank.

Interest Rate Risk: Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. The County's investment policy to minimize interest rate risk is by structuring the investment portfolio so that sufficient investments are readily convertible to meet cash requirements for ongoing operations, thereby avoiding the need to sell securities on the open market prior to maturity.

Foreign Currency Risk: Foreign currency risk is the risk that changes in exchange rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment on a deposit. The County does not hold foreign or foreign currency investments and therefore is not subject to foreign currency risk.

Concentrations of Credit Risk: Concentration of credit risk is the risk of loss attributed to the magnitude of a government's investment in a single issuer. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 40 requires the disclosure of investments in any one issuer that represent 5% or more of total investments. The County invested funds only in the United States Treasuries and in deposits with banks that pledged sufficient collateral with the State of Florida.

NOTE 5. PROPERTY TAX REVENUES

Taxable values for all property are established as of January 1, which is the date of lien, for the fiscal year starting October 1. Property tax revenues recognized for the 2023-2024 fiscal year were levied in October 2023. All taxes are due and payable on November 1 or as soon as the assessment roll is certified and delivered to the Tax Collector. Discounts are allowed for early payment at the rate of 4% in November, 3% in December, 2% in January, and 1% in February. Taxes paid in March are without discount. All unpaid taxes become delinquent as of April 1. Virtually all unpaid taxes are collected via the sale of tax certificates on or prior to June 1; therefore, there were no material taxes receivable at fiscal year end.

NOTE 6. CAPITAL ASSETS

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

	Beginning Balance	Interfund Transfers	Additions	Reclassifications/ Adjustments	Deletions	Balance
Governmental Activities:						
Capital Assets not being depreciated:						
Land	\$ 13,625,856	\$ -	\$ 2,191,293	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,817,149
Land Interests	1,519,600	-	-	-	-	1,519,600
Construction in progress	2,361,821	-	12,834,852	(6,184,353)	-	9,012,320
Total capital assets not being depreciated:	17,507,277	-	15,026,145	(6,184,353)	-	26,349,069
Capital Assets being depreciated:						
Buildings	68,901,330	-	-	-	-	68,901,330
Improvements other than buildings	25,888,060	-	216,200	482,698	-	26,586,958
Road Improvements	189,659,187	-	-	8,991,827	-	198,651,014
Equipment	23,147,351	(34,609)	1,283,225	-	(1,329,169)	23,066,798
Sheriff capital assets	11,237,990	-	1,164,059	3,916	(359,107)	12,046,858
Total capital assets being depreciated:	318,833,918	(34,609)	2,663,484	9,478,441	(1,688,276)	329,252,958
Accumulated depreciation Board	(203,285,537)	-	(10,060,912)	(320)	1,243,636	(212,103,133)
Accumulated depreciation Sheriff	(9,238,643)	-	(918,906)	(1,216)	359,107	(9,799,658)
Total accumulated depreciation:	(212,524,180)	-	(10,979,818)	(1,536)	1,602,743	(221,902,791)
Capital assets being depreciated, net:	106,309,738	(34,609)	(8,316,334)	9,476,905	(85,533)	107,350,167

Table continued on next page.

	Beginning Balance	Interfund Transfers	Additions	Reclassifications/ Adjustments	Deletions	Balance
Lease assets, being amortized:						
Buildings	\$ 1,412,315	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,412,315
Equipment	3,268,895	-	1,111,466	922,361	-	5,302,722
Sheriff equipment	182,055	-	74,956	-	-	257,011
Less accumulated amortization	(1,211,169)	-	(1,273,590)	(614,907)	-	(3,099,666)
Total lease assets, being amortized, net:	3,652,096	-	(87,168)	307,454	-	3,872,382
Governmental activities						
capital assets, net:	\$ 127,469,111	\$ (34,609)	\$ 6,622,643	\$ 3,600,006	\$ (85,533)	\$ 137,571,618
Business-type activities:						
Capital Assets not being depreciated:						
Land	\$ 2,087,118	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,087,118
Construction in progress	17,820,294	-	17,185,331	-	-	35,005,625
Total capital assets not being depreciated:	19,907,412	-	17,185,331	-	-	37,092,743
Capital Assets being depreciated:						
Equipment	5,491,647	34,609	470,872	(193,580)	(67,695)	5,735,853
Buildings	508,514	-	-	-	-	508,514
Improvements	17,917,054	-	-	(1,480)	-	17,915,574
Total capital assets being depreciated:	23,917,215	34,609	470,872	(195,060)	(67,695)	24,159,941
Less accumulated depreciation	(15,762,939)	-	(894,913)	130,838	67,695	(16,459,319)
Total capital assets being depreciated, net:	8,154,276	34,609	(424,041)	(64,222)	-	7,700,622
Lease assets, being amortized:						
Equipment	195,060	-	22,732	-	-	217,792
Less accumulated amortization	(15,930)	-	(33,546)	-	15,929	(33,547)
Total lease assets, being amortized, net:	179,130	-	(10,814)	-	15,929	184,245
Business-type activities						
capital assets, net:	\$ 28,240,818	\$ 34,609	\$ 16,750,476	\$ (64,222)	\$ 15,929	\$ 44,977,610

Governmental activities:

General government	\$ 739,752
Public safety	3,050,428
Physical environment	91,586
Transportation	7,797,676
Economic environment	19,006
Human services	90,293
Court related	464,667
Total depreciation/amortization	\$ 12,253,408

Business- type activities:

Landfill enterprise	\$ 636,355
Utilities enterprise	292,104
Total depreciation/amortization	\$ 928,459

NOTE 7. INTERFUND RECEIVABLES/PAYABLES

The outstanding balances between funds result mainly from the time lag between the dates that interfund goods and services are provided and reimbursable expenditures occur, transactions are recorded in the accounting system and payments between funds are made.

	<u>Interfund Receivables</u>	<u>Interfund Payables</u>
<u>General fund:</u>	15,069,909	8,488,626
<u>Special revenue funds:</u>		
Municipal services benefit unit	491,274	3,106,622
CDGB	-	55,334
ARPA	269,507	-
Library Enhancement	605,735	-
Transportation	2,618,370	-
Economic Development	477,811	-
Court Reporter	101,880	-
Impact Fee	326,808	-
Law Enforcement Special	23,518	-
Court Service	136,917	-
Tourist Development	1,426,354	-
Sheriff:		
Operating	151,622	64,482
Sheriff Inmate Welfare	50,775	177,611
Clerk of Courts:		
Operating	197,972	238,608
Public records modernization	10,696	26,473
Teen court	955	-
Supervisor of Elections operating	52,077	-
Tax Collector operating	60,785	231,976
Property Appraiser operating	-	91,320
<u>Debt service funds:</u>		
Road Improvement Debt Service	96,584	-
Paving Assesment	218,445	-
Jail Debt Service	727,470	-
<u>Capital projects funds:</u>		
Capital projects	31,672	-
Road Improvement Fund	-	3,749,888
Jail Construction	-	312,396
<u>Custodial funds:</u>		
Clerk of Circuit Court:		
Trust	94,198	211,000
Jury witness	-	152
Sheriff:		
Inmate trust	29,378	54,163
Individual depositories	-	5,239
Tax Collector:		
Ad valorem tax	-	91,769
<u>Enterprise Fund:</u>		
Landfill	1,397,134	-
Utilities	-	7,762,187
Totals	<u>\$ 24,667,846</u>	<u>\$ 24,667,846</u>

The amounts payable to the General Fund include working capital loans to the Utilities Fund of \$1,712,573. None of the balance is scheduled to be repaid in the subsequent year.

NOTE 8. INTERFUND TRANSFERS

Interfund transfers for the year ended September 30, 2024, consisted of the following:

Transfers are used to 1) move revenues from the fund that state law requires to collect them to the fund that state law requires to expend them, 2) provide matching funds for grants, 3) use unrestricted general fund revenues to finance transportation activities which must be accounted for in another fund, and 4) fund Constitutional Officer operations.

Transfers from General Fund to:	
Clerk of Courts Operating Fund	\$ 686,743
Property Appraiser Operating Fund	2,167,883
Supervisor of Elections Operating Fund	1,386,929
Sheriff Operating	20,883,410
Utilities Fund	301,843
Municipal Services Fund	7,140
Transfers from the Road Improvement Fund to:	
Capital Projects Fund	210,000
Transfers from the Jail Construction Fund to:	
Capital Projects Fund	175,000
Transfers from the County Facilities Fund to:	
General Fund	20,405
Clerk of Courts Operating Fund	260,567
Utilities Fund	6,000,000
Transfer from Tourist Development Operating Fund to:	
General Fund	350,000
Transfer from Economic Development Fund to:	
Utilities Fund	650,000
Transfers from the Transportation Fund to:	
Capital Projects Fund	2,000,000
Municipal Services Fund	30,000
Transfers from the Tax Collector Operating Fund to:	
General Fund	231,976
Total transfers	\$ 35,361,896

NOTE 9. RECEIVABLE AND PAYABLE BALANCES

Accounts Receivable and Due from Other Governmental Units

Receivables for accounts and from other governmental units, at September 30, 2024, were as follows:

	Accounts	Due from Other Governmental Units	Total Receivables
Governmental activities:			
General	\$ 59,096	\$ 1,620,628	\$ 1,679,724
County transportation trust	-	551,456	551,456
Municipal services	48,480	70,732	119,212
Economic development	-	111,468	111,468
Sheriff operating	13,609	98,813	112,422
County facilities	-	5,653,424	5,653,424
Other governmental	58,904	2,648,491	2,707,395
Total governmental activities	\$ 180,089	\$ 10,755,012	\$ 10,935,101
Business-type activities:			
Landfill enterprise, net	\$ 626,517	\$ -	\$ 626,517
Utilities	99,433	1,241,006	1,340,439
Landfill enterprise	\$ 725,950	\$ 1,241,006	\$ 1,966,956

The Board, upon past collection experience, considers all of the receivables of governmental activities to be fully collectible and has not recorded an allowance for doubtful accounts.

Payables at September 30, 2024, were as follows:

	Vendors	Due to Other Governmental Units	Total Payables
Governmental activities:			
General	\$ 724,427	\$ -	\$ 724,427
County transportation trust	219,608	-	219,608
Municipal services	181,911	5,089	187,000
Economic development	4,302	-	4,302
Sheriff operating	220,360	-	220,360
County facilities	693,637	-	693,637
Other governmental	781,975	10,188	792,163
Total governmental activities	\$ 2,826,220	\$ 15,277	\$ 2,841,497
Business-type activities:			
Landfill enterprise, net	\$ 71,757	\$ -	\$ 71,757
Utilities	1,680,391	-	1,680,391
Landfill enterprise	\$ 1,752,148	\$ -	\$ 1,752,148

NOTE 10. LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

Governmental Activities

Revenue Notes

- A. On July 12, 2016 the County closed on a Gas Tax Revenue Refunding Note, Series 2016, totaling \$6,000,000 with Hancock Bank. The purpose of this issuance was to refund debt and to finance certain additional transportation improvements. The first two cents of the County's local option gas tax imposed pursuant to Section 336.025, Florida Statutes, was pledged to secure payment of the principal and interest and is the source of repayment. The note is being repaid over ten years with an interest rate of 1.50%. If default occurred on this note, the pledged collateral would be accessed for repayment. The following is a schedule of future principal and interest to be paid on the note:

Year Ending September 30	Principal	Interest	Total
2025	634,000	13,182	647,182
2026	482,000	3,620	485,620
Total	<u>\$ 1,116,000</u>	<u>\$ 16,802</u>	<u>\$ 1,132,802</u>

- B. On June 8, 2016 the County closed on a Capital Improvement Revenue Refunding Note, Series 2016, totaling \$3,515,370 with First Federal Bank. The purpose of this issuance was to refund the County's Revenue Bond Series 2008A. The County's Sales Tax Revenue is pledged to secure the note and is the source of repayment. If default occurred on this note, the pledged collateral would be accessed for repayment. The note is being repaid over ten years with an interest rate of 1.749%. The following is a schedule of future principal and interest to be paid on the note:

Year Ending September 30	Principal	Interest	Total
2025	329,623	11,391	341,014
2026	335,426	5,668	341,094
2027	116,203	730	116,933
Total	<u>\$ 781,252</u>	<u>\$ 17,789</u>	<u>\$ 799,041</u>

- C. On December 15, 2017 the County closed on a Capital Improvement Revenue Note, totaling \$8,060,000 with JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. The purpose of this issuance was to finance the cost of capital improvements within the County. The County's Communication Services Tax revenues are pledged to secure the note and are the source of repayment. If default occurred on this note, the pledged collateral would be accessed for repayment. The note is being repaid over fifteen years with an interest rate of 2.28%. The balance owed on the note at year end was \$5,412,665. The following is a schedule of future principal and interest to be paid on the note:

Year Ending September 30	Principal	Interest	Total
2025	528,273	108,641	636,914
2026	540,387	96,527	636,914
2027	552,778	84,136	636,914
2028	565,453	71,461	636,914
2029	578,419	58,495	636,914
2030	591,682	45,232	636,914
2031	605,249	31,665	636,914
2032	619,127	17,787	636,914
2033	314,866	3,589	318,455
Total	<u>\$ 4,896,234</u>	<u>\$ 517,533</u>	<u>\$ 5,413,767</u>

- D. On January 24th, 2024 the County closed on Resolution No. 2024-02 Revenue Note, totaling \$5,675,000 with First Federal Bank. The purpose of this issuance was to finance the cost of capital improvements within the County. The County's Non-Ad Valorem revenues are pledged to secure the note and are the source of repayment. If default occurred on this note, the pledged collateral would be accessed for repayment. The is being repaid over fifteen years with and interest rate of 3.95%. The balance owed on the note at year end was \$5,66,165. The following is a schedule of future principal and interest to be paid on the note:

Year Ending September 30	Principal	Interest	Total
2027	\$ 419,423	\$ 223,774	\$ 643,197
2028	436,324	207,207	643,531
2029	453,906	189,972	643,878
2030	472,196	172,043	644,239
2031	491,224	153,391	644,615
There after	3,392,092	484,380	3,876,472
Total	<u>\$ 5,665,165</u>	<u>\$ 1,430,767</u>	<u>\$ 7,095,932</u>

B. Business-type Activities

Loan Payable

FDEP - On July 14, 2004, the County entered into a loan agreement , number WW 74202P, with the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for State Revolving Fund financial assistance for a wastewater treatment system at the I-75 exit 80 area (Ellisville). The terms of this agreement call for a total loan amount of \$755,809 and was \$536,867 when fully disbursed. The loan is payable in one initial payment of \$24,345 and thirty-nine subsequent semi-annual payments of \$17,906 including interest at 1.045%, beginning July 15, 2011. At September 30, 2024, the loan balance was \$212,660.

Also, in conjunction with the project, the County entered into an additional loan with the FDEP (loan number DW 120101 in the amount of \$906,797. This loan is payable in forty semi-annual payments of \$43,070 including interest at 2.65%, beginning on January 15, 2011. At September 30, 2024, the balance of the loan was \$160,252.

In the 2011 fiscal year, the County received an additional loan from FDEP (loan number DW 120400) in the amount of \$1,360,903, of which \$1,156,768 in principal was forgiven. This loan is payable in forty semi-annual payments of \$6,784 including interest at 2.71%, beginning August 15, 2011. At September 30, 2024, the balance of the loan was \$79,833.

All of these loans are subject to future amendments as to principal amounts, and semi-annual payment amounts and payment inception dates. The following is a schedule of loan payments required under the agreements. Payments are made from associated fund revenue.

The loans are secured by the revenues generated by the projects. In the event of default, the State may by action or suit require a full accounting, apply to a court of competent jurisdiction to appoint a receiver, sue for payment of amounts due, intercept the delinquent amount plus a penalty from unobligated funds due to the County under any revenue or tax sharing fund (except as provided by the State Constitution), and impose a penalty, accelerate repayment or increase the financing rate.

The following is a schedule of the balances due on these loans at September 30, 2024:

Year Ending September 30	DEP DW120400	DEP WW74202	DEP DW12101	INTEREST	TOTAL
2025	11,435	31,488	24,272	10,170	77,365
2026	11,747	32,143	24,922	8,252	77,065
2027	12,067	32,812	25,591	6,961	77,431
2028	12,396	33,495	26,277	5,638	77,807
2029	12,735	34,192	28,982	4,964	80,873
Thereafter	19,453	48,529	30,207	3,192	101,382
Total	\$ 79,833	\$ 212,660	\$ 160,252	\$ 39,177	\$491,922

D. Changes in Long-term Liabilities

Long-term liability activity for the year ended September 30, 2024, was as follows:

	Prior Year Balance	Additions	Deletions	Current Year Ending Balance	Due Within One Year	Accrued Interest Payable
<i>Governmental activities:</i>						
<i>Direct Borrowings:</i>						
Hancock Bank Gas Tax Revenue Note Series 2016	\$ 1,740,000	\$ -	\$ (624,000)	\$ 1,116,000	\$ 634,000	\$ -
First Federal Bank Revenue Note Series 2016	1,105,123	-	(323,871)	781,252	329,623	-
Chase Bank Revenue Note	5,412,665	-	(516,431)	4,896,234	528,273	-
First Federal Bank Revenue Note Series 2023	5,665,165	-	-	5,665,165	-	-
	<u>13,922,953</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,464,302)</u>	<u>12,458,651</u>	<u>1,491,896</u>	<u>-</u>
Leases liabilities	3,833,834	1,186,422	(966,732)	4,053,524	810,705	-
<i>Other Liabilities:</i>						
Compensated Absences	3,379,793	311,793	-	3,691,586	553,738	-
Net pension liability	51,123,498	-	(295,464)	50,828,034	-	-
OPEB Liability	207,448	14,550	-	221,998	-	-
	<u>\$ 55,931,306</u>	<u>\$ 1,512,765</u>	<u>\$ (2,726,498)</u>	<u>\$ 71,253,793</u>	<u>\$ 2,856,339</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
BUSINESS ACTIVITIES						
<i>Direct Borrowings:</i>						
<i>Loan agreements payable</i>						
Department of Environmental Regulation	\$ 545,175	\$ -	\$ (92,430)	\$ 452,745	\$ 67,195	\$ 2,047
<i>Other Liabilities</i>						
Leases liabilities	177,552	22,732	(45,299)	154,985	30,997	-
Compensated Absences	133,938	5,868	-	139,806	20,971	-
Estimated liability for landfill closure	14,508,858	504,841	-	15,013,699	-	-
Net pension liability	1,095,753	-	(100,135)	995,618	-	-
	<u>11,777,130</u>	<u>510,709</u>	<u>(145,434)</u>	<u>16,304,108</u>	<u>51,968</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 12,359,620</u>	<u>\$ 510,709</u>	<u>\$ (237,864)</u>	<u>\$ 16,756,853</u>	<u>\$ 119,163</u>	<u>\$ 2,047</u>

NOTE 11. LANDFILL CLOSURE AND POSTCLOSURE COSTS

State and federal laws and regulations require the County to place a final cover on its landfill site when it stops accepting waste and to perform certain maintenance and monitoring functions at the site for thirty years after closure.

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

\$15,013,699 is reported as landfill closure and postclosure care liability at September 30, 2024, represents the cumulative amount reported to date for landfills with remaining lives of 8 to 15 years. The post closure liability is based upon estimated usage and capacity of the landfill. These amounts are based on what it would cost to perform all closure and annual postclosure care in 2024. Actual cost may be higher because of inflation, changes in technology, or changes in regulations.

The County is required by state and federal laws and regulations to make annual contributions to an escrow account to finance closure. The County is in compliance with these requirements, and at September 30, 2024, restricted cash and investments of \$16,249,360 are held for its purpose. Subsequent to year end the County deposited funds to increase the restricted cash escrow to the amount required. The County expects future inflation costs to be paid from interest earnings on these annual contributions. However, if interest earnings are inadequate or additional postclosure care requirements are determined (because of changes in technology or applicable laws and regulations, for example), these costs may need to be covered by charges to future landfill users or from other future revenues of the County.

NOTE 12. LEASES & SBITA's

The County implemented the provisions of GASB Statement No. 87, Leases, which requires that lease agreements previously classified as either capital or operating leases be reported as long-term lease liabilities with corresponding right-to-use (ROU) assets. The County has entered into various lease agreements for vehicles, equipment, and building space used in County operations. These agreements are considered long-term leases as the County does not obtain ownership of the assets at the end of the lease term and the non-cancelable term exceeds one year. For the year ended September 30, 2024, \$1,012,031 was expended for leases.

At September 30, 2024, the County reported the following Governmental lease activity:

Category	ROU Asset (Cost)	Accumulated Amortization	Net ROU Asset	Lease Liability
Vehicles & Equipment	\$ 5,302,722	\$ (2,271,817)	\$ 3,030,905	\$ 3,180,376
Building	1,412,315	(635,541)	776,774	804,800
Sheriff's Office Leases	257,011	(192,308)	64,703	68,348
Total	<u>\$ 6,972,048</u>	<u>\$ (3,099,666)</u>	<u>\$ 3,872,382</u>	<u>\$ 4,053,524</u>

At September 30, 2024, the County reported the following Business lease activity:

Category	ROU Asset (Cost)	Accumulated Amortization	Net ROU Asset	Lease Liability
Vehicles & Equipment	<u>\$ 217,792</u>	<u>\$ (33,547)</u>	<u>\$ 184,245</u>	<u>\$154,985</u>

The combined net present value of future minimum payments required by the lease agreements as of September 30, 2024 was as follows:

Year Ending September 30	Interest	Principal
2025	\$ 128,136	\$ 575,082
2026	100,026	803,823
2027	69,966	915,303
2028	41,667	858,587
2029	20,790	979,572
2030	358	76,142
	<u>\$ 360,942</u>	<u>\$ 4,208,509</u>

The County has no material subscription based IT arrangements (SBITAs) which would be required to be capitalized under GASB 96.

NOTE 13. RETIREMENT PLANS

Florida Retirement System:

General Information - All of the County's employees participate in the Florida Retirement System (FRS). As provided by Chapters 121 and 112, Florida Statutes, the FRS provides two cost sharing, multiple employer defined benefit plans administered by the Florida Department of Management Services, Division of Retirement, including the FRS Pension Plan ("Pension Plan") and the Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy ("HIS Plan"). Under Section 121.4501, Florida Statutes, the FRS also provides a defined contribution plan ("Investment Plan") alternative to the FRS Pension Plan, which is administered by the State Board of Administration ("SBA"). As a general rule, membership in the FRS is compulsory for all employees working in a regularly established position for a state agency, county government, district school board, state university, community college, or a participating city or special district within the State of Florida. The FRS provides retirement and disability benefits, annual cost-of-living adjustments, and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Benefits are established by Chapter 121, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 60S, Florida Administrative Code. Amendments to the law can be made only by an act of the Florida State Legislature.

The State of Florida annually issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for the FRS. The latest available report may be obtained by writing to the State of Florida Division of Retirement, Department of Management Services, P.O. Box 9000, Tallahassee, Florida 32315-9000, or from the Web site: www.dms.myflorida.com/workforce_operations/retirement/publications.

Pension Plan

Plan Description - The Pension Plan is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan, with a Deferred Retirement Option Program ("DROP") for eligible employees.

Benefits Provided - Benefits under the Pension Plan are computed on the basis of age, average final compensation, and service credit. For Pension Plan members enrolled before July 1, 2011, Regular class members who retire at or after age 62 with at least six years of credited service or 30 years of service regardless of age are entitled to a retirement benefit payable monthly for life, equal to 1.6% of their final average compensation based on the five highest years of salary, for each year of credited service. Vested members with less than 30 years of service may retire before age 62 and receive reduced retirement benefits. Special Risk Administrative Support class members who retire at or after age 55 with at least six years of credited service or 25 years of service regardless of age are entitled to a retirement benefit payable monthly for life, equal to 1.6% of their final average compensation based on the five highest years of salary, for each year of credited service. Special Risk class members (sworn law enforcement officers, firefighters, and correctional officers) who retire at or after age 55 with at least six years of credited service, or with 25 years of service regardless of age, are entitled to a retirement benefit payable monthly for life, equal to 3.0% of their final average compensation based on the five highest years of salary for each year of credited service. Senior Management Service class members who retire at or after age 62 with at least six years of credited service or 30 years of service regardless of age are entitled to a retirement benefit payable monthly for life, equal to 2.0% of their final average compensation based on the five highest years of salary for each year of credited service. Elected Officers' class members who retire at or after age 62 with at least six years of credited service or 30 years of service regardless of age are entitled to a retirement benefit payable monthly for life, equal to 3.0% (3.33% for judges and justices) of their final average compensation based on the five highest years of salary for each year of credited service.

For Plan members enrolled on or after July 1, 2011, the vesting requirement is extended to eight years of credited service for all these members and increasing normal retirement to age 65 or 33 years of service regardless of age for Regular, Senior Management Service, and Elected Officers' class members, and to age 60 or 30 years of service regardless of age for Special Risk and Special Risk Administrative Support class members. Also, the final average compensation for all these members will be based on the eight highest years of salary.

As provided in Section 121.101, Florida Statutes, if the member is initially enrolled in the Pension Plan before July 1, 2011, and all service credit was accrued before July 1, 2011, the annual cost-of-living adjustment is three percent per year. If the member is initially enrolled before July 1, 2011, and has service credit on or after July 1, 2011, there is an individually calculated cost-of-living adjustment. The annual cost-of-living adjustment is a proportion of three percent determined by dividing the sum of the pre-July 2011 service credit by the total service credit at retirement multiplied by three percent. Plan members initially enrolled on or after July 1, 2011, will not have a cost-of-living adjustment after retirement. In addition to the above benefits, the DROP program allows eligible members to defer receipt of monthly retirement benefit payments while continuing employment with a FRS employer for a period not to exceed 60 months after electing to participate. Deferred monthly benefits are held in the FRS Trust Fund and accrue interest. There are no required contributions by DROP participants

Contributions – Effective July 1, 2011, all enrolled members of the FRS, other than DROP participants, are required to contribute three percent of their salary to the FRS. In addition to member contributions, governmental employers are required to make contributions to the FRS based on state-wide contribution rates established by the Florida Legislature. These rates are updated as of July 1 of each year. The employer contribution rates by job class for the periods from October 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024 and from July 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024, respectively were as follows:

Class	October 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	July 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024
Regular Class	13.57%	13.63%
Special Risk Class	39.82%	39.82%
Special Risk Administrative Support	32.67%	32.79%
County Elected Officers Class	58.68%	58.68%
Senior Management Class	34.52%	34.52%
Deferred Retirement Option Program	21.13%	21.13%

These employer contribution rates include 1.66% and 1.66% HIS Plan subsidy for the periods October 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024 and from July 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024, respectively.

The County's contributions to the Pension Plan totaled \$5,909,515 for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024.

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions – At September 30, 2024, the County reported a liability of \$40,371,295 for its proportionate share of the Pension Plan's net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2024, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2023. The County's proportionate share of the net pension liability was based on the County's 2022-23 fiscal year contributions relative to the 2023-24 fiscal year contributions of all participating members. At June

30, 2024, the County's proportionate share was 0.104359843%, which was a increase of 3.16% from its proportionate share measured as of June 30, 2023.

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, the County recognized pension expense of \$2,865,965. In addition the County reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>	<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 4,078,585	\$ -
Changes in assumptions	5,533,255	-
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on Pension Plan investments	-	(2,683,286)
Changes in proportion and differences between County Pension Plan contributions and proportionate share of contributions	3,344,108	(1,443,233)
County Pension Plan contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>1,439,493</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>\$ 14,395,441</u>	<u>\$ (4,126,519)</u>

The deferred outflows of resources related to the Pension Plan, totaling \$1,439,493 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. 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:

Fiscal Year Ending September 30	
2025	\$ (782,110)
2026	8,496,450
2027	619,380
2028	29,296
2029	466,414
Thereafter	-
	<u>\$ 8,829,430</u>

Actuarial Assumptions – The total pension liability in the July 1, 2024 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Valuation and Timing	Actuarially determined contribution rates for a given plan year are calculated in the valuation conducted as of the beginning of the preceding plan year (e.g. rates for the 2023-2024 plan year are calculated in the 7/1/2023 actuarial valuation)
Actuarial Cost Method	Individual Entry Age
Level percent of level dollar	Level percent
Closed, open or layered periods	Closed, layered
Amortization period	Effective July 1, 2021: New bases are amortized over 20 years Bases established prior to July 1, 2021: amortized over maximum of 20 years.
2019 actuarial cost method change	Amortized over 30 years as level percentage of Tier I pay
Payroll growth rate	3.25%
Asset Valuation Method	
Smoothing period	5 years
Recognition method	Asymptotic
Corridor	80% - 120% of fair market value
Inflation	2.40%
Salary Increases	Varies by membership class and length of service; details in funding actuarial valuation report
Investment Rate of Return	6.70%
Cost of Living Adjustments	3% for pre-July 2011 benefit service; 0% thereafter
Retirement Age	Varies by tier, membership class, age and sex; details in funding actuarial valuation report
Turnover	Varies by membership class, length of service, age and sex; details in funding actuarial valuation report
Mortality	PUB-2010 base table varies by member category and sex, projected generally with Scale MP-2018, details in funding actuarial valuation report

Other Key Actuarial Assumptions:

The actuarial assumptions that determined the total pension liability as of June 30, 2024 were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2018 experience observation period.

	<u>June 30, 2023</u>	<u>June 30, 2024</u>
Discount Rate	6.70%	6.70%
Long-term expected rate of return net of investment expense	6.70%	6.70%
Municipal bond rates	NA	0.0393
Valuation Date	July 1, 2023	July 1, 2024
Measurement date	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2024
Inflation	2.40%	2.40%
Salary increases including inflation	3.25%	3.50%
Mortality	PUB-2010 base table varies by member category and sex, projected generationally with Scale MP-2018	PUB-2010 base table varies by member category and sex, projected generationally with Scale MP-2018
Actuarial cost method	Individual Entry Age	Individual Entry Age

The following change in actuarial assumptions occurred in 2024:

FRS: The long-term expected rate of return was 6.70%.

The table below contains a summary of return assumptions for various asset classes based on the long-term target asset allocation. The six specific asset classes displayed are per system request and are summarized results of a more detailed market outlook model with additional asset classes. Each asset class assumption is based on a consistent set of underlying real return assumptions and includes an adjustment for the FRS Actuarial Assumption Conference's 2.4% inflation assumption. The assumptions are not based on historical returns, by instead are based on a forward-looking capital market economic model.

Asset Class	Policy Allocation*	Annual Arithmetic Return	Compound Annual (Geometric) Return	Annual Standard Deviation
Cash Equivalents	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	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%
	<u>100.0%</u>			

Assumed inflation-mean 2.4% 1.5%

Discount Rate - The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 6.70%. The Pension Plan's 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 calculation the total pension liability is equal to the long-term expected rate of return.

Sensitivity of the County's Proportionate Share of the Net Position Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate - The following represents the County's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 6.70%, as well as what the County's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (5.70%) or one percentage point higher (7.70%) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (5.70%)	Current Discount Rate (6.70%)	1% Increase (7.70%)
County's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 71,011,694	\$ 40,371,295	\$ 14,703,462

Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position - Detailed information regarding the Pension Plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued FRS Pension Plan and Other State-Administered Systems Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

Payables to the Pension Plan - At September 30, 2024, the County reported a payable in the amount of \$276,703 for outstanding contributions to the Pension Plan required for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024.

HIS Plan

Plan Description - The HIS Plan is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan established under Section 112.363, Florida Statutes, and may be amended by the Florida legislature at any time. The benefit is a monthly payment to assist retirees of State-administered retirement systems in paying their health insurance costs and is administered by the Florida Department of Management Services, Division of Retirement.

Benefits Provided – For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, eligible retirees and beneficiaries received a monthly HIS payment of \$5 for each year of creditable service completed at the time of retirement, with a minimum HIS payment of \$30 and a maximum HIS payment of \$150 per month. To be eligible to receive these benefits, a retiree under a State-administered retirement system must provide proof of health insurance coverage, which may include Medicare.

Contributions – The HIS Plan is funded by required contributions from FRS participating employers as set by the Florida Legislature. Employer contributions are a percentage of gross compensation for all active FRS members. For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, the HIS contribution for the period October 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 and from July 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024 was 1.66% and 1.66%, respectively. The County contributed 100% of its statutorily required contributions for the current and preceding three years. HIS Plan contribution are deposited in a separate trust fund from which payments are authorized. HIS Plan benefits are not guaranteed and are subject to annual legislative appropriation. In the event legislative appropriation or available funds fail to provide full subsidy benefits to all participants, benefits may be reduced or cancelled.

The County's contributions to the HIS Plan totaled \$313,464 for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024.

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions – At September 30, 2024, the County reported a liability of \$11,452,356 for its proportionate share of the HIS Plan's net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2024, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2024. The County's proportionate share of the net pension liability was based on the County's 2022-23 fiscal year contributions relative to the 2023-24 fiscal year contributions of all participating members. At June 30, 2024, the County's proportionate share was 0.076344068%, which was an increase of 1.82% from its proportionate share measured as of June 30, 2023.

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, the County recognized HIS pension expense of \$493,205. In addition the County reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred in flows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

Description	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 110,580	\$ (21,990)
Changes in assumptions	202,680	(1,355,812)
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on HIS Plan investments	-	(4,142)
Changes in proportion and differences between County HIS Plan contributions and proportionate share of contributions	1,065,044	(261,836)
County HIS Plan contributions subsequent to the measurement date	159,908	-
Total	<u>\$ 1,538,212</u>	<u>\$ (1,643,780)</u>

The deferred outflows of resources related to the HIS Plan, totaling \$159,908 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 as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to the HIS Plan will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending September 30	
2025	\$ (43,070)
2026	(53,141)
2027	(77,413)
2028	(54,126)
2029	(29,491)
Thereafter	(8,235)
	<u>\$ (265,476)</u>

Actuarial Assumptions – The total pension liability in the July 1, 2024, actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	2.40 %
Salary increases	3.25%, average, including inflation
Municipal bond rate	3.94% Bond Buyer General Obligation 20-Bond Municipal Bond Index

Mortality rates were based on Pub-2010 base table.

The actuarial assumptions used in the July 1, 2024 valuation were based on the results of an experience study completed in 2019, for the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2023.

The following changes to assumptions occurred in the 2023 fiscal year:

The demographic assumptions for the Special Risk class were updated to reflect plan changes due HB0007, HB689, and SB838.

The election assumption for vested terminated members was updated from 20% to 40% to reflect recent experience.

The municipal bonds rate used to determine total pension liability increased from 3.65% to 3.93%.

Discount Rate - The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 3.93%. In general, the discount rate for calculating the total pension liability is equal to the single rate equivalent to discounting at the long-term expected rate of return for benefit payments prior to the projected depletion date. Because the HIS benefit is essentially funded on a pay-as-you-go basis, the depletion date is considered to be immediate, and the single equivalent discount rate is equal to the municipal bond rate selected by the HIS Plan sponsor. The Bond Buyer General Obligation 20-Bond Municipal Bond Index was adopted as the applicable municipal bond index.

Sensitivity of the County's Proportionate Share of the Net Position Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate - The following represents the County's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 3.93%, as well as what the County's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (2.93%) or one percentage point higher (4.93%) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease 2.93	Current Discount Rate 3.93	1% Increase 4.93
County's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 13,037,035	\$ 11,452,356	\$ 10,136,816

Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position - Detailed information regarding the HIS Plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued FRS Pension Plan and Other State-Administered Systems Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

Payables to the Pension Plan - At September 30, 2024, the County reported a payable in the amount of \$40,245 for outstanding contributions to the HIS Plan required for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024.

Investment Plan

The SBA administers the defined contribution plan officially titled the FRS Investment Plan. The investment Plan is reported in the SBA's annual financial statements and in the State of Florida Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

As provided in Section 121.4501, Florida Statutes, eligible FRS members may elect to participate in the Investment Plan in lieu of the FRS defined benefit plan. County employees participating in DROP are not eligible to participate in the Investment Plan. Employer and employee contributions, including amounts contributed to individual member's accounts, are defined by law, but the ultimate benefit depends in part on the performance of investment funds. Benefit terms, including contribution requirements, for the Investment Plan are established and may be amended by the Florida Legislature. The Investment Plan is funded with the same employer and employee contribution rates that are based on salary and membership class (Regular Class, Elected County Officers, etc.), as the Pension Plan. Contributions are directed to individual member accounts, and the individual members allocate contributions and account balances among various approved investment choices. Costs of administering the Investment Plan, including the FRS Financial Guidance Program, are funded through an employer contribution of 0.04 percent of payroll and by forfeited benefits of plan members. Allocations to the investment member's accounts during the 2023-2024 fiscal year, as established by Section 121.72, Florida Statutes, are based on a percentage of gross compensation, by class, as follows: Regular class 8.30%, Special Risk Administrative Support class 9.95%, Special Risk class 16.00%, Senior Management Service class 9.67% and County Elected Officers class 11.34%. Each of these member classes pay 3% of the contribution.

For all membership classes, employees are immediately vested in their own contributions and are vested after one year of service for employer contributions and investment earnings. If an accumulated benefit obligation for service credit originally earned under the Pension Plan is transferred to the Investment Plan, the member must have the years of service required for Pension Plan vesting (including the service credit represented by the transferred funds) to be vested for these funds and the earnings on the funds. Nonvested employer contributions are placed in a suspense account for up to five years. If the employee returns to FRS-covered employment within the five-year period, the employee will regain control over their account. If the employee does not return within the five-year period, the employee will forfeit the accumulated account balance. For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, the information for the amount of forfeitures was unavailable from the SBA; however, management believes that these amounts, if any, would be immaterial to the County.

After termination and applying to receive benefits, the member may rollover vested funds to another qualified plan, structure a periodic payment under the Investment Plan, receive a lump-sum distribution, leave the funds invested for future distribution, or any combination of these options. Disability coverage is provided; the member may either transfer the account balance to the Pension Plan when approved for disability retirement to receive guaranteed lifetime monthly benefits under the Pension Plan, or remain in the Investment Plan and rely upon that account balance for retirement income.

The County had no pension expense for the Investment Plan for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024.

NOTE 14. FUND BALANCES GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

As of September 30, 2024, fund balances of the governmental funds are classified as follows:

Nonspendable – amounts that cannot be spent either because they are in nonspendable form or because they are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

Restricted – amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes because of constitutional provisions, charter requirements or enabling legislation or because of constraints that are externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or the laws or regulations of other governments.

Committed – amounts that can be used only for specific purposes determined by a formal action of the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). The BCC is the highest level of decision making authority for the County. Commitments may be established, modified, or rescinded only through resolutions approved by the BCC.

Assigned – amounts that do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed, but that are intended to be used for specific purposes. Under current practices, the assignment of amounts for specific purposes is approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

Unassigned - all other spendable amounts.

Fund balances designations are as follows:

	Assigned	Restricted	Nonspendable	Unassigned
<u>Board of County Commissioners</u>				
General Fund	\$ 270,022	\$ 147,236	\$ 2,112,573	\$ 30,101,690
American Rescue Plan Act	-	919,701	-	-
Capital Projects - County Facilities	5,625,910	-	-	-
Community Development Block Grant	-	-	-	-
County Transportation Trust	-	12,059,419	154,047	-
Court Reporters	-	101,880	-	-
Court Services	-	880,496	-	-
Economic Development	2,798,230	-	-	-
Impact Fees	-	326,808	-	-
Law Enforcement Special	-	25,083	-	-
Library Enhancement Grant	-	1,945,631	-	-
Municipal Services Benefit Unit	-	6,651,655	482,839	-
Jail Construction	7,342	-	-	-
Paving Assessments	-	218,445	-	-
Road Improvement	4,993,570	-	-	-
Jail Debt Service	-	773,411	-	-
Road Improvement Debt Service	-	96,584	-	-
Sheriff EAC	-	66,869	-	-
SHIP	-	935,883	-	-
Tourist Development Tax	-	4,704,605	-	-
<u>Clerk of Courts</u>				
Public Records Modernization Trust	-	427,730	-	-
Teen Court	-	36,553	-	-
<u>Sheriff</u>				
Work Program	-	13,553	-	-
Forfeiture	-	21,286	-	-
Inmate Welfare	-	1,332,115	-	-
Minimum Standards School	-	25,023	-	-
Construction	-	2,308,349	-	-
Total	\$ 13,695,074	\$ 34,018,315	\$ 2,749,459	\$ 30,101,690

Fund Balance Policy

The County has adopted a fund balance policy to maintain targeted levels of fund balance for all governmental funds. For the General Fund, the County's policy is to maintain a minimum level of unrestricted fund balance (the sum of the assigned and unassigned components of fund balance). The target level is no less than 25% and no more than 30% of General Fund annual expenditures.

For special revenue funds, there are typically no requirements for a specific reservation of fund balance but the County uses several special revenue funds as special operating funds for specific programs such as the Transportation Trust Fund and Municipal Services Fund. For these special revenue operating funds, the County has established a minimum level of fund balance. Such funds should maintain no less than 20% and no more than 30% of the fund specific annual expenditures.

In addition to minimum fund balance levels for the General Fund and major special revenue operating funds, the County also established a minimum level of fund balance for all other funds (including enterprise funds) similar to the above requirements.

Replenishment of Fund Balance Deficits

Each year during the budget process, fund balance levels are reviewed and compared to the targeted levels established in the fund balance policy. In the event fund balance levels fall below the targeted levels or, have not been met, a designated amount shall be set aside each year to fund balance so that the targeted amounts will be restored.

Utilization of Fund Balance

The County may approve, in its annual budgeting process, the use of fund balance either for specifically identified needs or as a designated reserve. The Board must always approve the use of designated reserves. In the event that targeted fund balance levels are met, the Board may approve the use of any excess for any lawful purpose. The Board may also establish additional reserves or designations of fund balance as may be needed such as a Disaster Contingency Reserve.

NOTE 15. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Grants – Amounts received or receivable from grantor agencies are subject to audit and adjustment by grantor agencies, principally the state and federal government. Any disallowed claims, including amounts already collected, may constitute a liability of the applicable funds.

Litigation – The County is defendant in various pending or threatened litigation. Although the outcome of these lawsuits is not presently determinable, in the opinion of the County Attorney, the resolution of these matters will not have a material adverse effect on the financial condition of the County.

NOTE 16. RISK MANAGEMENT

The County participates in various public entity risk pools for certain of its insurance coverages. Under these insurance risk pools, the County's entity risk pool pays annual premiums to the pools for its insurance coverages. The agreements for formation of the pools provide that the pools will be self-sustaining through member premiums and will reinsure through commercial companies for claims in excess of specific amounts.

The County continues to carry commercial insurance for other risks of loss. Settled claims resulting from these risks have not exceeded commercial insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

The pooling agreements allow for the pools to make additional assessments to make the pools self-sustaining. It is not possible to estimate either the amount of such additional assessments, which might have to be paid by the County or the losses which might have to be borne by the County.

The Sheriff is a member of Florida Sheriffs' Self-Insurance Fund, which administers insurance activities relating to property and general liability; Florida Sheriffs' Workers' Compensation Self-Insurance Fund, which administers workers' compensation insurance; and Sheriffs' Automobile Risk Program which administers automobile liability and physical damage insurance. Those funds and program absorb losses up to a specified amount annually and purchase excess coverage from third-party carriers. Each member is assessed his/her pro rata share of the estimated amount required to meet current year losses and operation expenses. Losses, if any, in excess of the fund or program ability to assess its members, would revert back to the member that incurred the loss.

The Sheriff is a member of the Florida Sheriffs Multiple Employers Trust Consortium, which is a self-funded healthcare pool. The funds contributed in the form of premiums and that of the program absorb losses up to a specified amount annually and purchases excess coverage from third-party carriers. Each member is assessed his/her pro rata share of the estimated amount required to meet current year losses and operation expenses. Losses, if any, in excess of the fund or program ability to assess its members, would revert back to the member that incurred the loss.

NOTE 17. TAX ABATEMENT

Pursuant to section 196.995(5) Florida Statutes, the County enters into ad valorem property tax abatement agreements with local businesses for the purpose of economic development in the County. In order to be eligible, the recipient must provide a positive economic impact on the County by job creation, property development or other benefit as determined by the County. Tax rebates are given to the recipients only upon performance of the agreement terms by the recipients. The amounts of the rebates are defined in the agreements. In the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, \$336,489 was rebated to recipients that provided property development in the County.

NOTE 18. CONSTRUCTION COMMITMENTS

During the year, the County had in progress several construction projects including road improvements and facilities renovations. At year end, the significant portion of these related construction commitments were completed and existing funds had been earmarked for any incomplete projects.

NOTE 19. OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB)

The County is legally required to include any retirees for whom it provides health insurance coverage in the same insurance pool as its active employees, whether the premiums are paid by the County or the retiree. Participating retirees are considered to receive a secondary benefit known as an "implicit rate subsidy." This benefit relates to the assumption that the retirees are receiving a more favorable premium rate than they would otherwise be able to obtain if purchasing insurance on their own, due to being included in the same pool with the county younger and statistically healthier active employees. GASB Statement 75 requires governments to report this cost and related liability in its financial statements.

PLAN PROVISIONS

Columbia County, Florida administers its own post-employment benefit (OPEB) plan for medical benefits that are provided to Columbia County retirees. All full-time employees of Columbia County who satisfy the Disability, Early, or Normal Retirement provisions of their retirement plan may be eligible for certain post-employment benefits.

- General employees must meet the eligibility requirements for retirement under the Florida Retirement System Pension Plan – Regular Class.
- Fire employees must meet the eligibility requirements for retirement under the Florida Retirement System Pension Plan – Special Risk Class.

Participants are allowed access to the plan if the employee retires with an immediate benefit from the Florida Retirement System.

Surviving spouses and dependents are allowed access to the plan until they reach age 65.

All participants must pay 100% of their premium (implicit subsidy only).

The County has not set up a trust to prefund benefits. The County will pay benefits on a pay-as-you-go basis.

The following table summarizes the counts, ages and coverage as of October 1, 2024 for those currently enrolled in the plan.

(1)	Number of Participants	
	(a) Active Employees	215
	(b) Retirees (Pre-Medicare)	4
(2)	Active Statistics	
	(a) Average age	44.98
	(b) Average Service	8.99
(3)	Inactive Statistics	
	(a) Average age (Pre-Medicare)	64.47

SIGNIFICANT ASSUMPTIONS USED TO MEASURE THE TOTAL OPEB LIABILITY

The total OPEB liability is based on October 1, 2023 valuation data. The methods, assumptions, participant data, and plan provisions are as detailed in the September 30, 2024 actuarial valuation report dated January 17, 2024.

ECONOMIC ASSUMPTIONS

The medical trend assumption was developed using the Society of Actuaries (SOA) Long-Run Medical Cost Trend Model baseline assumptions. The SOA Model 2024 which was used in the current year valuation used the following assumptions:

Rate of inflation	2.6%
Rate of Growth in Real Income / GDP per capita	1.4%
Extra Trend due to Technology and other factors	0.9%
Expected Health Share of GDP in 2031	19.0%
Health Share of GDP Resistance Point	17.0%
Year for Limiting Cost Growth to GNP Growth	2075

DEMOGRAPHIC ASSUMPTIONS

General employees participate in either the Tier 1 or Tier 2 Regular Class Employees under the Florida State Retirement System Pension Plan. Fire employees participate in the Special Risk Class Employees under the Florida State Retirement System Pension Plan. Demographic assumptions mirror those used in the FRS Pension Plan.

DISCOUNT RATE ASSUMPTION

The discount rate used to determine the liabilities under GASB 75 depends upon the County's funding policy. The discount rate for governments that do not prefund benefits is based on 20-year general obligation bonds(GO bond) rates. The discount rate assumption for disclosure purposes for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024 is 4.40%, the 20-year GO bond index for September 30, 2024.

VALUATION METHODS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Cost Method:

The valuation uses the entry age normal funding method calculated on an individual basis with level percentage of pay.

Election Rate:

20% of eligible participants are assumed to continue coverage upon decrement.

Interest Rate Assumption:

The interest rate is based on the 20-year GO Bond index of 4.40% as of September 30, 2020.

Coverage Status and Age of Spouse:

Actual coverage status is used; females assumed 3 years younger than male spouse.

TREND ASSUMPTION

All plan premiums and benefit costs are assumed to increase annually at the following rates

TREND ASSUMPTIONS

Plan premium and Benefit Costs	
Year	Increase Rat
2024	7.50%
2025	7.00%
2026	6.20%
2030	5.29%
2040	4.60%
2050	4.54%
2060	4.48%
2070	4.24%
2075+	4.04%

DECREMENT ASSUMPTIONS

Below is a summary of decrements used in the valuation.

Mortality Decrements

- (1) **Healthy Active**
 - Regular, male and female: Pub-2010 General Employees Headcount-Weighted Mortality Projected with Fully Generational MP2020 Mortality Improvement Scale**
 - Special Risk, male and female : Pub-2010 Safety Employees Headcount-Weighted Mortality Projected with Fully Generational MP2020 Mortality Improvement Scale**
- (2) **Healthy Inactive**
 - Regular, male and female: Pub-2010 General Retirees Headcount-Weighted Mortality Projected with Fully Generational MP2020 Mortality Improvement Scale**
 - Special Risk, male and female : Pub-2010 Safety Retirees Headcount-Weighted Mortality Projected with Fully Generational MP2020 Mortality Improvement Scale**
- (2) **Disabled**
 - Regular, male and female: Pub-2010 General Disabled Headcount-Weighted Mortality Projected with Fully Generational MP2020 Mortality Improvement Scale**
 - Special Risk, male and female : Pub-2010 Safety Disabled Headcount-Weighted Mortality Projected with Fully Generational MP2020 Mortality Improvement Scale**

CLAIMS ASSUMPTION

The plan is fully insured. To determine the assumed cost and the retiree contributions, 2024 premium rates were weighted by the enrollment at September 30, 2024.

Gross claims are equal to the age adjusted assumed cost. The cost for participants with dependent coverage is assumed to be 181% of the cost of individual coverage. The following chart shows the total costs including both, medical and prescription drug as well as the assumed costs:

ASSUMED CLAIMS COSTS

1 Total Costs		
a.	Under 50	\$8,218
b.	Age 50-54	\$10,183
c.	Age 50-59	\$12,428
d.	Age 60-64	\$15,263
e.	Age 65-Older	N/A
2 Assumed Costs		
	Pre-Medicare	\$ 9,209
	Medicare Age	N/A

CHANGE IN THE NET OPEB LIABILITY

	Total OPEB Liability	Plan Fiduciary Net Position	Net OPEB Liability
Balance as of September 30, 2022	<u>\$ 207,448</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 207,448</u>
Change for the Year			
Service Cost	18,468	-	18,468
Interest	9,414	-	9,414
Changes of Benefit Terms	1,320	-	1,320
Experience Losses/Gains	(15,256)	-	(15,256)
Trust Contribution - Employer	-	8,254	(8,254)
Net Investment Income	-	-	-
Changes in Assumptions	8,858	-	8,858
Benefit Payments (Net of Retiree Contributions)	(8,254)	(8,254)	-
Administrative Expense	-	-	-
Net Changes	<u>14,550</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,550</u>
Balance as of September 30, 2023	<u>\$ 221,998</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 221,998</u>

OPEB EXPENSE

1.	Service Cost	\$	18,468
2.	Interest		9,414
3.	Projected Earnings on OPEB Trust		-
4.	OPEB Administrative Expense		-
5.	Changes in Benefit Terms		1,320
6.	Differences Between Expected and Actual Earnings		
	In Current Fiscal Year Recognized in Current Year		-
	From Past Years Recognized in Current Year		-
	Total		-
7.	Differences Between Expected and Actual Experience		
	In Current Fiscal Year Recognized in Current Year		(2,543)
	From Past Years Recognized in Current Year		(4,810)
	Total		(7,353)
8.	Changes in Assumptions		
	In Current Fiscal Year Recognized in Current Year		1,476
	From Past Years Recognized in Current Year		(9,316)
	Total		(7,840)
9.	Total OPEB Expense	\$	14,009

The following table presents Columbia County, Florida's Total and Net OPEB liability. It also shows the net liability if it is calculated using a discount rate that is 1% higher or 1% lower.

Sensitivity of Total and Net OPEB Liability

Discount Rate	1% Decrease 2.88%	Discount Rate 3.88%	1% Increase 4.88%
Total OPEB Liability	\$ 240,949	\$ 221,998	\$ 203,369
Net OPEB Liability (Asset)	\$ 240,949	\$ 221,998	\$ 203,369

Also presented is the Total and Net OPEB liability if it is calculated using a health care cost trend rate that is 1% lower or 1% higher.

Ultimate Trend	1% Decrease 3.04%	Medical Trend 4.04%	1% Increase 5.04%
Total OPEB Liability	\$ 186,450	\$ 221,998	\$ 245,955
Net OPEB Liability (Asset)	\$ 186,450	\$ 221,998	\$ 245,955

DEFERRED INFLOWS/OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES RELATED TO OPEB

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, the County recognized an OPEB expense of \$14,009. At September 30, 2024, the County reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to the OPEB plan from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflow of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 12,316	\$ 64,096
Changes in assumptions	12,357	28,331
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on OPEB plan investments	-	-
Employer contributions subsequent to measurement date	N/A	-
Total	\$ 24,673	\$ 92,427

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

Fiscal Year Ended September 30:	Measurement Date	Earnings (Inflow)/Outflow
2025	9/30/2025	\$ (14,126)
2026	9/30/2026	(13,213)
2027	9/30/2027	(23,831)
2028	9/30/2028	(24,704)
2029	9/30/2029	(675)
Thereafter	9/30/2030 and after	-

Changes in Assumptions:

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024 changes in assumptions were:

	Fiscal Year Ended 2023	Fiscal Year Ended 2024
Rate of Growth in Real Income / GDP per capita	1.4%	1.4%
Extra Trend due to Technology and other factors	1.0%	0.9%
Expected Health Share of GDP in 2031	19.0%	19.0%
Health Share of GDP Resistance Point	20.0%	17.0%
 Discount Rate Assumptions	 4.60%	 3.88%
 Interest Rate Assumption:	 4.60%	 3.88%

NOTE 20. UPCOMING ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

GASB Statement No.101, Compensated Absences

In June 2022, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*. GASB 101 establishes recognition and measurement guidance for compensated absences, including expanded definitions for leave that accumulates and is carried forward for use in future periods. The Statement also standardizes recognition criteria for leave that has not been used but is more likely than not to be used or paid.

This Statement is effective for the County for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2023, and will be implemented for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025. Management is currently evaluating the effect that the adoption of this Statement will have on the County's financial statements. At this time, the impact of GASB 101 is estimated to substantially increase the compensated absences liability by approximately \$562,011.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
GENERAL FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
REVENUES				
Taxes	\$ 34,125,060	\$ 34,125,060	\$ 35,486,264	\$ 1,361,204
Licenses, permits and fees	19,000	59,000	50,067	(8,933)
Intergovernmental	6,757,556	8,301,729	10,723,411	2,421,682
Charges for services	1,810,287	1,914,629	2,990,373	1,075,744
Fines and forfeitures	273,125	273,125	129,247	(143,878)
Interest	380,000	383,540	1,233,283	849,743
Miscellaneous	394,594	1,170,330	1,209,711	39,381
Total revenues	<u>43,759,622</u>	<u>46,227,413</u>	<u>51,822,356</u>	<u>5,594,943</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Current operating:				
General government	7,667,368	8,969,758	7,324,467	1,645,291
Public safety	4,913,619	7,958,750	6,433,246	1,525,504
Physical environment	2,304,791	2,803,602	1,991,661	811,941
Economic environment	264,565	353,309	317,152	36,157
Human services	5,069,715	5,027,821	4,043,365	984,456
Culture/recreation	713,300	897,760	805,679	92,081
Capital outlay:				
General government	60,000	60,000	160,638	(100,638)
Public safety	39,312	39,312	156,353	(117,041)
Physical environment	179,000	179,000	110,759	68,241
Human services	-	-	39,496	(39,496)
Culture/recreation	-	-	17,628	(17,628)
Debt service:				
Principal	188,465	188,465	111,084	77,381
Interest	51,604	-	36,795	(36,795)
Total expenditures	<u>21,451,739</u>	<u>26,477,777</u>	<u>21,548,323</u>	<u>4,929,454</u>
Excess of revenues over expenditures	<u>22,307,883</u>	<u>19,749,636</u>	<u>30,274,033</u>	<u>10,524,397</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Sale of fixed assets	-	-	139,722	139,722
Transfers in	1,346,271	1,366,676	571,777	(794,899)
Transfers out	(24,697,753)	(25,568,715)	(25,433,948)	134,767
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>(23,351,482)</u>	<u>(24,202,039)</u>	<u>(24,722,449)</u>	<u>(520,410)</u>
Net change in fund balance	<u>(1,043,599)</u>	<u>(4,452,403)</u>	<u>5,551,584</u>	<u>10,003,987</u>
Fund balance, beginning of year	<u>27,079,937</u>	<u>27,079,937</u>	<u>27,079,937</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund balance, end of year	<u>\$ 26,036,338</u>	<u>\$ 22,627,534</u>	<u>\$ 32,631,521</u>	<u>\$ 10,003,987</u>

See notes to required supplementary information.

COLUMBIA COUNTY FLORIDA
COUNTY TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance with
	Original	Final		Final
				Budget
				Positive
				(Negative)
REVENUES				
Taxes	\$ 7,546,800	\$ 7,546,800	\$ 7,849,821	\$ 303,021
Intergovernmental	5,958,400	5,958,400	5,650,271	(308,129)
Charges for services	165,110	165,110	3,135	(161,975)
Interest	66,500	66,500	387,127	320,627
Miscellaneous	221,451	566,285	648,888	82,603
Total revenues	13,958,261	14,303,095	14,539,242	236,147
EXPENDITURES				
Current operating:				
Transportation	12,321,186	12,912,072	10,410,500	2,501,572
Capital outlay:				
Transportation	682,120	682,120	1,778,963	(1,096,843)
Debt service:				
Principal	954,854	954,854	727,511	227,343
Interest	-	-	52,988	(52,988)
Total expenditures	13,958,160	14,549,046	12,969,962	1,579,084
Excess of revenues over expenditures	101	(245,951)	1,569,280	1,815,231
Other Financing Sources				
Sale of fixed assets	-	-	66,240	66,240
Lease proceeds	-	-	1,111,466	1,111,466.00
Transfers out	(2,000,000)	(2,030,000)	(2,030,000)	-
Total other financing sources	(2,000,000)	(2,030,000)	(852,294)	1,177,706
Net change in fund balance	(1,999,899)	(2,275,951)	716,986	2,992,937
Fund balance, beginning of year	11,496,480	11,496,480	11,496,480	-
Fund balance, end of year	\$ 9,496,581	\$ 9,220,529	\$ 12,213,466	\$ 2,992,937

See notes to required supplementary information.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY FLORIDA
MUNICIPAL SERVICES FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024**

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
REVENUES				
Taxes	\$ 1,795,500	\$ 1,795,500	\$ 1,761,861	\$ (33,639)
Licenses, permits and assessments	12,015,315	12,011,715	12,408,841	397,126
Intergovernmental	253,923	261,330	393,597	132,267
Charges for services	2,660	2,660	33,005	30,345
Interest	40,850	40,850	360,944	320,094
Miscellaneous	104,090	437,610	250,963	(186,647)
Total revenues	<u>14,212,338</u>	<u>14,549,665</u>	<u>15,209,211</u>	<u>659,546</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Current operating:				
General government	57,898	57,898	37,898	20,000
Public safety	8,996,291	9,415,816	9,017,728	398,088
Physical environment	4,108,773	4,108,773	4,253,641	(144,868)
Economic environment	-	-	18,382	(18,382)
Capital outlay:				
Public safety	642,500	642,500	249,532	392,968
Debt service:				
Principal	406,254	410,428	364,467	45,961
Interest	-	1,188	28,750	(27,562)
Total expenditures	<u>14,211,716</u>	<u>14,636,603</u>	<u>13,970,398</u>	<u>666,205</u>
Excess of revenues over expenditures	<u>622</u>	<u>(86,938)</u>	<u>1,238,813</u>	<u>1,325,751</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Sale of fixed assets	-	-	9,675	9,675
Transfers in	-	37,140	37,140	-
Transfers out	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)	-	1,500,000
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>(1,500,000)</u>	<u>(1,462,860)</u>	<u>46,815</u>	<u>1,509,675</u>
Net change in fund balance	(1,499,378)	(1,549,798)	1,285,628	2,835,426
Fund balance, beginning of year	5,848,866	5,848,866	5,848,866	-
Fund balance, end of year	<u>\$ 4,349,488</u>	<u>\$ 4,299,068</u>	<u>\$ 7,134,494</u>	<u>\$ 2,835,426</u>

See notes to required supplementary information.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY FLORIDA
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024**

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
REVENUES				
Intergovernmental	\$ 1,448,750	\$ 1,448,750	\$ 1,413,151	\$ (35,599)
Interest	57,000	57,000	125,985	68,985
Miscellaneous	-	-	336	336
Total revenues	1,505,750	1,505,750	1,539,472	33,722
EXPENDITURES				
Current expenditures				
Economic environment	1,263,765	1,491,825	760,034	731,791
Total expenditures	1,263,765	1,491,825	760,034	731,791
Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures	241,985	13,925	779,438	765,513
Other financing sources (uses)				
Interfund transfers in	-	-	-	-
Interfund transfers out	(650,000)	(650,000)	(650,000)	-
Total other financing sources (uses)	(650,000)	(650,000)	(650,000)	-
Net change in fund balance	(408,015)	(636,075)	129,438	765,513
Fund balance beginning of year	2,668,792	2,668,792	2,668,792	-
Fund balance end of year	\$ 2,260,777	\$ 2,032,717	\$ 2,798,230	\$ 765,513
See notes to financial statements.				

See notes to required supplementary information.

COLUMBIA COUNTY FLORIDA
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts Original and Final	Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
REVENUES			
Intergovernmental	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Interest	-	240,040	240,040
Total revenues	<u>-</u>	<u>240,040</u>	<u>240,040</u>
EXPENDITURES			
Current operating:	-	-	-
Capital outlay:			
Physical Environment	-	-	-
Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>-</u>	<u>240,040</u>	<u>240,040</u>
Other financing sources (uses)			
Interfund transfers out	-	-	-
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net change in fund balances	-	240,040	240,040
Fund balances beginning of year	679,661	679,661	-
Fund balances end of year	<u>\$ 679,661</u>	<u>\$ 919,701</u>	<u>\$ 240,040</u>
See notes to financial statements.			

See notes to required supplementary information.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY FLORIDA
SHERIFF OPERATING FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL**

For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance with
	Original	Final		Final Budget Positive (Negative)
REVENUES				
Intergovernmental	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 186,741	\$ 186,741
Charges for services	-	-	374,640	374,640
Interest	-	-	21,125	21,125
Miscellaneous	-	-	518,951	518,951
Total revenues	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,101,457</u>	<u>1,101,457</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Current operating:				
Public safety - law enforcement	14,235,941	14,390,881	14,868,531	(477,650)
Public safety - corrections	6,112,451	5,852,871	6,114,397	(261,526)
Capital outlay:				
Public safety	569,000	657,120	1,011,141	(354,021)
Debt service:				
Principal	30,500	47,020	60,643	(13,623)
Interest	-	-	5,111	(5,111)
Total expenditures	<u>20,947,892</u>	<u>20,947,892</u>	<u>22,059,823</u>	<u>(1,111,931)</u>
Excess of revenues over expenditures	<u>(20,947,892)</u>	<u>(20,947,892)</u>	<u>(20,958,366)</u>	<u>(10,474)</u>
Other Financing Sources				
Lease financings	-	-	74,956	74,956
Transfers in	20,947,892	20,947,892	20,883,410	(64,482)
Total other financing sources	<u>20,947,892</u>	<u>20,947,892</u>	<u>20,958,366</u>	<u>10,474</u>
Net change in fund balance	-	-	-	-
Fund balance, beginning of year	-	-	-	-
Fund balance, end of year	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

See notes to required supplementary information.

COLUMBIA COUNTY FLORIDA
COUNTY FACILITY FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
REVENUES				
Taxes	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Intergovernmental	27,928,212	28,877,086	6,633,068	(22,244,018)
Interest	-	-	428,786	428,786
Miscellaneous	-	-	3,740	3,740
Total revenues	<u>27,928,212</u>	<u>28,877,086</u>	<u>7,065,594</u>	<u>(21,811,492)</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Current operating:				
General government	63,000	63,000	62,500	500
Public safety	15,000	30,000	29,825	175
Transportation	312,399	1,233,466	468,422	765,044
Capital outlay:				
General government	1,563,000	1,563,000	446,586	1,116,414
Public safety	1,450,000	1,775,229	103,985	1,671,244
Transportation	33,468,190	33,883,866	11,535,746	22,348,120
Human service	-	298,000	22,898	275,102
Culture/recreation	1,856,835	2,050,635	872,966	1,177,669
Total expenditures	<u>38,728,424</u>	<u>40,897,196</u>	<u>13,542,928</u>	<u>27,354,268</u>
Excess of revenues over expenditures	<u>(10,800,212)</u>	<u>(12,020,110)</u>	<u>(6,477,334)</u>	<u>5,542,776</u>
Net change in fund balance	<u>(10,800,212)</u>	<u>(12,020,110)</u>	<u>(6,477,334)</u>	<u>5,542,776</u>
Other financing sources (uses)				
Transfers out	(6,000,000)	(6,020,405)	(6,280,972)	260,567
Transfers in	2,000,000	2,385,000	2,385,000	-
Net change in fund balances	<u>(14,800,212)</u>	<u>(15,655,515)</u>	<u>(10,373,306)</u>	<u>5,803,343</u>
Fund balance, beginning of year	<u>15,999,216</u>	<u>15,999,216</u>	<u>15,999,216</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund balance, end of year	<u>\$ 1,199,004</u>	<u>\$ 343,701</u>	<u>\$ 5,625,910</u>	<u>\$ 5,803,343</u>

See notes to required supplementary information.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF THE COUNTY'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY
FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM
LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
County's proportionate share of the net pension liability										
Retirement	0.104360%	0.090876%	0.090876%	0.090696%	0.097095%	.1012%	0.1020%	0.1011%	0.1031%	0.0980%
Health insurance subsidy	0.076344%	0.066973%	0.066973%	0.065917%	0.066285%	.0680%	0.0681%	0.0675%	0.0675%	0.0672%
County's proportionate share of the net pension liability										
Retirement	\$ 40,371,295	\$ 40,312,064	\$ 33,813,268	\$ 6,851,019	\$ 42,082,500	\$ 34,851,421	\$ 30,727,794	\$ 29,895,132	\$ 26,020,964	\$ 12,652,261
Health insurance subsidy	11,452,356	11,907,186	7,093,484	8,085,663	8,093,297	7,612,524	7,203,408	7,214,936	7,861,195	6,853,010
Total	<u>\$ 51,823,651</u>	<u>\$ 52,219,250</u>	<u>\$ 40,906,752</u>	<u>\$ 14,936,682</u>	<u>\$ 50,175,797</u>	<u>\$ 42,463,945</u>	<u>\$ 37,931,202</u>	<u>\$ 37,110,068</u>	<u>\$ 33,882,159</u>	<u>\$ 19,505,271</u>
County's covered payroll	\$ 30,123,000	\$ 27,335,399	\$ 25,856,199	\$ 24,376,999	\$ 23,749,810	\$ 23,136,187	\$ 22,508,514	\$ 22,085,094	\$ 21,502,670	\$ 21,254,324
County's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered employee payroll	172.04%	191.03%	158.21%	61.27%	211.27%	183.54%	168.52%	168.03%	157.57%	91.77%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability										
Retirement	83.70%	82.38%	82.89%	96.40%	78.85%	82.61%	84.26%	83.89%	84.88%	92.00%
Health insurance subsidy	4.80%	4.12%	4.81%	3.56%	3.00%	2.63%	2.15%	1.64%	0.97%	0.50%

See notes to required supplementary information.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF THE COUNTY'S CONTRIBUTIONS
FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM
LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS
September 30, 2024**

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Contractually required contributions										
Pension plan	\$ 5,909,515	\$ 5,360,015	\$ 4,484,492	\$ 3,830,953	\$ 3,598,494	\$ 3,459,629	\$ 3,233,603	\$ 2,933,891	\$ 3,081,793	\$ 2,603,392
Health insurance subsidy	646,351	252,338	468,636	429,606	426,068	416,533	369,084	357,107	345,742	340,622
	<u>\$ 6,555,866</u>	<u>\$ 5,612,353</u>	<u>\$ 4,953,128</u>	<u>\$ 4,260,559</u>	<u>\$ 4,024,562</u>	<u>\$ 3,876,162</u>	<u>\$ 3,602,687</u>	<u>\$ 3,290,998</u>	<u>\$ 3,427,535</u>	<u>\$ 2,944,014</u>
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contributions	\$ 5,612,353	\$ 5,612,353	\$ 4,953,128	\$ 4,260,559	\$ 4,024,563	\$ 3,876,162	\$ 3,602,687	\$ 3,290,998	\$ 3,427,535	\$ 2,944,014
Contribution deficiency	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
County's covered employee payroll	\$ 30,123,000	\$ 27,335,399	\$ 25,856,199	\$ 24,376,999	\$ 23,749,810	\$ 23,136,187	\$ 22,508,514	\$ 22,085,094	\$ 21,502,670	\$ 21,254,324
Contributions as a percentage of covered employee payroll										
Pension plan	19.62%	19.61%	17.34%	15.72%	15.15%	14.95%	14.37%	13.28%	14.35%	12.25%
Health insurance subsidy	2.15%	0.92%	1.81%	1.76%	1.79%	1.80%	1.64%	1.62%	1.61%	1.60%

See notes to required supplementary information.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF CHANGES TO THE OPEB LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS
September 30, 2024

CHANGE IN THE NET OPEB LIABILITY							
Total OPEB Liability:	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Balance at Beginning of Fiscal Year	\$ 207,448	\$ 202,300	\$ 349,051	\$ 344,293	\$ 290,352	\$ 259,760	\$ 258,636
Change for the Year							
Service Cost	18,468	18,358	28,948	27,000	23,928	19,683	19,860
Interest	9,414	8,513	7,220	7,871	7,682	9,543	8,684
Changes of Benefit Terms	1,320	-	-	-	-	-	-
Experience Losses/Gains	(15,256)	-	(102,767)	-	73,906	-	-
Changes in Assumptions	8,858	(4,055)	(41,411)	5,255	(29,528)	22,574	(6,420)
Benefit Payments (Net of Retiree Contributions)	(8,254)	(17,668)	(38,741)	(35,368)	(22,047)	(21,208)	(21,000)
Net change in the OPEB Liability	<u>14,550</u>	<u>5,148</u>	<u>(146,751)</u>	<u>4,758</u>	<u>53,941</u>	<u>30,592</u>	<u>1,124</u>
Balance as of September 30	<u>\$ 221,998</u>	<u>\$ 207,448</u>	<u>\$ 202,300</u>	<u>\$ 349,051</u>	<u>\$ 344,293</u>	<u>\$ 290,352</u>	<u>\$ 259,760</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position							
Balance at Beginning of Fiscal Year	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contributions - Employer	8,254	17,668	38,741	35,368	22,047	21,208	21,000
Benefit Payments	(8,254)	(17,667)	(38,741)	(35,368)	(22,047)	(21,208)	(21,000)
Net Change in the Plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as of September 30	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
County's Net OPEB Liability Ending	<u>\$ 221,998</u>	<u>\$ 207,448</u>	<u>\$ 202,300</u>	<u>\$ 349,051</u>	<u>\$ 344,293</u>	<u>\$ 290,352</u>	<u>\$ 259,760</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Covered Payroll*	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Net OPEB Liability as a Percentage of Employee Payroll*	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Expected Average Remaining Service of all Participants	6	8	6	6	7	7	7
Notes to Schedule:							
Benefit Changes : None							
Changes in assumptions:							
The discount rate was changed as follows:							
The discount rate changes year to year	3.88%	4.63%	4.40%	2.19%	2.41%	2.75%	3.83%

* Because the Plan does not depend on salary, there is no salary information.

Note: GASB 74 was implemented in fiscal year 2018. Until a full 10 year trend has been compiled, only those years for which information is available has been presented. See notes to required supplementary information.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF OPEB CONTRIBUTIONS
September 30, 2024**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Actuarially Determined Contributions	\$ 8,254	\$ 17,668	\$ 38,741	\$ 35,368	\$ 22,047	\$ 21,208	\$ 20,108
Contributions In Relation to the Actuarially Determined Contribution	\$ (8,254)	\$ (17,668)	\$ (38,741)	\$ (35,368)	\$ (22,047)	\$ 21,208	\$ 20,108
Contributions Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

Note: GASB 74 was implemented in fiscal year 2018. Until a full 10 year trend has been compiled, only those years for which information is available has been presented. See notes to required supplementary information.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
OPEB DEFERRED INFLOWS AND OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES ARISING FROM DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN EXPECTED AND ACTUAL EXPERIENCE
September 30, 2024

Year	Experience		Amounts Recognized in OPEB Expense Through September 30, 2024 (c)	Balances at September 30, 2024	
	Losses (a)	Gains (b)		Deferred Outflows of Resources (a) - (c)	Deferred Inflows of Resources (b) - (c)
Prior	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2019	-	-	-	-	-
2020	73,906	-	61,590	12,316	-
2021	-	-	-	-	-
2022	-	102,767	51,384	-	51,383
2023	-	-	-	-	-
2024	-	15,256	2,543	-	12,713
				\$ 12,316	\$ 64,096

See notes to required supplementary information.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
OPEB DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND DEFERRED INFLOWS ARISING FROM CHANGES IN ASSUMPTIONS
September 30, 2024

Year	Increases in the Total OPEB Liability		Decreases in the Total OPEB Liability		Amounts Recognized in OPEB Expense Through September 30, 2024		Balances at September 30, 2024	
							Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Prior	\$ -	\$ -	6,420	\$ 6,420	\$ -	\$ -		
2019	22,574	-	-	19,350	3,224	-		
2020	-	-	29,528	24,605	-	4,923		
2021	5,255	-	-	3,504	1,751	-		
2022	-	-	41,411	20,706	-	20,705		
2023	-	-	4,055	1,352	-	2,703		
2024	8,858	-	-	1,476	7,382	-		
					\$ 12,357	\$ 28,331		

See notes to required supplementary information.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

NOTE 1. BUDGETARY INFORMATION

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

The County generally follows these procedures in establishing the budgetary data for the governmental and enterprise funds as reflected in the financial statements:

1. Prior to September 30, the County Manager, serving as Budget Officer, submits to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) a tentative budget for the fiscal year commencing the following October 1. The operating budget includes proposed expenditures and the means of financing them.
2. Public hearings are conducted by the BOCC to obtain taxpayer comments.
3. Prior to September 30, the budget is legally enacted through passage of a resolution by the BOCC.
4. The Constitutional Officers submit, at various times prior to September 30, to the BOCC and to certain divisions within the Department of Revenue, State of Florida, a proposed operating budget for the fiscal year commencing the following October 1. The operating budget includes proposed expenditures and the means of financing them, as set forth in Chapter 129 of the *Florida Statutes*.
5. The Department of Revenue, State of Florida, has the final authority on the operating budgets for the Tax Collector and Property Appraiser, which are classified as separate special revenue funds.
6. The BOCC is authorized to amend fixed appropriations by motion to the extent that appropriations do not exceed the total approved budget of the fund, or appropriate for special purpose intended, reserves or unanticipated receipts. Appropriations lapse at year end. No supplemental appropriations were necessary during the year. Various such amendments were made during the year.
7. Formal budgetary integration is employed as a management control device in all governmental and enterprise funds.
8. Governmental fund budgets are initially adopted on the modified accrual basis. The legally amended budgetary data presented in the accompanying financial statements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024 are shown on this basis of accounting. Therefore, the actual and budgetary data are on a comparable basis.
9. Enterprise fund budgets are adopted on the accrual basis except that depreciation is not budgeted.
10. Legal control of the budget is exercised pursuant to applicable provisions of the *Florida Statutes*.
11. Appropriations for the County lapse at the close of the fiscal year.

Actuarial Methods and Assumptions

The Florida Retirement System (FRS) Actuarial Assumption Conference is responsible for setting the assumptions used in the funding valuations of the defined benefit pension plan pursuant to section 216.136(10), Florida Statutes. The division determines the assumptions in the valuations for GASB 67 reporting purposes. The FRS Pension Plan's GASB 67 is performed annually. The HIS Program has a valuation performed biennially that is updated for GASB reporting in the year a valuation is not performed. The most recent experience study for the FRS Pension Plan was completed in 2019 for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2018. Because the HIS Program is funded on a pay-as-you-go basis, no experience study has been completed for that program. The actuarial assumptions that determined the total pension liability for the HIS Program were based on certain results of the most recent experience study for the FRS Pension Plan.

The total pension liability for each cost-sharing defined benefit plan was determined using the individual entry age actuarial cost method. Inflation increases for both Plans is assumed at 2.40%. Payroll growth, including inflation, for both Plans is assumed at 3.25%. Both the discount rate and the long-term expected rate of return used for the FRS Pension Plan is 6.70%. The Plan's 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 uses a pay-as-you-go funding structure, a municipal bond rate of 2.16% was used to determine the total pension liability for the program (Bond Buyer General Obligation 20-Bond Municipal Bond Index). Mortality assumptions for both Plans were based on the PUB-2010 base table.

The following changes in actuarial assumptions occurred in 2024:

- FRS: The long-term expected rate of return did not change from prior year.
- HIS: The demographic assumptions for the Special Risk class were updated to reflect plan changes due HB007, HB689, and SB838.
- HIS: The election assumption for vested terminated members was updated from 20% to 50% to reflect recent experience.
- HIS: The municipal bond rate used to determine total pension liability was increased from 3.54% to 3.65%.

SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

The following tables demonstrate the sensitivity of the net pension liability to changes in the discount rate. The sensitivity analysis show the impact to the collective net pension liability of the participating employers if the discount rate was 1.00% higher or 1.00% lower than the current discount rate at June 30, 2024:

	1% Decrease (5.70%)	Current Discount Rate (6.70%)	1% Increase (7.70%)
County's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 71,011,694	\$ 40,371,295	\$ 14,703,462

	1% Decrease (2.65%)	Current Discount Rate (3.65%)	1% Increase (4.65%)
County's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 13,037,035	\$ 11,452,356	\$ 10,136,816

PENSION EXPENSE AND DEFERRED OUTFLOWS / INFLOWS OF RESOURCES

In accordance with GASB 68, paragraphs 54 and 71, changes in the net pension liability are recognized in pension expense in the current measurement period, except as indicated below. For each of the following, a portion is recognized in pension expense in the current reporting period, and the balance is amortized as deferred outflows or deferred inflows of resources using a systematic and rational method over a closed period, as defined below:

- Differences between expected and actual experience with regard to economic and demographic factors are amortized over the average expected remaining service life of all employees that are provided with pensions through the pension plan (active and inactive employees)
- Changes of assumptions or other inputs are amortized over the average expected remaining service life of all employees that are provided with pensions through the pension plan (active and inactive employees)
- Changes in proportion and differences between contributions and proportionate share of contributions are amortized over the average expected remaining service life of all employees that are provided with pensions through the pension plan (active and inactive employees)
- Differences between expected and actual earnings on pension plan investments – amortized over five years

Employer contributions to the pension plans from employers are not included in collective pension expense; however, employee contributions are used to reduce pension expense.

The average expected remaining service life of all employees provided with pensions through the pension plans at June 30, 2024, was 5.5 years for FRS and 6.4 years for HIS. The components of collective pension expense reported in the pension allocation schedules for the fiscal year ended June 30, are presented below for each plan.

FRS			
Description	Recognized in Expense Reporting Period Ended 2024	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Service Cost	3,047,443,178	\$ -	\$ -
Interest Cost	14,931,144,439	-	-
Effect of plan changes	-	-	-
Effect of economic, demographic, gains of losses (difference between expected and actual experience)	1,308,454,849	3,908,193,570	-
		-	
Effects of assumptions changes or inputs	2,015,948,050	5,302,092,229	
Member contributions	(808,465,064)	-	-
Projected investment earnings	(12,269,539,019)	-	-
Changes in proportion and differences between Pension Plan contributions and proportionate share of contributions	-	1,711,565,677	(1,711,565,677)
Net difference between projected and actual investment earnings	(2,389,666,779)	-	(2,571,186,588)
Administrative expenses	29,015,291	-	-
Total	\$ 5,864,334,945	\$ 10,921,851,476	\$ (4,282,752,265)

HIS			
Description	Recognized in Expense Reporting Period Ended 2024	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Service Cost	314,151,850	\$ -	\$ -
Interest Cost	601,389,781	-	-
Effect of plan changes	-	-	-
Effect of economic, demographic, gains of losses (difference between expected and actual experience)	80,769,401	144,844,602	(28,804,080)
Effects of assumptions changes or inputs	(361,760,123)	265,482,074	(1,775,923,249)
Member contributions	(261,486)	-	-
Projected investment earnings	(25,568,171)	-	-
Changes in proportion and differences between Pension Plan contributions and proportionate share of contributions	-	649,822,582	(649,822,582)
Net difference between projected and actual investment earnings	-	-	(5,425,306)
Administrative expenses	200,620	-	-
Total	\$ 610,860,284	\$ 1,060,149,258	\$ (2,459,975,217)

Deferred outflows of resources related to employer contributions paid subsequent to the measurement date and prior to the employer's fiscal year end will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the subsequent reporting period. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pension expense will be recognized as follows:

Reporting Period Ending	FRS	HIS
2025	\$ (588,090,685)	\$ (227,099,407)
2026	6,388,723,160	(280,207,963)
2027	465,729,133	(408,190,166)
2028	22,028,129	(285,398,107)
2029	350,709,474	(155,504,039)
Thereafter	-	(43,426,277)
	<u>\$ 6,639,099,211</u>	<u>\$ (1,399,825,959)</u>

NOTE 3. OPEB PLAN

The OPEB schedules are intended to show information for ten years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

Changes in Assumptions :

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024 changes in assumptions were:

	Fiscal Year Ended	
	2023	2024
Economic Assumptions:		
Rate of Growth in Real Income / GDP per capita	1.4%	1.4%
Extra Trend due to Technology and other factors	1.0%	0.9%
Expected Health Share of GDP in 2031	19.0%	19.0%
Health Share of GDP Resistance Point	20.0%	17.0%
Discount Rate Assumptions:	4.40%	3.88%
Interest Rate Assumption;	4.40%	3.88%

**OTHER INFORMATION
FUND COMBINING STATEMENTS**

**COLUMBIA COUNTY FLORIDA
NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
COMBINING BALANCE SHEET
September 30, 2024**

	Special Revenue Funds												
	Clerk of Courts			Property Appraiser	Sheriff				Supervisor of Elections	Tax Collector	Board of County Commissioners		
	Public Records Modernization		Teen Court	Operating	Minimum Standards	Drug Task Force	Inmate Welfare	Work Program	Operating	Operating	Court Reporters	Impact Fees	Sheriff ESAC
	Operating	Trust			School								
ASSETS													
Current assets													
Cash	\$ 44,759	\$ 443,237	\$ 35,598	\$ 93,365	\$ 25,023	\$ 22,476	\$ 1,471,648	\$ 13,553	\$ 25,078	\$ 224,535	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 66,869
Accounts receivable	-	-	-	-	-	-	58,822	-	-	-	-	-	-
Due from other funds	197,972	10,696	955	-	-	-	50,775	-	52,077	60,785	101,880	326,808	-
Due from other governmental units	79,372	270	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total assets	322,103	454,203	36,553	93,365	25,023	22,476	1,581,245	13,553	77,155	285,320	101,880	326,808	66,869
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES													
LIABILITIES													
Current liabilities													
Accounts payable	-	-	-	-	-	1,190	71,519	-	27,908	-	-	-	-
Accrued wages	57,194	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49,247	45,792	-	-	-
Due to other funds	238,608	26,473	-	91,320	-	-	177,611	-	-	231,976	-	-	-
Due to other governmental units	591	-	-	2,045	-	-	-	-	-	7,552	-	-	-
Deposits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other current liabilities	25,710	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unearned revenues	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total liabilities	322,103	26,473	-	93,365	-	1,190	249,130	-	77,155	285,320	-	-	-
FUND BALANCES													
Nonspendable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted	-	427,730	36,553	-	25,023	21,286	1,332,115	13,553	-	-	101,880	326,808	66,869
Assigned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total fund balances	-	427,730	36,553	-	25,023	21,286	1,332,115	13,553	-	-	101,880	326,808	66,869
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$ 322,103	\$ 454,203	\$ 36,553	\$ 93,365	\$ 25,023	\$ 22,476	\$ 1,581,245	\$ 13,553	\$ 77,155	\$ 285,320	\$ 101,880	\$ 326,808	\$ 66,869

(continued)

See notes to financial statements.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY FLORIDA
NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
COMBINING BALANCE SHEET
September 30, 2024**

	Special Revenue Funds					Debt Service Fund				Capital Projects			Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds
	Board of County Commissioners												
	CDBG	Court Service	Law Enforcement Special	Library Enhancement Grant	SHIP	Tourist Development Tax	Jail Debt Service	Road Improvement Debt Service	Paving Assess- ments	Road Improvements	Jail Construction	Sheriff Construction	
ASSETS													
Cash	\$ -	\$ 203,329	\$ -	\$ 1,414,552	\$ 1,471,769	\$ 2,364,361	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,608,426	\$ 316,738	\$ 2,309,336	\$ 16,154,652
Accounts receivable	-	-	-	82	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	58,904
Due from other funds	-	136,917	23,518	605,735	-	1,426,354	727,470	96,584	218,445	-	-	-	4,036,971
Due from other governmental units	55,334	15,421	-	10,767	-	177,667	45,941	-	-	2,260,719	3,000	-	2,648,491
Prepaid items	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	-	527,720	1,565	-	-	754,003	-	-	-	1,523,010	-	-	2,806,298
Total assets	55,334	883,387	25,083	2,031,136	1,471,769	4,722,385	773,411	96,584	218,445	9,392,155	319,738	2,309,336	25,705,316
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES													
LIABILITIES													
Current liabilities													
Accounts payable	-	2,891	-	12,607	6,750	9,426	-	-	-	648,697	-	987	781,975
Accrued wages payable	-	-	-	72,898	-	8,354	-	-	-	-	-	-	233,485
Due to other funds	55,334	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,749,888	312,396	-	4,883,606
Due to other governmental units	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,188
Deposits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other current liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,710
Unearned revenues	-	-	-	-	529,136	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	529,136
Total liabilities	55,334	2,891	-	85,505	535,886	17,780	-	-	-	4,398,585	312,396	987	6,464,100
FUND BALANCES													
Nonspendable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted	-	880,496	25,083	1,945,631	935,883	4,704,605	773,411	96,584	218,445	-	-	2,308,349	14,240,304
Assigned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,993,570	7,342	-	5,000,912
Total fund balances	-	880,496	25,083	1,945,631	935,883	4,704,605	773,411	96,584	218,445	4,993,570	7,342	2,308,349	19,241,216
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$ 55,334	\$ 883,387	\$ 25,083	\$ 2,031,136	\$ 1,471,769	\$ 4,722,385	\$ 773,411	\$ 96,584	\$ 218,445	\$ 9,392,155	\$ 319,738	\$ 2,309,336	\$ 25,058,770

See notes to financial statements.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY FLORIDA
NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
For the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2024**

	Special Revenue Funds												
	Clerk of Courts			Property Appraiser	Sheriff				Supervisor of Elections	Tax Collector	Board of County Commissioners		
	Clerk of Courts Operating	Public Records Modernization Trust	Teen Court	Operating	Minimum Standards School	Drug Task Force	Inmate Welfare	Work Program	Operating	Operating	Court Reporters	Impact Fees	Sheriff ESAC
REVENUES													
Taxes	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Licenses, permits, assessments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Intergovernmental revenue	368,732	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	171,454	-	-
Charges for services	1,472,972	125,362	12,776	48,539	-	13,725	739,394	279	-	2,432,113	-	-	-
Fines and forfeitures	143,487	-	-	-	6,910	1,950	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interest income	27,006	-	-	40	224	299	25,562	296	-	12,835	-	2,700	495
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	397	-	150	8,426	-	2,149	2,548	-	-	-
Total revenues	<u>2,012,197</u>	<u>125,362</u>	<u>12,776</u>	<u>48,976</u>	<u>7,134</u>	<u>16,084</u>	<u>773,382</u>	<u>575</u>	<u>2,149</u>	<u>2,447,496</u>	<u>171,454</u>	<u>2,700</u>	<u>495</u>
EXPENDITURES													
Current expenditures													
General government	268,451	7,430	-	2,216,859	-	-	-	-	1,389,078	2,246,124	182,818	-	-
Public safety	-	-	-	-	2,161	28,284	354,126	42	-	-	-	-	-
Physical environment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Economic environment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Human services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Culture/recreation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Court - related	2,425,255	326,129	9,669	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital outlay													
General government	-	17,338	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public safety	-	-	-	-	-	-	198,319	-	-	-	-	-	-
Physical environment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Economic environment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Culture/recreation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Court - related	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Debt service													
Principal	4,927	-	-	-	-	-	4,459	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	306	-	-	-	-	-	318	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditures	<u>2,698,939</u>	<u>390,897</u>	<u>9,669</u>	<u>2,216,859</u>	<u>2,161</u>	<u>28,284</u>	<u>557,222</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>1,389,078</u>	<u>2,246,124</u>	<u>182,818</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures	(686,742)	(225,535)	3,107	(2,167,883)	4,973	(12,200)	216,160	533	(1,386,929)	201,372	(11,364)	2,700	495
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)													
Sale of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	44,788
Debt proceeds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lease financings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interfund transfers in	686,742	260,567	-	2,167,883	-	-	-	-	1,386,929	30,604	-	-	-
Interfund transfers out	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(231,976)	-	-	-
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>686,742</u>	<u>260,567</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,167,883</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,386,929</u>	<u>(201,372)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>44,788</u>
Net change in fund balances	-	35,032	3,107	-	4,973	(12,200)	216,160	533	-	-	(11,364)	2,700	45,283
Fund balances beginning of year	-	392,698	33,446	-	20,050	33,486	1,115,955	13,020	-	-	113,244	324,108	21,586
Fund balances end of year	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 427,730</u>	<u>\$ 36,553</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 25,023</u>	<u>\$ 21,286</u>	<u>\$ 1,332,115</u>	<u>\$ 13,553</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 101,880</u>	<u>\$ 326,808</u>	<u>\$ 66,869</u>

(Continued)

See notes to financial statements.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY FLORIDA
NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
For the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2024**

	Special Revenue Funds				Debt Service Funds				Capital Projects Funds				Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds
	Board of County Commissioners												
	CDBG	Court Service	Law Enforcement Special	Library Enhancement Grant	SHIP	Tourist Development Tax	Jail Debt Service	Road Improvement Debt Service	Paving Assess- ments	Road Improvements	Jail Construction	Sheriff Construction	
REVENUES													
Taxes	\$ -	\$ 375,000	\$ -	\$ 1,222,847	\$ -	\$ 2,202,540	\$ -	\$ 624,341	\$ -	\$ 1,462,326	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,887,054
Licenses, permits, assessments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,492	-	-	-	-	4,492
Intergovernmental revenue	55,334	-	-	728,297	872,062	-	593,060	-	3,511,995	-	-	-	6,300,934
Charges for services	-	138,226	-	7,004	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,990,390
Fines and forfeitures	-	-	-	7,579	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	159,926
Interest income	-	40,714	155	52,414	6,460	136,030	1,472	712	319,285	12,745	22,581	-	662,538
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	16,753	7,800	94,322	-	-	-	-	-	-	132,545
Total revenues	55,334	553,940	155	2,034,894	886,322	2,432,892	594,532	625,053	5,045	5,293,606	12,745	22,581	18,137,879
EXPENDITURES													
Current expenditures													
General government	-	15,913	-	-	-	-	-	1,262	-	-	-	-	6,327,935
Public safety	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	384,613
Physical environment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	120	5,019,525	-	-	-	5,019,645
Economic environment	22,277	7,547	-	-	872,062	1,298,099	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,199,985
Human services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Culture/recreation	-	-	-	1,931,526	-	14,957	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,946,483
Court-related	-	474,918	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,235,971
Capital outlay													
General government	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,338
Public safety	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,217	-	228,536
Physical environment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,123,486	-	-	-	2,123,486
Economic environment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Human services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Culture/recreation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Court-related	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Debt service													
Principal	-	-	-	-	-	17,512	516,431	624,000	-	-	-	-	1,167,329
Interest	-	-	-	-	-	1,303	119,270	136,354	-	-	-	-	257,551
Total expenditures	22,277	498,378	-	1,931,526	872,062	1,331,871	635,701	760,354	1,382	7,143,011	30,217	-	22,908,872
Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures	33,057	55,562	155	103,368	14,260	1,101,021	(41,169)	(135,301)	3,663	(1,849,405)	12,745	(7,636)	(4,770,993)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)													
Sale of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-	12,855	-	-	-	-	-	-	57,643
Debt proceeds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lease financings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Intertund transfers in	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,532,725
Intertund transfers out	-	-	-	-	-	(350,000)	-	-	(210,000)	(175,000)	-	-	(966,976)
Total other financing sources (uses)	-	-	-	-	-	(337,145)	-	-	(210,000)	(175,000)	-	-	3,623,392
Net change in fund balances	33,057	55,562	155	103,368	14,260	763,876	(41,169)	(135,301)	3,663	(2,059,405)	(162,255)	(7,636)	(1,147,601)
Fund balances beginning of year	(33,057)	824,934	24,928	1,842,263	921,623	3,940,729	814,580	231,885	214,782	7,052,975	169,597	2,315,985	20,388,817
Fund balances end of year	\$ -	\$ 880,496	\$ 25,083	\$ 1,945,631	\$ 935,883	\$ 4,704,605	\$ 773,411	\$ 96,584	\$ 218,445	\$ 4,993,570	\$ 7,342	\$ 2,308,349	\$ 19,241,216

See notes to financial statements.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY FLORIDA
COMBINING STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
CUSTODIAL FUNDS
September 30, 2024**

	Clerk of Circuit Court				Sheriff				Tax Collector		Totals	
	Clerk's Trust	Employee Sunshine	Domestic Relations	Jury Witness	Public Defender Occupancy	Individual Depositors	Inmate Trust	Donation Trust	Evidence Trust	Tag		Ad Valorem Tax
					Trust					Agency		Agency
ASSETS												
Cash	\$ 1,960,561	\$ 3,132	\$ 848	\$ 3,751	\$ 10,328	\$ 5,239	\$ 41,659	\$ 30,130	\$ 115,525	\$ 83,407	\$ 1,680,606	\$ 3,935,186
Due from other funds	94,198	-	-	-	-	-	29,378	-	-	-	-	123,576
Other current assets	-	-	-	-	147	-	-	-	-	-	-	147
Total assets	\$ 2,054,759	\$ 3,132	\$ 848	\$ 3,751	\$ 10,475	\$ 5,239	71,037	30,130	115,525	\$ 83,407	\$ 1,680,606	\$ 4,058,909
LIABILITIES												
Court fees payable	\$ 539,395	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 539,395
Due to other funds	210,999	-	-	153	-	5,239	54,163	-	-	-	91,769	362,323
Due to other governmental units	358,008	-	848	-	-	-	-	-	-	68,509	1,444,560	1,871,925
Total liabilities	1,108,402	-	848	153	-	5,239	54,163	-	-	68,509	1,536,329	2,773,643
NET POSITION	\$ 946,357	\$ 3,132	\$ -	\$ 3,598	\$ 10,475	\$ -	\$ 16,874	\$ 30,130	\$ 115,525	\$ 14,898	\$ 144,277	\$ 1,285,266

**COLUMBIA COUNTY FLORIDA
COMBINING STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
CUSTODIAL FUNDS
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024**

	Clerk of Courts					Sheriff				Tax Collector		Totals
	Clerk's Trust	Employee Sunshine	Domestic Relations	Jury Witness	Public Defender Occupancy Trust	Individual Depositors	Inmate Trust	Donation Trust	Evidence Trust	Tag Agency	Ad Valorem Tax Agency	
ADDITIONS												
Funds held for others	697,755	\$ 1,177	\$ -	\$ 9,435	\$ 89,611	\$ -	\$ 684,378	\$ 57,064	\$ 99,467	\$ 175,960	\$ 5,578,776	\$ 7,393,623
Cash bonds	119,097	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	119,097
Taxes collected for other governments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	74,938,811	74,938,811
Tax Collector licenses and fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,834,926	-	7,834,926
Sheriff civil fees	-	-	-	-	-	94,276	-	-	-	-	-	94,276
Fines, fees and court costs	8,554,817	-	5,230	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,560,047
Total additions	9,371,669	1,177	5,230	9,435	89,611	94,276	684,378	57,064	99,467	8,010,886	80,517,587	98,940,780
DEDUCTIONS												
Funds held for others	514,704	375	5,230	9,676	87,366	-	1,023,627	38,793	88,324	\$ 176,341	5,609,761	7,554,197
Cash bonds	176,223	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	176,223
Fines, fees and court costs	8,554,817	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,554,817
Taxes and fees payable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,834,927	-	7,834,927
Sheriff civil fees	-	-	-	-	-	95,766	-	-	-	-	-	95,766
Property taxes and fees payables	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	74,934,807	74,934,807
Total deductions	9,245,744	375	5,230	9,676	87,366	95,766	1,023,627	38,793	88,324	8,011,268	80,544,568	99,150,737
Change in net position	125,925	802	-	(241)	2,245	(1,490)	(339,249)	18,271	11,143	(382)	(26,981)	(209,957)
Net position - beginning of year	820,432	2,330	-	3,839	8,230	1,490	356,123	11,859	104,382	15,280	171,258	1,495,223
Net position - end of year	\$ 946,357	\$ 3,132	\$ -	\$ 3,598	\$ 10,475	\$ -	16,874	30,130	115,525	\$ 14,898	\$ 144,277	\$ 1,285,266

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS AND STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

FEDERAL OR STATE GRANTOR / PASS THROUGH GRANTOR / PROGRAM TITLE	ALN	Major Program	Grant #	Program award amount	Expenditures
FEDERAL AWARDS					
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development					
Passed through the State of Florida Department of Economic Opportunity					
Community Development Block Grant - Small Cities	14.228		22DB-OP-33-22-01-H04	\$ 750,000	\$ 22,278
Community Development Block Grant - Hi-Dry Acres Stormwater	14.228		IR048	4,762,258	159,762
Community Development Block Grant - Parnell Hills Stormwater	14.228		IR044	3,614,119	148,799
				<u>9,126,377</u>	<u>330,838</u>
U.S. Department of Justice					
Passed through Bureau of Justice Assistance/Office of Criminal Justice Grants					
Bulletproof Vest Grant Partnership Program	16.607		FY2022	6,899	3,903
Bulletproof Vest Grant Partnership Program	16.607		FY2023	4,726	4,542
				<u>11,625</u>	<u>8,445</u>
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services					
Passed through the Florida Department of Revenue					
Title IV-D Funds	93.563		N/A	79,305	79,305
				<u>79,305</u>	<u>79,305</u>
U.S. Department of Homeland Security					
Federal Emergency Management Agency					
Homeland Security Grant Program Crime Analyst FY20	97.067		R0680	58,000	20,704
Homeland Security Grant Program Crime Analyst FY19	97.067		R0904	58,000	30,689
				<u>116,000</u>	<u>51,393</u>
Passed through the State of Florida Executive Office of the Governmor					
Emergency Management Performance (EMPG)	97.042		G0484	53,162	45,229
				<u>53,162</u>	<u>45,229</u>
Passed through the State of Florida Executive Office of the Governmor					
Public Assistance Grants - Hurricane Ian	97.036	*	Z3319	14,218	14,218
Public Assistance Grants - Hurricane Idalia	97.036	*	Z3975	1,007,940	942,413
				<u>1,022,158</u>	<u>956,631</u>
Department of the Treasury					
Passed through the State of Florida, Department of State					
Covid-19 Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds - Old Richardson School	21.027	*	23.s.aa.900.134	500,000	16,298
Passed through Florida Department of Environmental Protection					
Covid-19 Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds - NFMIP WWT	21.027	*	22/23-055	2,960,000	2,960,000
				<u>3,460,000</u>	<u>2,976,298</u>
TOTAL FEDERAL AWARDS				<u>13,868,627</u>	<u>4,448,139</u>

See notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and State Financial Assistance.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS AND STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

FEDERAL OR STATE GRANTOR / PASS THROUGH GRANTOR / PROGRAM TITLE	CFSA #	Major Program	Grant #	Program award amount	Expenditures
STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE					
Department of Emergency Management					
Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Grant	31.063		A0402	105,806	80,622
				<u>105,806</u>	<u>80,622</u>
Florida Department of Environmental Protection					
Small County Solid Waste Grant Agreement	37.012		SC404	93,750	93,750
				<u>93,750</u>	<u>93,750</u>
I-75 / SR 247 Regional Pond	37.039		LPR0015	2,510,000	17,548
Statewide Water Quality Restoration Projects	37.039		WG050	3,359,615	3,359,615
Statewide Water Quality Restoration Projects	37.039		LPA0496	5,716,000	-
				<u>11,585,615</u>	<u>3,377,163</u>
Florida Department of Financial Services					
Renovate Fire Station #51	43.009		FM883	950,000	103,895
				<u>950,000</u>	<u>103,895</u>
Florida Department of Health					
Florida Firefighter Cancer Decontamination Equipment Grant Program	43.013		FM845	7,407	7,407
				<u>7,407</u>	<u>7,407</u>
Florida Department of Commerce					
Regional Community Development and Infrastructure	40.042	*	D0269	5,000,000	2,123,486
				<u>5,000,000</u>	<u>2,123,486</u>
Local Economic Development Initiatives	40.038		HL194	475,000	275,524
				<u>475,000</u>	<u>275,524</u>
Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services					
Anthropod Mosquito Control State Aid	42.003		30632	37,749	37,749
				<u>37,749</u>	<u>37,749</u>
Florida Department of State					
State Aid to Libraries Grant	45.030		24-ST-09	476,696	476,696
				<u>476,696</u>	<u>476,696</u>
Florida Housing Finance Corporation					
State Housing Initiatives Program					
SHIP Grant Program YR 22/23	40.901		FY22-23	668,830	163,045
SHIP Grant Program YR 23/24	40.901		FY23-24	845,192	709,018
				<u>1,514,022</u>	<u>872,063</u>
Florida Department of Transportation					
Small County Outreach Program - CR 241	55.009	*	435325-1-54-02		
Small County Outreach Program - Jordan St	55.009	*	G2156	408,827	330,083
Small County Outreach Program - Queen Chambria Windfield	55.009	*	G2500	2,475,000	2,258,147
Small County Outreach Program - Charles Terr	55.009	*	G2864	1,236,875	1,236,875
Small County Outreach Program - Dortch St	55.009	*	G2G42	610,187	51,750
				<u>6,857,764</u>	<u>4,965,953</u>
Local Transportation Projects Bascom Norris Faith to SR47	55.039	*	G2T47	1,237,500	126,703
				<u>1,237,500</u>	<u>126,703</u>
Florida Department of Law Enforcement					
Law Enforcement Salary Assistance for Fiscally Constrained Counties	71.067		ME004	1,378,388	1,378,388
				<u>1,378,388</u>	<u>1,378,388</u>
Florida E-911 Board					
911 STATE GRANT PROGRAM	72.003		S22-23-01-14	227,104	39,312
911 STATE GRANT PROGRAM	72.003		S25-24-01-07	30,063	8,099
911 STATE GRANT PROGRAM	72.003		S25-24-01-06	109,340	1,000
				<u>366,507</u>	<u>48,411</u>
911 STATE GRANT PROGRAM	72.001		S25-24-01-05	29,000	29,000
911 STATE GRANT PROGRAM	72.001		S25-24-01-04	50,262	50,262
911 STATE GRANT PROGRAM	72.001		24-04-04	125,508	125,508
				<u>204,770</u>	<u>204,770</u>
TOTAL STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE				<u>\$ 30,290,974</u>	<u>\$ 14,172,580</u>

See notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and State Financial Assistance.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

**Notes to Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and State Financial Assistance
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024**

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and State Financial Assistance includes the federal and state award activity of Columbia County, Florida and is presented in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards and Chapter 10.550, Rules of the State of Florida, Office of the Auditor General.

A. Reporting Entity

The reporting entity consists of Columbia County, the primary government, and each of its component units. The County includes a Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and State Financial Assistance in the Supplemental Information.

B. Basis of Accounting

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

The accrual basis of accounting is followed in the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and State Financial Assistance. Therefore, some amounts presented in this schedule may differ from amounts presented in, or used in the preparation of, the financial statements.

NOTE 2. Indirect Cost Rate

The County did not elect to use the 10% de minimis cost rate.

NOTE 3. Subrecipients

The County had no subrecipients during the fiscal year.

OTHER REPORTS AND LETTERS



Powell and Jones CPA

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' 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*

To the Board of County Commissioners
and Constitutional Officers
Columbia 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 governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Columbia County, Florida, as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Columbia County, Florida's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated September 30, 2025.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In connection with our engagement to audit the financial statements of Columbia County, Florida, we considered the County'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 the County's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses and significant deficiencies.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the County's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. We consider

the deficiency described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs as finding number Board-2024-001 to be a material weaknesses.

A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. We consider the deficiencies described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs as finding number Board-2024-002, Clerk-2024-1, Clerk-2024-2, SOE-2024-1 and SOE-2024-2 to be significant deficiencies.

Compliance and Other Matters

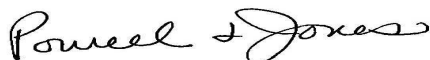
As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Columbia County, Florida's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct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

Columbia County's Response to Findings

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the County's response to the findings identified in our engagement and described in the accompanying Management's Response to Findings. The County's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the engagement to audit the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

Purpose of this Report

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



Powell and Jones CPA
Lake City, Florida
September 30, 2025



Powell and Jones CPA

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Phone 386.755.4200

MANAGEMENT LETTER

Honorable Board of
County Commissioners
and Constitutional Officers
Columbia County, Florida

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the financial statements of Columbia County, Florida (the County), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, and have issued our report thereon dated September 30, 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; 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 on 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 Report(s) 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 September 30, 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. Corrective actions have been taken to address findings and recommendations made in the preceding financial audit report.

Tabulation of Uncorrected Audit Findings			
Constitutional Officer	Current Yar Finding No.	2022-23 FY Finding No.	2021-22 FY Finding No.
Supervisor of Elections	2024-1	2024-1	N/A
Supervisor of Elections	2024-2	2024-2	N/A

AUDITOR GENERAL COMPLIANCE MATTERS

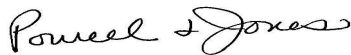
Financial Emergency Status - We determined that the County had not met any of conditions described in Section 218.503(1), *Florida Statutes*, that might result in a financial emergency.

Financial Condition Assessment - As required by the *Rules of the Auditor General*, Sections 10.544(1)(i)5.a. and 10.556(7), we applied financial condition assessment procedures. It is management's responsibility to monitor the entity's financial condition, and our financial condition assessment was based in part on representations made by management and the review of financial information they provided.

Our audit did not disclose any further items that would be required to be reported under the *Rules of the Auditor General*, Chapter 10.550.

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Programs - As required by Section 10.554(1)(i)6.a., Rules of the Auditor General, the County did not have a property assessed clean energy (PACE) program that finances qualifying improvements authorized pursuant to Section 163.081 or Section 163.082, *Florida Statutes*, operated within the County's geographical boundaries during the fiscal year under audit.

CONCLUSION - We have reviewed information regarding our audit with appropriate County officials and management and have provided them with appropriate documentation as requested. We very much enjoyed the challenges and experiences associated with this audit of the County. We look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship with the Board of County Commissioners and other County Officials and employees. We also appreciate the helpful assistance and courtesy afforded us by all County employees.



Powell and Jones CPA
Lake City, Florida
September 30, 2025



Powell and Jones CPA

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Phone 386.755.4200

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

To the Board of County Commissioners
Columbia County, Florida

We have examined Columbia County, Florida's (the County) compliance with Section 218.415, *Florida Statutes*, regarding the investment of public funds during the year ended September 30, 2024. We have also examined the Clerk of the Circuit Court's (Clerk's) compliance with Section 61.181, *Florida Statutes*, regarding the Clerk's alimony and child support payments and Sections 28.35 and 28.36; *Florida Statutes* as to the following during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024:

- a. The budget and performance standards developed and certified by the Florida Clerk of Courts Operations Corporation and Sections 28.35 and 28.36 *Florida Statutes*.

We also examined the County's compliance with Section 365.172(10) and 365.173(2)(d) *Florida Statutes* and requirements specified by the E911 board grant and special disbursement programs. These laws require that E911 fee revenues, interest and E911 grant funding be used to pay for authorized expenditures as specified in the *Statutes*.

Management is responsible for the County's and Clerk's respective compliance with those requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the County's and the Clerk's compliance based on our examinations.

Our examinations were conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and, accordingly, included examining, on a test basis, evidence about the County's and the Clerk's compliance with those respective requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our examinations provide a reasonable basis for our opinion. Our examinations do not provide a legal determination on the County's and the Clerk's compliance with specified requirements.

In our opinion, Columbia County, Florida and the Columbia County Clerk of the Circuit Court complied, in all material respects, with the aforementioned requirements for the year ended September 30, 2024.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of Columbia County, Florida, the Clerk, and the Auditor General, State of Florida, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Powell & Jones

Powell and Jones CPA
Lake City, Florida
September 30, 2025



Powell and Jones CPA

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

Honorable Board of County Commissioners
and Constitutional Officers
Columbia 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 Columbia County, Florida's compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the OMB *Compliance Supplement*, and the requirements described in the Department of Financial Services' *State Projects Compliance Supplement*, that could have a direct and material effect on each of Columbia County, Florida's major Federal programs and State projects for the year ended September 30, 2024. Columbia 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, Columbia County, Florida complied, in all material respects, with the types of 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; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance); and Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General. Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of Columbia 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. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of Columbia 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 Columbia 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 Columbia 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 generally accepted auditing standards, *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 Columbia 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 generally accepted auditing standards, *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 Columbia 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 Columbia 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, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Columbia 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.

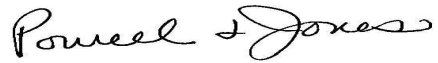
Report on Internal Control over Compliance

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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Powell & Jones".

Powell and Jones CPA
Lake City, Florida
September 30, 2025

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

Summary of Auditor's Results

Financial Statements

Type of auditor's report issued	Unmodified
Internal control over financial reporting	
*Material weakness identified?	Yes
*Significant deficiencies identified not considered to be a material weakness?	Yes
Noncompliance material to financial statements	No

Federal Awards

Internal control over major programs:	
* Material weakness identified?	No
* Significant deficiencies identified that are not considered to be material weaknesses?	None reported

Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for major programs:	Unmodified
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Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200	No
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Identification of major programs:

<u>Assistance Listing Number</u>	<u>Name of Federal Programs</u>
97.036	U.S Department of Homeland Security Emergency Management Performance
21.027	Department of Treasury Covid-19 Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between Type A and Type B programs:	\$750,000
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Auditee qualified as low risk auditee?	No
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Summary of Auditor's Results

State Financial Assistance

Internal control over major projects:	
● Material weakness identified?	No
● Significant deficiencies identified not considered to be material weaknesses?	None reported

Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for major projects:	Unmodified
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Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with Rule 10.656, <i>Rules of the Auditor General?</i>	No
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Identification of Major Programs:

<u>Assistance Listing Number</u>	<u>Name of State Programs</u>
55.009	DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Small County Outreach Program
40.042	DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY Regional Community Department and Infrastructure

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between Type A and Type B programs:	\$750,000
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(Continued)

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Material Weakness

Board-2024-001: Internal Controls Over Grant Activities

Criteria

Billings for grants should be submitted in accordance with the terms of each grant agreement. When specific billing requirements are not stated, it is generally considered best practice to submit billings at least monthly. Submitting requests in a timely manner ensures compliance with grantor expectations, minimizes the risk of disallowed costs, and protects the County's cash flow position. Effective internal control procedures should also provide a centralized process for monitoring agreements, require regular reconciliations of expenditures and receivables, maintain segregation of duties in the billing process, and include periodic management review of compliance and outstanding balances. These controls are consistent with generally accepted standards for government grant management and are designed to safeguard assets, ensure compliance, and support accurate financial reporting.

Condition

At the commencement of the audit, no receivables had been recorded for the current year activity of the County's grant programs. Upon further review of expenditures with the Finance Department, we identified approximately \$9.9 million in unrecorded receivables related to reimbursement-based grants.

We noted that the majority of grant reimbursements had not been submitted in a timely manner. Many reimbursement requests were made more than six months after the underlying expenditures occurred. At the start of our audit, approximately \$5.8 million in grant-related expenditures had not yet been billed.

Additionally, more than \$800,000 in grant funding related to Hurricane Irma remained outstanding. The granting agency had not released the funds, and no recent follow-up had been made until after we were made aware of the situation, even though several years had elapsed and the original grant term had expired. Based on their communications with the granting agency, County management still believes the funds will eventually be received.

Cause

The County does not have a centralized or formalized system of internal controls over grant administration. There is no standardized process to track grant applications, approvals, ongoing compliance requirements, or billing deadlines. Department heads are independently responsible for managing all aspects of their grants, including billing and reporting, without sufficient oversight, monitoring, or coordination with Finance.

Effect

Failure to submit grant expenditures for billing in a timely manner reduces the County's available cash flow for operations and foregoes potential interest earnings on funds that could otherwise be invested. Several grants were not in compliance with their billing requirements, which often mandate monthly or quarterly submissions. Noncompliance with grant terms increases the risk that costs may be deemed unallowable or that revenues may be forfeited if deadlines are missed.

Although County management believes all funds will ultimately be collected, we were unable to obtain assurance that every outstanding receivable will be realized. While it is likely that all grant revenues will be received, delays in reimbursement and lack of formal controls create both financial and compliance risks.

Recommendation

We recommend that the County establish a centralized grant management function by hiring or designating a grant manager. This individual should be responsible for overseeing the full lifecycle of grants, from award to closeout. The role should include maintaining a comprehensive inventory of active grants, ensuring reimbursement requests are submitted in accordance with schedules, coordinating with departments to confirm compliance, monitoring outstanding receivables, ensuring reports are submitted accurately and on time, collaborating with Finance on proper accounting and reconciliation, and providing periodic compliance and status updates to management.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

In addition, the County should implement written policies and procedures that define responsibilities, require reconciliations of grant activity, enforce segregation of duties, and mandate periodic compliance reviews. While the grant managers do not need to personally complete every billing or reporting task, they should provide oversight, accountability, and reminders across departments, with approval authority for non-payroll grant-related expenditures.

Implementation of both a centralized grant management function and formal internal control procedures will strengthen oversight, improve cash flow, reduce compliance risk, and help ensure consistent and timely reporting across all County grants.

Significant Deficiency

Board-2024-002: Building and Zoning Department Deposits and Reconciliations

Criteria

Cash receipts should be deposited into the bank promptly, preferably on a daily or next-business-day basis, to safeguard public funds and minimize the risk of loss or misappropriation. Deposit reconciliations should also be submitted to the Finance Department in a timely manner to support accurate and timely bank reconciliations. Strong internal controls in governmental finance require established deposit deadlines, segregation of duties in cash handling, and active management oversight to ensure accountability and compliance with County policies and Florida Statutes.

Condition

During our audit, we noted that cash collected for building permits by the Building and Zoning Department was not consistently deposited into the bank in a timely manner. In addition, deposit reconciliations were not being provided promptly to the Finance Department, which prevented Finance from preparing bank reconciliations on schedule. Management has since recognized this issue, implemented the use of a courier service to improve deposit timeliness, and obtained a commitment from the Building and Zoning Department to submit reconciliations more promptly.

Cause

The delays were the result of insufficient internal controls and accountability in the cash deposit and reconciliation process. The Building and Zoning Department did not have a structured process with enforced deadlines for depositing cash and transmitting reconciliations to Finance, and there was a lack of oversight to ensure compliance with established procedures.

Effect

Failure to deposit cash receipts promptly increases the risk of loss, theft, or misappropriation of County funds. In addition, late submission of deposit reconciliations delays the County's ability to perform timely bank reconciliations, weakens oversight of cash activity, and undermines the accuracy and timeliness of financial reporting.

Recommendation

We recommend that the County strengthen internal controls over cash handling and deposit reconciliations in the Building and Zoning Department. Specifically, the County should implement a written policy requiring that all cash receipts be deposited daily or the next business day, with reconciliations submitted to Finance at the same time. Finance should monitor the timeliness of deposits and follow up on late or missing reports. County management should receive periodic reports on compliance to maintain oversight. Implementation of these controls will help safeguard cash assets, ensure timely deposits and reconciliations, strengthen oversight of cash handling, and reduce the risk of financial misstatements or loss.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
CLERK OF COURTS
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

CLERK OF COURTS

Significant Deficiency

Clerk-2024-1: Classification Errors and Misstatement of Refunds

Criteria

Per Florida Statutes, transactions must be classified in accordance with their nature and purpose to ensure transparency, budgetary compliance, accurate reimbursement amounts, and consistency with statewide reporting standards. Proper classification is also essential for fund reporting and intergovernmental comparisons. Additionally, governmental entities have a fiduciary responsibility to manage public funds with accuracy and accountability, ensuring that transactions are properly authorized, recoverable when appropriate, and reflected accurately in financial statements.

Condition

During our audit, we identified several classification errors in the recording of expenditures, interest earned on cash, and refunds across numerous functional categories and account codes. Notably, refunds issued to payors, after funds had already been remitted to other governmental agencies, were recorded as receivables on the Clerk's Trust Fund balance sheet, despite no recovery mechanism being in place. These misclassifications, along with other errors, were material to the Clerk's financial statements and required audit adjustments to ensure accurate presentation.

Cause

The misclassifications appear to have resulted from a lack of clarity on the prescribed treatment of certain transactions listed above, the absence of a secondary review prior to financial statement preparation, and an incorrect assumption that refunded amounts would be reimbursed despite no formal process for recovery.

Effect

The aggregate impact of these errors did not materially affect the County's consolidated financial statements; however, they were material to the Clerk's standalone financials. Specifically, the accumulated balance of misclassified refunds exceeded \$94,000 and was reclassified as expenditures in the current year to reflect the true nature of the transactions. If left uncorrected, these misstatements could affect budgetary compliance, public transparency, and the Clerk's ability to demonstrate proper stewardship of public funds.

Recommendation

We recommend the Clerk's office implement the following corrective actions:

- Gain greater clarity on the standards related to the treatment of the items in question through targeted training for finance staff.
- Establish a formal review protocol for the classification the various transactions at month end and year-end.
- Develop a documented policy for handling refunds issued after remittance, including criteria for issuance and a recovery process when applicable.
- Strengthen internal controls to ensure proper classification and accountability in the management of public funds

Clerk-2024-2: Untimely Response to Audit Requests

Criteria

Timely and complete responses to audit requests are essential to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the audit process. Governmental entities are expected to cooperate with auditors and provide requested documentation within a reasonable timeframe to support transparency and accountability.

Condition

The Clerk did not provide requested audit documentation in a timely manner. Per the audit contract with the County, the books of the Board and all constitutional officers are to be closed out by November 30 to allow audit procedures to begin in December. However, the Clerk's Office indicated that audit fieldwork could not begin until March. Initial audit request

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
CLERK OF COURTS
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

lists were provided on March 7, but the Clerk's finance director was unavailable to begin on-site fieldwork until April 21.

As the audit progressed, additional documentation requests were sent to the Clerk on May 6. Despite four weekly follow-up emails, only one item was addressed prior to July. A subsequent follow-up in early July resulted in the full response to the May 6 request list on July 22. After this date, the finance director was generally responsive to audit inquiries through the conclusion of fieldwork.

Cause

The cause for the extended response time suggests a lack of adequate internal processes related to responding to audit inquiries and the lack of adequate year-end close procedures. Effect: The delay in receiving audit documentation hindered the audit team's ability to complete procedures within the planned timeline. This resulted in increased time spent on the audit and impacted the timeliness of financial reporting and oversight.

Recommendation

We recommend the Clerk implement procedures to ensure that the financial records are closed no later than two months after the fiscal year-end. Additionally, we recommend procedures be implemented to ensure a timely responses to audit requests. This may include steps such as establishing internal deadlines for document preparation or conducting periodic reviews of audit readiness.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

Significant Deficiency

SOE-2024-1 Bank Reconciliations

Criteria

Internal control over financial reporting requires that bank reconciliations be performed to agree bank balances reported on the bank statements with the cash balances recorded within the accounting software.

Condition

During the audit, we identified multiple discrepancies in the recording of financial transactions. Specifically, a duplicate payroll payment of \$32,000 was recorded; three payroll expense transactions totaling \$19,739 were not recorded; payroll tax of \$5,857 was reversed; a transfer to the Board of \$20,102 was recorded; and several checks totaling \$97,056 were omitted from the accounting records.

Effect

These discrepancies resulted in a \$100,080 misstatement in cash. These misstatements were corrected with our audit adjustments. Failure to properly reconcile bank accounts can result in misstated financial statements and unreliable financial reporting. Additionally, inadequate reconciliation procedures increase the risk of undetected errors, misstatements, and potential fraud.

Cause

These issues were caused by a manual bank reconciliation process that accurately tracked outstanding checks and deposits but was not reconciled to the cash balance in QuickBooks.

Recommendation

We recommend that the Town utilize the reconciliation feature within the accounting software or make changes to the manual reconciliation process to agree the bank statement balance with the cash account balance within the accounting software.

SOE-2024-2: Cutoff

Criteria

According to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), financial statements are to be presented on the accrual basis of accounting. Under accrual accounting, expenditures are recognized when goods or services are received, regardless of when payment is made. Expenditures incurred in a fiscal period but paid subsequent to that period should be recorded as expenditures in the period incurred and as accounts payable at year-end.

Condition

During our audit, we noted that the bookkeeper did not record accounts payable of \$27,908 identified during our subsequent disbursement testing. As a result, certain expenditures were recognized in the period in which the disbursements were made, rather than in the period in which the expenditures were incurred.

Effect

This resulted in an understatement of expenditures and accounts payable of \$27,908, which was corrected through our audit adjustments.

Cause

The bookkeeper did not utilize the accounts payable function in the accounting system or maintain an alternative method to track accounts payable balances at year-end.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

Recommendation

We recommend that all payments be entered into the accounting system using the accounts payable function and that, during year-end closeout, procedures be implemented to review significant disbursements made after year-end to ensure proper cutoff.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

Federal Awards Findings and Questioned Costs

None

State Financial Assistance Findings and Questioned Costs

None

MANAGEMENT REPONSE TO FINDINGS

District No. 1 – Kevin Parnell
District No. 2 – Rocky Ford
District No. 3 – Robby Hollingsworth
District No. 4 – Everett Phillips
District No. 5 – Tim Murphy



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS • COLUMBIA COUNTY

September 10, 2025
Ms. Sherrill F. Norman, C.P.A.
Auditor General
State of Florida
The Capital
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

RE: Response to Management Letter – Annual Financial Report Fiscal Year Ended
September 30, 2024, Columbia County, Florida Board of County Commissioners

Dear Auditor General:

Columbia County Board of County Commissioners provides the following response to the current year's findings within the management letter issued to the Board in the above-mentioned financial report.

Prior Year Findings

There were no reportable findings in the prior year.

Current Year Findings


2024-001: Internal Controls Over Grant Activities

The County has recognized our deficiency in internal controls over our grant program. To correct this deficiency the County has funded a full-time Grants Coordinator position established with the Clerk of Courts office. This position will be responsible for overseeing all grant activities. The County will also establish and implement internal controls to ensure financial and non-financial information received from departments is timely and reported accurately on the Schedules of Expenditures of Federal Awards and State Financial Assistance. Additionally, the County will strengthen oversight in timely reporting to the grantors.

2024-002: Building and Zoning Department Deposits and Reconciliations

To strengthen internal controls over the cash handling and deposit reconciliations in the Building and Zoning Department the County will establish and implement written policy for deposit procedures to include submitting reconciliations in a timely manner to Finance.

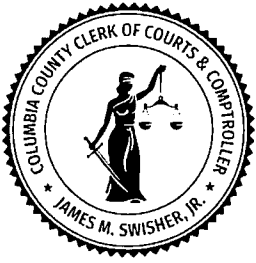
Sincerely,



David Kraus
County Manager

XC: Powell and Jones CPA
Outgoing Correspondence

BOARD MEETS FIRST THURSDAY AT 9:30 A.M. AND THIRD THURSDAY AT 5:30 P.M.



JAMES M. SWISHER, JR.
Columbia County Clerk Of Courts & Comptroller



September 11, 2025

Ms. Sherrill F. Norman, C.P.A.
Auditor General
State of Florida
The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

**RE: Response to Management Letter – Annual Financial Report Fiscal Year Ended
September 30, 2024
Clerk of the Circuit Court, Columbia County, Florida**

Dear Auditor General:

The Columbia County Clerk of the Circuit Court respectfully submits the following response to the current year's findings contained in the management letter issued as part of the above-referenced financial report.

Prior Year Findings

There were no reportable findings in the prior year.

Current Year Findings

2024-1: Classification Errors and Misstatement of Refunds

The Clerk's Office acknowledges the classification errors identified during the audit related to expenditures, interest earned on cash, and the treatment of refunds. While these misstatements were not intentional and did not impact the County's consolidated financials, we understand the importance of proper classification and accurate financial reporting for the Clerk's standalone financials.

To address this issue, we are taking the following corrective actions:

- Targeted training will be provided to finance staff to improve understanding of proper classification under applicable standards.
- A formal month-end and year-end review process will be implemented to ensure accuracy and consistency across financial statements.



JAMES M. SWISHER, JR.

Columbia County Clerk of Courts & Comptroller



- A written policy will be developed to govern the issuance and accounting treatment of refunds, including a recovery process when applicable.
- Internal controls will be strengthened to ensure accurate classification and appropriate fund management.

The Clerk's Office is committed to implementing these measures to ensure accuracy, accountability, and compliance moving forward.

2024-2: Untimely Response to Audit Requests

The Clerk's Office recognizes the delays that occurred in providing requested documentation during the audit process. These delays were primarily due to internal transitions and staffing limitations during the fiscal year-end close and audit preparation period.

To correct this deficiency, the Clerk's Office will:

- Implement procedures to ensure financial records are closed no later than two months after the fiscal year-end.
- Establish internal deadlines for audit preparation and improve document tracking to support timely responses.
- Designate a secondary point of contact to assist with audit inquiries and ensure continuity of communication during critical periods.

The Clerk's Office is committed to strengthening audit readiness and supporting timely, transparent financial oversight.

If you require any additional information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact our office. We appreciate the opportunity to improve our internal processes and remain dedicated to the responsible stewardship of public funds.

Sincerely,

James M. Swisher, Jr.
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Columbia County, Florida

Tomi S. Brown

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS, COLUMBIA COUNTY



September 25, 2025

Ms. Sherrill F. Norman, C.P.A.
AUDITOR GENERAL
State of Florida
The Capital
Tallahassee, FL 32399

RE: Response to Management Letter – Annual Financial Report Fiscal Year Ended
September 20, 2024 Columbia County, Florida Supervisor of Elections

Dear Auditor General:

Columbia County Supervisor of Elections provides the following response to the current year findings within the management letter issued to the Supervisor in the above referenced financial report.

Current Year Findings

2023-1: Bank Reconciliations

The Bank Statements were reconciled manually because the QB program being used at that time were never corrected from previous Audits so were still showing errors that the Bookkeepers were never able to make the corrections and were unfortunately were still in the system. Due to these issues in the past and because of the Fraud that did take place during that period of time (22-23) we are currently using a New Bank account every fiscal year so that our current records can be maintained properly. We have purchased a New QuickBooks online program and will endeavor to put it into place for maintaining the upcoming 25-26 year. We tried to utilize it this past year but unfortunately the program tried to include records from years ago which left the program still out of balance.

2023-2: Classification Review

A monthly review has been ongoing of bank statements and information is shared regularly as to our financial status prior to issuing our monthly checks. We feel confident that the new QB program which will be used going forward will help resolve any future issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tomi S. Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tomi S. Brown
Supervisor of Elections

Office (386) 758-1026 ★ Fax (386) 755-7233
971 W. Duval Street, Suite 102 ★ Lake City, Florida 32055-3734
www.votecolumbia.com ★ Email: election@votecolumbia.com

XC: Powell and Jones CPA (Outgoing Correspondence)



CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024**

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Powell and Jones CPA

1359 S.W. Main Blvd.
Lake City, FL 32025
Phone 386.755.4200

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Honorable Clerk of the Circuit Court, James M Swisher, Jr.
Columbia County, Florida

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

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

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the major funds and aggregate remaining fund information of the Clerk of the Court, 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 and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, 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 Clerk of the Court 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.

The accompanying financial statements were prepared for the purpose of complying with Section 218.39(8), Florida Statutes, and Rule 10.557(5) of Chapter 10.550, *Rules of the Auditor General – Local Governmental Entity Audits*. As described in Note 1 to the financial statements, the Tax Collector is part of the reporting for Columbia County, Florida. Accordingly, these financial statements are not a complete presentation of the reporting entity's basic financial statements.

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 Clerk of the Court'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 generally accepted auditing standards 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 aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards 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 Clerk of the Court'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 aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Clerk of the Court's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the budgetary comparison information 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 Clerk of the Court's basic financial statements. The combining fund financial statements are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. 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 combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements are 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 August 25, 2025, on our consideration of the Clerk of the Court'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 Clerk of the Court'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 the Clerk of the Court's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Powell and Jones CPA
Lake City, FL
August 25, 2025

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
BALANCE SHEET
September 30, 2024**

	Governmental Funds			Totals
	General Fund	Public Records		
		Modernization Trust Funds	Teen Court Funds	
ASSETS				
Current assets				
Cash	\$ 44,759	\$ 443,237	\$ 35,598	\$ 523,594
Due from other funds	197,972	10,696	955	209,623
Due from other governmental units	79,371	270	-	79,641
Total assets	\$ 322,102	\$ 454,203	\$ 36,553	\$ 812,858
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES				
LIABILITIES				
Current liabilities				
Due to other funds	\$ 94,188	\$ 26,473		\$ 120,661
Due to Board of County Commissioners	144,419	-	-	144,419
Due to other governmental units	591	-	-	591
Accrued wages and payroll liabilities	57,194	-	-	57,194
Other current liabilities	25,710	-	-	25,710
Total liabilities	322,102	26,473	-	348,575
FUND BALANCES				
Restricted	-	427,730	36,553	464,283
Total fund balances	-	427,730	36,553	464,283
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$ 322,102	\$ 454,203	\$ 36,553	\$ 812,858

See notes to financial statements.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024**

	Governmental Funds			Totals
	General Fund	Public Records Modernization Trust	Teen Court	
REVENUES				
Intergovernmental	\$ 368,732	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 368,732
Charges for services	1,472,972	125,362	12,776	1,611,110
Fines and forfeitures	143,487	-	-	143,487
Miscellaneous	27,006	-	-	27,006
Total revenues	2,012,197	125,362	12,776	2,150,335
EXPENDITURES				
Current expenditures				
General government	\$ 268,451	\$ 267,997	\$ -	\$ 536,448
Court related	2,425,255	65,562	9,669	2,500,486
Capital outlay				
General government	-	17,338	-	17,338
Debt Service				
Principal	4,927	-	-	4,927
Interest	306	-	-	306
Total expenditures	2,698,939	350,897	9,669	3,059,505
Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures	(686,742)	(225,535)	3,107	(909,170)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES				
Transfers from the Board of County Commissioners	686,742	260,567	-	947,309
Total other financing sources	686,742	260,567	-	947,309
Net change in fund balance	-	35,032	3,107	38,139
Fund balance at beginning of year	-	392,698	33,446	426,144
Fund balance at end of year	\$ -	\$ 427,730	\$ 36,553	\$ 464,283

See notes to financial statements.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
FIDUCIARY FUNDS
STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
September 30, 2024

	Custodial Funds
ASSETS	
Cash	\$ 1,978,620
Due from other funds	94,198
Other current assets	147
Total assets	\$ 2,072,965
 LIABILITIES	
Court fees payable	\$ 539,395
Due to other funds	183,160
Due to the Board of County Commissioners	27,992
Due to other governmental units	358,856
Total liabilities	1,109,403
 Total net position	\$ 963,562

See notes to the financial statements.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
FIDUCIARY FUNDS
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
September 30, 2024

	Custodial Funds
ADDITIONS	
Funds held for others	\$ 797,978
Cash bonds	119,097
Fines, fees and court costs	8,560,047
Total additions	9,477,122
 DEDUCTIONS	
Funds held for others	617,351
Cash bonds	176,223
Fines, fees and court costs	8,554,817
Total deductions	9,348,391
 Change in net position	 128,731
Net position at beginning of year	834,831
Net position at end of year	\$ 963,562

See notes to the financial statements.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
September 30, 2024

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following is a summary of the more significant accounting policies of the Columbia County Clerk of the Circuit Court (the Clerk).

A. Reporting Entity - The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) in its Statement No. 14, "The Financial Reporting Entity," as amended by GASB 39 "Determining Whether Certain Organizations Are Component Units an Amendment of GASB Statement 14," establishes standards for defining the financial reporting entity. In developing these standards, the GASB assumed that all governmental organizations are responsible to elected officials at the federal, state, or local level. Financial reporting by a state or local government should report the elected officials' accountability for those organizations.

The Clerk, as established by Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Florida, is an elected official of Columbia County, Florida (the County). Although the Clerk's Office is operationally autonomous from the Board of County Commissioners, it does not hold sufficient corporate powers of its own to be considered a legally separate entity for financial reporting purposes. Therefore, the Clerk is reported as a part of the primary government of Columbia County, Florida. The Clerk's financial statements do not purport to reflect the financial position or the results of operations of Columbia County, Florida, taken as a whole.

These special purpose financial statements of the Clerk are issued separately to comply with Section 10.557(4), *Rules of the Auditor General for Local Governmental Entity Audits*, pursuant to Section 11.45(3), *Florida Statutes*.

B. Fund Accounting - Accounts are organized on the basis of funds, each of which is considered a separate accounting entity. The operations of each fund are accounted for with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund entity, revenues, and expenditures. Government resources are allocated to and accounted for in individual funds based upon the purposes for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled. The funds and account group utilized by the Clerk are as follows:

(i) **Governmental Funds**

General Fund - The General Fund of the Clerk is used to account for all financial resources which are generated from operations of the Clerk's office, or any other resources not required to be accounted for in another fund.

Special Revenue Funds - Special Revenue Funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources which are legally restricted to expenditures for specified purposes. As of September 30, 2024, the Clerk maintained the following:

Public Records Modernization Trust Fund
Teen Court Fund

(ii) **Fiduciary Funds**

Custodial Funds - 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. The following Custodial Funds are maintained by the Clerk.

Trust
Employee Sunshine Fund
Domestic Relations
Jury and Witness
Public Defender Occupancy Trust

C. Basis of Accounting - The Basis of Accounting refers to when revenues and expenditures and the related assets and liabilities are recognized in the accounting records and reported in the financial statements. The Clerk currently maintains its accounting records for all funds on the cash basis. However, for financial statement purposes, appropriate adjustments are made to report governmental and fiduciary fund types using the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis, revenues are generally recognized when they become measurable and available as net current assets. Expenditures are reported when incurred with the exception of prepaid expenses and principal and interest on general long-term obligations.

D. Budget - Chapter 129, *Florida Statutes*, requires that budgets be adopted for all funds as may be required by law, sound financial practices, and generally accepted accounting principles and that budgets be adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Pursuant to this requirement, the County adopts an annual comprehensive appropriations budget, which includes the appropriations to the General Fund of the Clerk. The Clerk also initially prepares and appropriately amends internally the Clerk's General Fund budget.

In the budget comparisons included in these financial statements, both the amounts budgeted, and the actual amounts reported are presented on the GAAP basis. Budgetary comparisons present the appropriations budget of the Clerk.

E. Cash and Investments - Deposits are carried at cost which approximates market value. The carrying amount of deposits is separately displayed on the balance sheet as "Cash." At September 30, 2024, the book balance of the Clerk's deposits was \$2,543,615. The bank balance was \$2,624,897. This bank balance was covered by federal depository insurance and pledged collateral held at various qualified public depositories. Chapter 280, *Florida Statutes*, defines the eligible collateral for these qualified public depositories.

The collateral for the Clerk's deposits is categorized to give an indication of the level of risk assumed by the Clerk at year end. Category 1 includes deposits that are insured or registered or for which the securities are held by the Clerk or his agent in the Clerk's name. Category 2 includes uninsured and unregistered deposits for which the securities are held by the counterparty's trust department or agent in the Clerk's name. Category 3 includes uninsured or unregistered deposits for which the securities are held by the counterparty's trust department or agent, but not in the Clerk's name. All of the collateral covering the Clerk's deposits was Category 1.

F. Inventories - It is the policy of the Clerk to record the acquisition of supplies as expenditures at the time of purchase. The amount of supplies on hand at any one time would be a nominal amount and considered to be immaterial.

G. Fixed Assets - Fixed assets used in governmental fund type operations are accounted for in the General Capital Assets Accounts. All fixed assets acquired by purchase are recorded at historical cost. Donated assets are recorded at estimated fair market value at the date donated. Depreciation expense has been recorded on the County's general fixed assets. Assets purchased by the Clerk are reported in the County's Governmental Capital Assets Accounts.

H. Compensated Absences - The Clerk follows generally accepted accounting principles in accounting for accrued compensated absences. Since the annual and sick leave liability is considered long-term, it is recorded in the government-wide financial statements of the County. Compensated absences are expected to be paid by the Clerk, and this practice is expected to continue in the future. The Clerk maintained compensated absence records for the hours earned, used and available. As of September 30, 2024, the balance of compensated absences is \$131,908.

I. Estimates - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with 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.

J. Risk Management - 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 directly purchases insurance and participates in the risk management program through the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners which uses commercial insurance and a public entity risk pool to cover certain risks from loss.

NOTE 3. PENSION PLAN

Plan Description - The Clerk contributes to the Florida Retirement System (System), a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit plan administered by the State of Florida, Department of Administration, Division of Retirement. The System provides retirement, disability or death benefits to retirees or their designated beneficiaries. Chapter 121, *Florida Statutes*, establishes the authority for benefit provisions. Changes to the law can only occur through an act of the Florida Legislature. The System issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for the System. That report may be obtained by writing to the Florida Retirement System, 2639 North Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida, or by calling (850) 488-5706.

Funding Policy - The System is employee non-contributory through June 30, 2011. Effective July 1, 2011, employees must contribute 3% of their gross wages. The Clerk is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The rates from October 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 and from July 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024, were as follows:

Class	October 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	July 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024
Regular Class	13.57%	13.63%
Special Risk Class	32.67%	32.79%
Special Risk Administrative Support	39.82%	39.82%
County Elected Officers	60.00%	58.68%
Senior Management Class	34.52%	34.52%
Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP)	21.13%	21.13%

The contribution requirements of plan members and the Clerk are established and may be amended by the Florida Legislature. The Clerk's contributions to the System for the years ending September 30, 2024, 2023, and 2022 were \$300,867, \$277,758, and \$235,773, respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year.

NOTE 4. INTERFUND RECEIVABLES AND PAYABLES

Balances at September 30, 2024 were:

	Interfund Receivables	Interfund Payables
General Fund	\$ 197,972	\$ 94,188
Public Records Modernization Trust	10,696	26,473
Teen Court	955	-
Trust	94,198	183,007
Jury Witness	-	153
	<u>\$ 303,821</u>	<u>\$ 303,821</u>

NOTE 5. LEASE COMMITMENTS

The Clerk has various leases for office equipment with remaining terms of one to five years at various monthly rates. The Clerk reports leases with terms of one year or less as rent expenditures which totaled \$4,329 for the year ending September 30, 2024. Long term leases were reported as debt service principal and interest of \$4,927 and \$306 in the governmental fund financial statements as of September 30, 2024. Leases held by the Clerk are reported as a right-of-use asset and lease liability in the government-wide financial statements of the County, in accordance with SGAS No. 87. The schedule below shows the annual interest expense and lease principal payments to maturity as of September 30, 2024:

Year	Principal	Interest	Payment
2025	3,877	148	4,025
2026	2,848	90	2,938
	<u>\$ 6,726</u>	<u>\$ 238</u>	<u>\$ 6,963</u>

NOTE 6. FUND BALANCES – GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

As of September 30, 2024, fund balances of the governmental funds are classified as follows:

Nonspendable – amounts that cannot be spent either because they are in nonspendable form or because they are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

Restricted – amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes because of constitutional provisions, charter requirements or enabling legislation or because of constraints that are externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or the laws or regulations of other governments.

Committed – amounts that can be used only for specific purposes determined by a formal action of the governing body. Commitments may be established, modified, or rescinded only through resolutions approved by the governing body.

Assigned – amounts that do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed, but that are intended to be used for specific purposes. Under current practices, the assignment of amounts for specific purposes is approved by the Clerk.

Unassigned - all other spendable amounts.

Fund balances with restrictions are as follows at September 30, 2024:

	Classification					Total
	Nonspendable	Restricted	Committed	Assigned	Unassigned	
Public Records						
Modernization Trust	\$ -	\$ 427,730	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 427,730
Teen Court	-	36,553	-	-	-	36,553
	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 464,283</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 464,283</u>

NOTE 7. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Amounts received or receivable from grantor agencies are subject to audit and adjustment by grantor agencies, principally the State of Florida and Federal governments. Any disallowed claims, including amounts already collected, may constitute a liability of the applicable funds. The amount, if any, of expenditures which may be disallowed by the grantor cannot be determined at this time, although the Clerk expects such amounts, if any, to be immaterial.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
GENERAL FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024**

	Original budget	Final Budget	General Fund	Variance With Final Budget Positive (Negative)
REVENUES				
Intergovernmental	\$ 105,180	\$ 105,180	\$ 368,732	\$ 263,552
Charges for services	1,246,397	1,246,397	1,472,972	226,575
Fines and forfeitures	-	-	143,487	143,487
Miscellaneous	-	-	27,006	27,006
Total revenues	<u>1,351,577</u>	<u>1,351,577</u>	<u>2,012,197</u>	<u>660,620</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Current expenditures				
General government	201,581	201,581	268,451	(66,870)
Court related	1,717,015	1,717,015	2,425,255	(708,240)
Debt Service				
Principal	4,927	4,927	4,927	-
Interest	306	306	306	-
Total expenditures	<u>1,923,829</u>	<u>1,923,829</u>	<u>2,698,939</u>	<u>(775,110)</u>
Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>(572,252)</u>	<u>(572,252)</u>	<u>(686,742)</u>	<u>(114,490)</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES				
Transfers from the Board of County Commissioners	572,252	572,252	686,742	114,490
Total other financing sources	<u>572,252</u>	<u>572,252</u>	<u>686,742</u>	<u>114,490</u>
Net change in fund balance	-	-	-	-
Fund balance at beginning of year	-	-	-	-
Fund balance at end of year	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

See notes to financial statements.

OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
FIDUCIARY FUNDS
COMBINING STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
September 30, 2024**

	Clerk's Trust	Employee Sunshine	Domestic Relations	Jury Witness	Public Defender Occupancy Trust	Total Custodial Funds
ASSETS						
Cash	\$ 1,960,561	\$ 3,132	\$ 848	\$ 3,751	\$ 10,328	\$ 1,978,620
Due from other funds	94,198	-	-	-	-	94,198
Other current assets	-	-	-	-	147	147
Total assets	\$ 2,054,759	\$ 3,132	\$ 848	\$ 3,751	\$ 10,475	\$ 2,072,965
LIABILITIES						
Court fees payable	\$ 539,395	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 539,395
Due to other funds	183,007	-	-	153	-	183,160
Due to the Board of County Commissioners	27,992	-	-	-	-	27,992
Due to other governmental units	358,008	-	848	-	-	358,856
Total liabilities	1,108,402	-	848	153	-	1,109,403
Total net position	\$ 946,357	\$ 3,132	\$ -	\$ 3,598	\$ 10,475	\$ 963,562

See notes to financial statements.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
FIDUCIARY FUNDS
COMBINING STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
September 30, 2024**

	Clerk's Trust	Employee Sunshine	Domestic Relations	Jury Witness	Public Defender Occupancy Trust	Totals
ADDITIONS						
Funds held for others	\$ 697,755	\$ 1,177	\$ -	\$ 9,435	\$ 89,611	\$ 797,978
Cash bonds	119,097	-	-	-	-	119,097
Fines, fees and court costs	8,554,817	-	5,230	-	-	8,560,047
Total additions	<u>9,371,669</u>	<u>1,177</u>	<u>5,230</u>	<u>9,435</u>	<u>89,611</u>	<u>9,477,122</u>
DEDUCTIONS						
Funds held for others	514,704	375	5,230	9,676	87,366	617,351
Cash bonds	176,223	-	-	-	-	176,223
Fines, fees and court costs	8,554,817	-	-	-	-	8,554,817
Total deductions	<u>9,245,744</u>	<u>375</u>	<u>5,230</u>	<u>9,676</u>	<u>87,366</u>	<u>9,348,391</u>
Change in net position	125,925	802	-	(241)	2,245	128,731
Net position - beginning of year	820,432	2,330	-	3,839	8,230	834,831
Net position - end of year	<u>\$ 946,357</u>	<u>\$ 3,132</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 3,598</u>	<u>\$ 10,475</u>	<u>\$ 963,562</u>

See notes to financial statements.

COMPLIANCE SECTION



Powell and Jones CPA

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

To the Clerk of the Circuit Court, James M Swisher, Jr.
Columbia 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 Columbia 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 August 25, 2025.

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 opinions 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 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 identified one deficiency in internal control that we consider to be material in nature and an additional issue that was considered significant; these were found in the Schedule of Findings as Finding 2024-1 and 2024-2.

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 determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Powell & Jones".

Powell and Jones CPA
Lake City, FL
August 25, 2025



Powell and Jones CPA

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Phone 386.755.4200

MANAGEMENT LETTER REQUIRED BY CHAPTER 10.550, RULES OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

Honorable Clerk of the Circuit Court, James M Swisher, Jr.
Columbia County, Florida

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have audited the financial statements of the Columbia County, Florida the Clerk of the Circuit Court (the Clerk), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, and have issued our report thereon dated August 25, 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; Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General. We have also issued our report on compliance and on internal control over financial reporting. That report should be considered in conjunction with this management letter.

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.

PRIOR YEAR 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. There were no reportable findings in the prior year.

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 has been disclosed in the Note 1 of the financial statements.

AUDITOR GENERAL COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Financial Condition Assessment – As required by the *Rules of the Auditor General* (Sections 10.554(1)(i)5.a. and 10.556(7)), we applied financial condition assessment procedures. It is management's responsibility to monitor the entity's financial condition, and our financial condition assessment was based in part on representations made by management and the review of financial information they provided.

From the procedures that were performed pursuant to Sections 10.554(1)(i)5.b. and 10.556(8), *Rules of the Auditor General*, our audit did not disclose any further items that would be required to be reported under the *Rules of the Auditor General*, Chapter 10.554(1)(f).

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.

Our audit did not disclose any further items that would be required to be reported under the *Rules of the Auditor General*, Chapter 10.550.

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 Columbia County Board of County Commissioners, the Clerk, and other applicable management, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.



Powell and Jones CPA
Lake City, FL
August 25, 2025



SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS

Material Weakness

2024-1: Classification Errors and Misstatement of Refunds

Criteria: Per Florida Statutes, transactions must be classified in accordance with their nature and purpose to ensure transparency, budgetary compliance, accurate reimbursement amounts, and consistency with statewide reporting standards. Proper classification is also essential for fund reporting and intergovernmental comparisons. Additionally, governmental entities have a fiduciary responsibility to manage public funds with accuracy and accountability, ensuring that transactions are properly authorized, recoverable when appropriate, and reflected accurately in financial statements.

Condition: During our audit, we identified several classification errors in the recording of expenditures, interest earned on cash, and refunds across numerous functional categories and account codes. Notably, refunds issued to payors, after funds had already been remitted to other governmental agencies, were recorded as receivables on the Clerk's Trust Fund balance sheet, despite no recovery mechanism being in place. These misclassifications, along with other errors, were material to the Clerk's financial statements and required audit adjustments to ensure accurate presentation.

Cause: The misclassifications appear to have resulted from a lack of clarity on the prescribed treatment of certain transactions listed above, the absence of a secondary review prior to financial statement preparation, and an incorrect assumption that refunded amounts would be reimbursed despite no formal process for recovery.

Effect: The aggregate impact of these errors did not materially affect the County's consolidated financial statements; however, they were material to the Clerk's standalone financials. Specifically, the accumulated balance of misclassified refunds exceeded \$94,000 and was reclassified as expenditures in the current year to reflect the true nature of the transactions. If left uncorrected, these misstatements could affect budgetary compliance, public transparency, and the Clerk's ability to demonstrate proper stewardship of public funds.

Recommendation: We recommend the Clerk's office implement the following corrective actions:

- Gain greater clarity on the standards related to the treatment of the items in question through targeted training for finance staff.
- Establish a formal review protocol for the classification the various transactions at month-end and year-end
- Develop a documented policy for handling refunds issued after remittance, including criteria for issuance and a recovery process when applicable.
- Strengthen internal controls to ensure proper classification and accountability in the management of public funds.

Significant Deficiency

2024-2: Untimely Response to Audit Requests

Criteria: Timely and complete responses to audit requests are essential to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the audit process. Governmental entities are expected to cooperate with auditors and provide requested documentation within a reasonable timeframe to support transparency and accountability.

Condition: The Clerk did not provide requested audit documentation in a timely manner. Per the audit contract with the County, the books of the Board and all constitutional officers are to be closed out by November 30 to allow audit procedures to begin in December. However, the Clerk's Office indicated that audit fieldwork could not begin until March. Initial audit request lists were provided on March 7, but the Clerk's finance director was unavailable to begin on-site fieldwork until April 21.

As the audit progressed, additional documentation requests were sent to the Clerk on May 6. Despite four weekly follow-up emails, only one item was addressed prior to July. A subsequent follow-up in early July resulted in the full response to the May 6 request list on July 22. After this date, the finance director was generally responsive to audit inquiries through the conclusion of fieldwork.

Cause: The cause for the extended response time suggests a lack of adequate internal processes related to responding to audit inquiries and the lack of adequate year-end close procedures.

Effect: The delay in receiving audit documentation hindered the audit team's ability to complete procedures within the planned timeline. This resulted in increased time spent on the audit and impacted the timeliness of financial reporting and oversight.

Recommendation: We recommend the Clerk implement procedures to ensure that the financial records are closed no later than two months after the fiscal year-end. Additionally, we recommend procedures be implemented to ensure a timely responses to audit requests. This may include steps such as establishing internal deadlines for document preparation or conducting periodic reviews of audit readiness.



Powell and Jones CPA

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

Honorable Clerk of the Circuit Court, James M Swisher, Jr.
Columbia County, Florida

We have examined the Columbia County, Florida's Clerk of the Circuit Court's (the Clerk's) compliance with Section 218.415, *Florida Statutes*, regarding the investment of public funds during the year ended September 30, 2022. We have also examined the Clerk's compliance with Section 61.181 *Florida Statutes*, regarding the Clerk's alimony and child support payments and Sections 28.35 and 28.36; *Florida Statutes* as to the following during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024:

- a. The budget and performance standards developed and certified by the Florida Clerk of the Courts Operations Corporation and Section 28.35 and 28.36 Florida Statutes.

Management is responsible for the Clerk's respective compliance with those requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Clerk's compliance based on our examinations.

Our examinations were conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and, accordingly, included examining, on a test basis, evidence about the Clerk's compliance with those respective requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our examinations provide a reasonable basis for our opinion. Our examinations do not provide a legal determination on the Clerk's compliance with specified requirements.

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

This report is intended solely for the information and use of Columbia County, Florida, the Clerk, and the Auditor General, State of Florida, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Powell and Jones CPA
Lake City, FL
August 25, 2025

PROPERTY APPRAISER

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROPERTY APPRAISER
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Honorable Jeff Hampton, Property Appraiser
Columbia County, Florida

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the major fund of Columbia 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 Property Appraiser's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the major 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 and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, 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 Columbia County 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 opinions.

Emphasis of Matter

The accompanying financial statements were prepared for the purpose of complying with Section 218.39(8), Florida Statutes, and Rule 10.557(5) of Chapter 10.550, *Rules of the Auditor General – Local Governmental Entity Audits*. As described in Note 1 to the financial statements, the Property Appraiser is part of the reporting for Columbia County, Florida. Accordingly, these financial statements are not a complete presentation of the reporting entity's basic financial statements.

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 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 generally accepted auditing standards 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 generally accepted auditing standards 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 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.

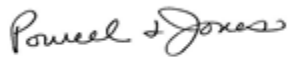
Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the budgetary comparison information 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.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated May 5, 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, 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 Property Appraiser'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 the Property Appraiser's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Powell & Jones".

Powell and Jones CPA
Lake City, Florida
May 5, 2025

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROPERTY APPRAISER
GENERAL FUND
BALANCE SHEET
September 30, 2024**

ASSETS

Cash	\$	93,365
Total assets	\$	<u>93,365</u>

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

LIABILITIES

Current liabilities		
Due to Board of County Commissioners	\$	91,320
Due to other governmental units		<u>2,045</u>
Total liabilities and fund balance	\$	<u>93,365</u>

See notes to financial statements.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROPERTY APPRAISER
GENERAL FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
September 30, 2024

REVENUES

Charges for services	\$	48,539
Miscellaneous		
Interest earnings		40
Other miscellaneous		397
Total miscellaneous		437
Total revenues		48,976

EXPENDITURES

General government		
Financial and administrative		
Personnel services		1,831,310
Operating expenses		380,126
Capital outlay		-
Debt Service		
Principal		5,031
Interest		392
Total expenditures		2,216,859

Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures		(2,167,883)
--	--	-------------

OTHER FINANCING SOURCES

Transfers from Board of County Commissioners		2,167,883
		-

Net change in fund balance		-
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Fund balance at beginning of year		-
-----------------------------------	--	---

Fund balance at end of year	\$	-
-----------------------------	----	---

See notes to financial statements.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROPERTY APPRAISER
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
September 30, 2024

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following is a summary of the significant accounting policies of the Columbia County, Florida Property Appraiser (the Property Appraiser).

A. Reporting Entity - The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) in its Statement No. 14, "The Financial Reporting Entity," as amended by GASB 39, "Determining Whether Certain Organizations are Component Units an Amendment of GASB Statement 14," establishes standards for defining the financial reporting entity. In developing these standards, the GASB assumed that all governmental organizations are responsible to elected officials at the federal, state, or local level. Financial reporting by a state or local government should report the elected officials' accountability for those organizations.

The Property Appraiser, as established by Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Florida, is an elected official of Columbia County, Florida (the County). Although the Property Appraiser's Office is operationally autonomous from the County, it does not hold sufficient corporate powers of its own to be considered a legally separate entity for financial reporting purposes. Therefore, the Property Appraiser is reported as a part of the primary government of the County. The Property Appraiser's financial statements do not purport to reflect the financial position or the results of operations of the County, taken as a whole.

The financial statements of the Property Appraiser are issued separately to comply with Section 10.557(4), *Rules of the Auditor General for Local Governmental Entity Audits*, pursuant to Section 11.45(3), *Florida Statutes*.

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

(i) **Governmental Funds**

General Fund - The General Fund of the Property Appraiser is used to account for all financial resources which are generated from operations of the office, or any other resources not required to be accounted for in another fund.

C. Basis of Accounting - The "Basis of Accounting" refers to when revenues and expenditures and the related assets and liabilities are recognized in the accounting records and reported in the financial statements. The Property Appraiser currently maintains its accounting records on the cash basis. However, for financial statement purposes appropriate adjustments are made to report the governmental fund type using the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis, revenues are generally recognized when they become measurable and available as net current assets. Expenditures are reported when incurred with the exception of prepaid expenses and principal and interest on general long-term obligations. Encumbrance accounting is not utilized by the Property Appraiser.

D. Budget - Chapter 129, *Florida Statutes*, requires that budgets be adopted for all funds as may be required by law, sound financial practices, and generally accepted accounting principles and that budgets be adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Pursuant to this requirement, the County adopts an annual comprehensive appropriations budget, which includes the operating budget of the Property Appraiser. The Property Appraiser's budget is also subject to approval by the Florida Department of Revenue.

In the budget comparisons included in these financial statements, both the amounts budgeted, and the actual amounts reported are presented on the GAAP basis. Budgetary comparisons present the appropriated budget of the Property Appraiser, which was amended during the year.

E. Cash and Investments - Deposits are carried at cost which approximates market value. The carrying amount of deposits is separately displayed on the balance sheet as "Cash." At September 30, 2024, the book balance of the Property Appraiser's deposits was \$93,365. The total bank balance was covered by federal depository insurance.

F. Inventories - It is the policy of the Property Appraiser to record the acquisition of supplies as expenditures at the time of purchase. The amount of supplies on hand at any one time would be a nominal amount and is considered to be immaterial.

G. Fixed Assets - Fixed assets used in the Property Appraiser's operations are accounted for in the County's general fixed assets accounts. All fixed assets acquired by purchase are recorded at historical cost. Donated assets are recorded at estimated fair market value at the date donated. Depreciation on equipment is provided on the straight-line basis over useful lives of three to twelve years.

H. Compensated Absences - The Property Appraiser follows generally accepted accounting principles in accounting for accrued compensated absences. Since the annual and sick leave liability is considered long-term, it is recorded in the government-wide financial statements of the County. Compensated absences are expected to be paid by the Property Appraiser and this practice is expected to continue in the future. The Property Appraiser maintained compensated absence records for the hours earned, used and available. As of September 30, 2024, the balance of compensated absences is \$99,354.

I. Estimates - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with 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.

J. Risk Management - 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 directly purchases insurance and participates in the risk management program through the County, which uses commercial insurance and a public entity risk pool to cover certain risks from loss.

K. Leases - The Property Appraiser has various leases for office equipment with remaining terms of less than five years at various monthly rates. The Property Appraiser reports leases as expenditures which totaled \$5,423 for the year ending September 30, 2024. Leases held by the Property Appraiser are reported as a right of use asset and lease liability in the government-wide financial statements of the County, in accordance with SGAS No. 87. The schedule below shows the annual interest expense and lease principal payments to maturity as of September 30, 2024:

Year	Principal	Interest	Payment
2025	\$ 4,807	\$ 216	\$ 5,023
2026	743	115	858
2027	779	79	858
2028	817	41	858
2029	423	6	429
	\$ 7,569	\$ 457	\$ 8,026

NOTE 3. PENSION PLAN

Plan Description - The Property Appraiser contributes to the Florida Retirement System ("System"), a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit plan administered by the State of Florida, Department of Administration, Division of Retirement. The System provides retirement, disability or death benefits to retirees or their designated beneficiaries. Chapter 121, *Florida Statutes*, establishes the authority for benefit provisions. Changes to the law can only occur through an act of the Florida Legislature. The System issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for the System. That report may be obtained by writing to the Florida Retirement System, 2639 North Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida, or by calling (850) 488-5706.

Funding Policy - The System is employee non-contributory through June 30, 2011. Effective July 1, 2011, employees are required to contribute 3% of their gross wages. The employer rates at September 30, 2024 were as follows:

Class	October 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	July 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024
Regular Class	13.57%	13.63%
Special Risk Class	32.67%	32.79%
Special Risk Administrative Support	39.82%	39.82%
County Elected Officers	58.68%	58.68%
Senior Management Class	34.52%	34.52%
Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP)	21.13%	21.13%

The contribution requirements of plan members and the Property Appraiser are established and may be amended by the Florida Legislature. The Property Appraiser's contributions to the System for the years ending September 30, 2024, 2023, and 2022 were \$302,185, \$271,239, and \$217,839 respectively equal to the required contributions for each year.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROPERTY APPRAISER
GENERAL FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL
September 30, 2024**

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance Positive (Negative)
REVENUES				
Charges for services	48,539	48,539	48,539	-
Miscellaneous				
Interest earnings	-	-	40	40
Other miscellaneous	-	-	397	397
Total miscellaneous	-	-	437	437
Total revenues	48,539	48,539	48,976	437
EXPENDITURES				
General government				
Financial and administrative				
Personnel services	1,944,456	1,986,539	1,831,310	155,229
Operating expenses	314,748	314,748	385,549	(70,801)
Capital outlay	8,500	8,500	-	8,500
Total expenditures	2,267,704	2,309,787	2,216,859	92,928
Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures	(2,219,165)	(2,261,248)	(2,167,883)	93,365
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES				
Transfers from Board of County Commissioners	2,219,165	2,261,248	2,167,883	(93,365)
Net change in fund balance	-	-	-	-
Fund balance at beginning of year	-	-	-	-
Fund balance at end of year	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -



Powell and Jones CPA

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

Honorable Jeff Hampton, Property Appraiser
Columbia 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 Columbia 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 Property Appraiser's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated May 5, 2025.

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 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 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.

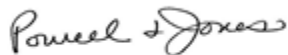
Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not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

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Property Appraiser'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 which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

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



Powell and Jones CPA
Lake City, Florida
May 5, 2025



Powell and Jones CPA

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MANAGEMENT LETTER REQUIRED BY CHAPTER 10.550, RULES OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

Honorable Property Appraiser, Jeff Hampton
Columbia County, Florida

We have audited the financial statements of the Columbia County, Florida Property Appraiser (the Property Appraiser), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, and have issued our report thereon dated May 5, 2025.

We have issued our Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* dated May 5, 2025. Disclosures in that report should be considered in conjunction with this management letter.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, and Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Additionally, our audit was conducted in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General, which govern the conduct of local governmental entity audits performed in the State of Florida and require that the following be addressed in this letter:

PRIOR YEAR 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 findings or recommendations made in the preceding financial audit report.

FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Financial Emergency Status – We have determined that the Property Appraiser did not meet any of the conditions described in Section 218.503(1), *Florida Statutes*, that might result in a financial emergency.

Financial Condition Assessment – As required by the *Rules of the Auditor General* (Sections 10.554(1)(i)5.b. and 10.556(8)), we applied financial condition assessment procedures. It is management's responsibility to monitor the entity's financial condition, and our financial condition assessment was based in part on representations made by management and the review of financial information they provided.

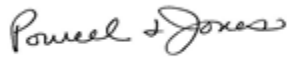
Our audit did not disclose any further items that would be required to be reported under the *Rules of the Auditor General*, Chapter 10.554(1)(f).

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.

CONCLUSION

We have reviewed information regarding our audit with the Property Appraiser and have provided him with appropriate documentation as requested. We very much enjoyed the challenges and experiences associated with this audit of the Office. We appreciate the overall high quality of the financial records and personnel in the Property Appraiser's Office. We also appreciate the helpful assistance and courtesy afforded us by these employees.



Powell and Jones CPA
Lake City, Florida
May 5, 2025



Powell and Jones CPA

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

Honorable Jeff Hampton, Property Appraiser
Columbia County, Florida

We have examined the Columbia County, Florida Property Appraiser's (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.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and, accordingly, included examining, on a test basis, evidence about the Property Appraiser's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our examination provides a reasonable basis for our opinion. Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the Property Appraiser's compliance with specified requirements.

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

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Columbia County, Florida Property Appraiser, and the Auditor General, State of Florida, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Powell and Jones CPA
Lake City, Florida
May 5, 2025

TAX COLLECTOR

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
TAX COLLECTOR
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Honorable Kyle Keen
Tax Collector of Columbia County, Florida

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the major fund and aggregate remaining fund information of Columbia County Tax Collector, as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Columbia County Tax Collector's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of Columbia County Tax Collector, as of September 30, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position 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 and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, 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 Columbia County 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 opinions.

Emphasis of Matter

The accompanying financial statements were prepared for the purpose of complying with Section 218.39(8), Florida Statutes, and Rule 10.557(5) of Chapter 10.550, *Rules of the Auditor General – Local Governmental Entity Audits*. As described in Note 1 to the financial statements, the Tax Collector is part of the reporting for Columbia County, Florida. Accordingly, these financial statements are not a complete presentation of the reporting entity's basic financial statements.

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 Columbia County 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 generally accepted auditing standards 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 generally accepted auditing standards 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 Columbia County 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 Columbia County 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.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the budgetary comparison information 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 Columbia County Tax Collector's basic financial statements. The combining fund financial statements are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. 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 combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements are 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 29, 2025, on our consideration of Columbia County 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 Columbia County Tax Collector'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 Columbia County Tax Collector's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Powell & Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Powell and Jones CPA
April 29, 2025

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
TAX COLLECTOR
GOVERNMENTAL FUND
BALANCE SHEET
September 30, 2024**

	General Fund
ASSETS	
Current assets	
Cash	\$ 224,535
Due from other funds	60,785
Total assets	\$ 285,320
 LIABILITIES	
Current liabilities	
Due to Board of County Commissioners	\$ 231,976
Due to other governmental units	7,552
Accrued payroll, deductions, and matching	45,792
Total liabilities	\$ 285,320

See notes to financial statements.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
TAX COLLECTOR
GOVERNMENTAL FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024**

REVENUES	<u>General Fund</u>
Charges for services	
County officer commissions and fees:	
Professional and occupational licenses	\$ 19,381
Motor vehicle fees	393,825
Drivers license fees	201,036
Concealed weapons fee	14,457
Other licenses and permits	1,550
State commissions	1,500
County commissions	1,100,568
Tax commissions	
Suwannee River Water Management District	24,694
Delinquent tax commissions	230,173
Special assessment commissions	280,219
Special assessment administrative fees	158,658
Total charges for services	<u>2,426,061</u>
 Miscellaneous	
Interest earnings	12,835
Other miscellaneous	4,559
Total miscellaneous	<u>17,394</u>
Total revenues	<u>2,443,455</u>
 EXPENDITURES	
General government	
Personnel services	1,962,264
Operating expenses	249,215
Total expenditures	<u>2,211,479</u>
 Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures	231,976
 Other financing sources	
Transfers to Board of County Commissioners	(231,976)
 Net change in fund balances	-
Fund balance at beginning of year	-
Fund balance at end of year	<u>\$ -</u>

See notes to financial statements.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
TAX COLLECTOR
FIDUCIARY FUNDS
STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
September 30, 2024**

	<u>Custodial Funds</u>
ASSETS	
Cash	\$ 1,764,013
Total assets	<u>\$ 1,764,013</u>
 LIABILITIES	
Due to other funds	\$ 60,785
Due to other governmental units	1,544,053
Total liabilities	<u>1,604,838</u>
 NET POSITION	 <u>\$ 159,175</u>

See notes to financial statements.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
TAX COLLECTOR
FIDUCIARY FUNDS
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024**

	<u>Custodial Funds</u>
ADDITIONS	
Property taxes collected for other governments	\$ 75,114,771
Funds held for others	5,578,776
Licenses and fees	7,834,926
Total additions	<u>88,528,473</u>
DEDUCTIONS	
Property taxes and fees payable	75,111,148
Funds held for others	5,609,761
Licenses and fees	7,834,927
Total deductions	<u>88,555,836</u>
 Change in net position	 (27,363)
 Net position - beginning of year	 <u>186,538</u>
Net position - end of year	<u>\$ 159,175</u>

See notes to financial statements.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
TAX COLLECTOR
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
September 30, 2024**

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following is a summary of the more significant accounting policies of the Columbia County Tax Collector (Tax Collector).

A. Reporting Entity - The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) in its Statement No. 14, "The Financial Reporting Entity," as amended by GASB 39 "Determining Whether Certain Organizations Are Component Units an Amendment of GASB Statement 14," establishes standards for defining the financial reporting entity. In developing these standards, the GASB assumed that all governmental organizations are responsible to elected officials at the federal, state, or local level. Financial reporting by a state or local government should report the elected officials' accountability for those organizations.

The Tax Collector, as established by Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Florida, is an elected official of the County. Although the Tax Collector's Office is operationally autonomous from the Board of County Commissioners, it does not hold sufficient corporate powers of its own to be considered a legally separate entity for financial reporting purposes. Therefore, the Tax Collector is reported as a part of the primary government of Columbia County, Florida. The Tax Collector's financial statements do not purport to reflect the financial position or the results of operations of Columbia County, Florida, taken as a whole.

The financial statements of the Tax Collector are issued separately to comply with Section 10.557(4), *Rules of the Auditor General for Local Governmental Entity Audits*, pursuant to Section 11.45(3), *Florida Statutes*.

B. Fund Accounting - Accounts are organized on the basis of funds and account groups, each of which is considered a separate accounting entity. The operations of each fund are accounted for with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund entity, revenues and expenditures. Government resources are allocated to and accounted for in individual funds based upon the purposes for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled. The funds and account group utilized by the Tax Collector are as follows:

(i) **Governmental Fund**

General Fund - The General Fund of the Tax Collector is used to account for all financial resources, which are generated from operations of the office or any other resources not required to be accounted for in another fund.

(ii) **Fiduciary Funds**

Custodial Funds - 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. The following Custodial Funds are maintained by the Tax Collector:

Ad Valorem Tax Fund
Tag Fund

C. Basis of Accounting - The "Basis of Accounting" refers to when revenues and expenditures and the related assets and liabilities are recognized in the accounting records and reported in the financial statements. The Tax Collector currently maintains his accounting records for all funds on the cash basis. However, for financial statement purposes appropriate adjustments are made to report governmental and fiduciary fund types using the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis, revenues are generally recognized when they become measurable and available as net current assets. Expenditures are reported when incurred with the exception of prepaid expenses and principal and interest on general long-term obligations. Encumbrance accounting is not utilized by the Tax Collector.

D. Budget - Chapter 129, *Florida Statutes*, requires that budgets be adopted for all funds as may be required by law, sound financial practices, and generally accepted accounting principles and that budgets be adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Pursuant to this requirement, the County adopts an annual comprehensive appropriated budget, which includes its funding of the operations of the Tax Collector. The operating budget of the Tax Collector is approved by the Florida Department of Revenue.

In the budget comparisons included in these financial statements, both the amounts budgeted and the actual amounts reported are presented on the GAAP basis. Budgetary comparisons present the appropriated budget of the Tax Collector, as amended during the year.

E. Cash - Deposits are carried at cost which approximates market value. The carrying amount of deposits is separately displayed on the balance sheet as "Cash". At September 30, 2024, the book balance of the Tax Collector's cash was \$1,988,548. The total bank balance was covered by federal depository insurance and pledged collateral.

The collateral for the Tax Collector's deposits is categorized to give an indication of the level of risk assumed by the Tax Collector at year end. Category 1 includes deposits that are insured or registered or for which the securities are held by the Tax Collector or his agent in the Tax Collector's name. Category 2 includes uninsured and unregistered deposits for which the securities are held by the counterparty's trust department or agent in the Tax Collector's name. Category 3 includes uninsured or unregistered deposits for which the securities are held by the counterparty's trust department or agent, but not in the Tax Collector's name. At year end, all of the Tax Collector's deposits were in Category 1.

F. Inventories - It is the policy of the Tax Collector to record the acquisition of supplies as expenditures at the time of purchase. The amount of supplies on hand at any one time would be a nominal amount and considered to be immaterial.

G. Fixed Assets - Fixed assets used in governmental fund type operations are accounted for in the General Fixed Assets Accounts. All fixed assets acquired by purchase are recorded at historical cost. Donated assets are recorded at estimated fair market value at the date donated. Depreciation has been provided on the County's equipment on the straight-line basis over three to twelve years. Assets purchased by the Tax Collector are reported in the Board of County Commissioners' General Fixed Assets Accounts.

H. Compensated Absences - The Tax Collector follows generally accepted accounting principles in accounting for accrued compensated absences. Since the annual and sick leave liability is considered long-term, it is recorded in the government-wide financial statements of the County. Compensated absences are expected to be paid out of Tax Collector and this practice is expected to continue in the future. The Tax Collector maintained compensated absence records for the hours

earned, used and available. As of September 30, 2024, the balance of compensated absences is \$211,479.

I. Estimates - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with 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.

J. 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 directly purchases insurance and participates in the risk management program through the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners which uses commercial insurance and a public entity risk pool to cover certain risks from loss.

K. Net Position - In the accompanying statement of net position, restricted net position, if any, is subject to restrictions beyond the Tax Collector's control. The restriction is either externally imposed (for instance, by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws/regulations of other governments) or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. The entire balance of net position reflects amounts held for individuals.

L. Leases - The Tax Collector has various leases for office equipment with remaining terms of one to five years at various monthly rates. The Tax Collector reports leases as expenditures which totaled \$5,048 for the year ending September 30, 2024. Leases held by the Tax Collector are reported as a right of use asset and lease liability in the government-wide financial statements of the County, in accordance with SGAS No. 87. The schedule below shows the payments to maturity as of September 30, 2024:

Year	Payment
2025	\$ 5,304
2026	3,514
2027	2,235
2028	2,235
	\$ 13,289

NOTE 2. PENSION PLAN

Plan Description - The Tax Collector contributes to the Florida Retirement System ("System"), a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit plan administered by the State of Florida, Department of Administration, Division of Retirement. The System provides retirement, disability or death benefits to retirees or their designated beneficiaries. Chapter 121, *Florida Statutes*, establishes the authority for benefit provisions. Changes to the law can only occur through an act of the Florida Legislature. The System issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for the System. That report may be obtained by writing to the Florida Retirement System, 2639 North Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida, or by calling (850) 488-5706.

Funding Policy - The System is employee noncontributory through June 30, 2011. Effective July 1, 2011, employees are required to contribute 3% of their gross wages. The Tax Collector is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The rates from October 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024 and from July 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024, were as follows:

Class	October 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	July 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024
Regular Class	13.57%	13.63%
Special Risk Class	32.67%	32.79%
Special Risk Administrative Support	39.82%	39.82%
County Elected Officers	58.68%	58.68%
Senior Management Class	34.52%	34.52%
Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP)	21.13%	21.13%

The contribution requirements of plan members and the Tax Collector are established and may be amended by the Florida Legislature. The Tax Collector's contributions to the System for the years ending September 30, 2024, 2023 and 2022 were \$334,846, \$293,837, and \$247,513 respectively, which are equal to the required contributions for each year.

NOTE 3. INTERFUND RECEIVABLES AND PAYABLES

Balances at September 30, 2024, were:

	Interfund Receivable	Interfund Payable
General Fund	\$ 60,785	\$ -
Ad Valorem Tax Fund	-	60,785
	\$ 60,785	\$ 60,785

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
TAX COLLECTOR
GENERAL FUND
STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024**

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance Positive (Negative)
REVENUES				
County Officer commissions and fees				
Professional and occupational licenses	\$ 16,500	\$ 16,500	19,381	\$ 2,881
Motor vehicle fees	390,000	390,000	393,825	3,825
Drivers license fees	170,000	170,000	201,036	31,036
Concealed weapons fee	17,000	17,000	14,457	(2,543)
Other licenses and permits	5,810	5,810	1,550	(4,260)
State commissions	62,500	62,500	1,500	(61,000)
County commissions	985,000	985,000	1,100,568	115,568
Tax commissions				
Suwannee Water Management District	20,000	20,000	24,694	4,694
Delinquent tax commissions	140,000	140,000	230,173	90,173
Special assessment commissions	188,000	188,000	280,219	92,219
Special assessment administrative fees	98,500	98,500	158,658	60,158
Total charges for services	<u>2,093,310</u>	<u>2,093,310</u>	<u>2,426,061</u>	<u>332,751</u>
Miscellaneous				
Interest earnings	-	-	12,835	12,835
Other miscellaneous	4,500	4,500	4,559	59
Total miscellaneous	<u>4,500</u>	<u>4,500</u>	<u>17,394</u>	<u>12,894</u>
Total revenues	<u>2,097,810</u>	<u>2,097,810</u>	<u>2,443,455</u>	<u>345,645</u>
EXPENDITURES				
General government				
Personnel services	1,835,589	1,897,255	1,962,264	(65,009)
Operating expenses	224,745	224,745	249,215	(24,470)
Total expenditures	<u>2,060,334</u>	<u>2,122,000</u>	<u>2,211,479</u>	<u>(89,479)</u>
Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures	37,476	(24,190)	231,976	256,166
Other financing sources				
Transfers to Board of County Commissioners	(37,476)	24,190	(231,976)	(256,166)
Fund balance at beginning of year	-	-	-	-
Fund balance at end of year	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

See notes to financial statements.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**COLUMBIA COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR
CUSTODIAL FUNDS
COMBINING STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
September 30, 2024**

	Tag Fund	Ad Valorem Tax Fund	Totals
ASSETS			
Cash	\$ 83,407	\$ 1,680,606	\$ 1,764,013
Total assets	<u>\$ 83,407</u>	<u>\$ 1,680,606</u>	<u>\$ 1,764,013</u>
LIABILITIES			
Due to other funds	\$ -	\$ 60,785	\$ 60,785
Due to other governmental units	68,509	1,475,544	1,544,053
Total liabilities	<u>68,509</u>	<u>1,536,329</u>	<u>1,604,838</u>
NET POSITION	<u>\$ 14,898</u>	<u>\$ 144,277</u>	<u>\$ 159,175</u>

See notes to financial statements.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR
CUSTODIAL FUNDS
COMBINING STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024**

	Tag Fund	Ad Valorem Tax Fund	Totals
ADDITIONS			
Property taxes collected for other governments	\$ -	\$ 74,938,811	\$ 74,938,811
Funds held for others	175,960	5,578,776	5,754,736
Licenses and fees	7,834,926	-	7,834,926
Total additions	8,010,886	80,517,587	88,528,473
DEDUCTIONS			
Property taxes and fees payable	-	74,934,807	74,934,807
Funds held for others	176,341	5,609,761	5,786,102
Licenses and fees	7,834,927	-	7,834,927
Total deductions	8,011,268	80,544,568	88,555,836
 Change in net position	 (382)	 (26,981)	 (27,363)
 Net position - beginning of year	 15,280	 171,258	 186,538
Net position - end of year	\$ 14,898	\$ 144,277	\$ 159,175

See notes to financial statements.

COMPLIANCE SECTION



Powell and Jones CPA

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

To the Honorable Kyle Keen
Tax Collector of Columbia 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 governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Columbia County Tax Collector, as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Columbia County Tax Collector's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated April 29, 2025.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Columbia County 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 Columbia County Tax Collector's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Columbia County 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 entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

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

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Columbia County 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 determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Powell & Jones".

Powell and Jones CPA
April 29, 2025



Powell and Jones CPA

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MANAGEMENT LETTER REQUIRED BY CHAPTER 10.550, RULES OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

Honorable Tax Collector
Columbia County, Florida

We have audited the financial statements of the Columbia County Tax Collector, as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, and have issued our report thereon dated April 29, 2025.

We have issued our 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* dated April 29, 2025. Disclosures in that report, should be considered in conjunction with this management letter.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, and Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Additionally, our audit was conducted in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General, which govern the conduct of local governmental entity audits performed in the State of Florida and require that the following be addressed in this letter:

PRIOR YEAR 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 findings or recommendations made in the preceding financial audit report.

FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Financial Emergency Status – We have determined that the Tax Collector did not meet any of the conditions described in Section 218.503(1), *Florida Statutes*, that might result in a financial emergency.

Financial Condition Assessment – As required by the *Rules of the Auditor General* (Sections 10.554(1)(i)5.b. and 10.556(8)), we applied financial condition assessment procedures. It is management's responsibility to monitor the entity's financial condition, and our financial condition assessment was based in part on representations made by management and the review of financial information they provided.

Our audit did not disclose any further items that would be required to be reported under the *Rules of the Auditor General*, Chapter 10.554(1)(f).

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.

CONCLUSION

We have reviewed information regarding our audit with the Tax Collector and have provided him with appropriate documentation as requested. We very much enjoyed the challenges and experiences associated with our audit of the Tax Collector. We appreciate the helpful assistance of the Tax Collector's Staff in completing our audit and also the generally high quality of the Tax Collector's financial records and internal controls. We also appreciate the helpful assistance and courtesy afforded us by these employees.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Powell & Jones".

Powell and Jones CPA
April 29, 2025



Powell and Jones CPA

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

To The Tax Collector
Columbia County, Florida

We have examined the Columbia County, Florida's Tax Collector's (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 those requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Tax Collector's compliance based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and, accordingly, included examining, on a test basis, evidence about the Tax Collector's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our examination provides a reasonable basis for our opinion. Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the Tax Collector's compliance with specified requirements.

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

This report is intended solely for the information and use of Columbia County, Florida, the Tax Collector and the Auditor General, State of Florida, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Powell and Jones CPA
April 29, 2025

SHERIFF

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SHERIFF
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Honorable Wallace F. Kitchings
The Sheriff of Columbia County, Florida

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying fund financial statements of the major fund and aggregate remaining funds of the Columbia County Sheriff as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Columbia County Sheriff's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the major fund and aggregate remaining funds of the Columbia County Sheriff, as of September 30, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position 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 and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, 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 Columbia County 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 opinions.

Emphasis of Matter

The accompanying financial statements were prepared for the purpose of complying with Section 218.39(8), Florida Statutes, and Rule 10.557(5) of Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General – Local Governmental Entity Audits. As described in Note 1 to the financial statements, the Sheriff is part of the reporting for Columbia County, Florida. Accordingly, these financial statements are not a complete presentation of the reporting entity's basic financial statements.

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 Columbia County 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 these 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 generally accepted auditing standards 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 generally accepted auditing standards 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 Columbia County 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 Columbia County 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.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the budgetary comparison information 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 historic context. We have applied certain limited 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 response to our inquires, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during out audit for the basic financial statements. We do not express and opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or any assurance.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. The other information is comprised of the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards, the combining statements for nonmajor governmental funds, and the combining statements for fiduciary funds. The other information does not include the basic financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinions on the basic financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

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

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 10, 2025, on our consideration of the Columbia County 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 the Columbia County Sheriff'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 Columbia County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Powell and Jones CPA
Lake City Florida
June 10, 2025

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SHERIFF
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
BALANCE SHEET
September 30, 2024**

	General Fund	Construction Fund	Inmate Welfare Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Totals
ASSETS					
Cash	\$ 1,177,787	\$ 2,309,336	\$ 1,471,648	\$ 61,052	\$ 5,019,823
Accounts receivable	13,609	-	58,822	-	72,431
Due from other funds	151,622	-	50,775	-	202,397
Due from other governmental units	98,813	-	-	-	98,813
Prepaid expenses	42,716	-	-	-	42,716
Total assets	<u>\$ 1,484,547</u>	<u>\$ 2,309,336</u>	<u>\$ 1,581,245</u>	<u>\$ 61,052</u>	<u>\$ 5,436,180</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES					
LIABILITIES					
Accounts payable	\$ 220,360	\$ 987	\$ 71,519	\$ 1,190	\$ 294,056
Accrued liabilities	1,199,705	-	-	-	1,199,705
Due to Board of County Commissioners	64,482	-	-	-	64,482
Due to other funds	-	-	177,611	-	177,611
Total liabilities	<u>1,484,547</u>	<u>987</u>	<u>249,130</u>	<u>1,190</u>	<u>1,735,854</u>
FUND BALANCES					
Restricted	-	2,308,349	1,332,115	59,862	3,700,326
Total liabilities and fund balances	<u>\$ 1,484,547</u>	<u>\$ 2,309,336</u>	<u>\$ 1,581,245</u>	<u>\$ 61,052</u>	<u>\$ 5,436,180</u>

See notes to financial statements.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SHERIFF
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

	General Fund	Construction Fund	Inmate Welfare Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Totals
REVENUES					
Intergovernmental	\$ 186,741	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,725	\$ 200,466
Charges for services	330,896	-	739,394	279	1,070,569
Fines and forfeitures	43,744	-	-	8,860	52,604
Interest	21,125	22,581	25,562	779	70,047
Miscellaneous	518,951	-	8,426	150	527,527
Total revenues	1,101,457	22,581	773,382	23,793	1,996,169
EXPENDITURES					
Current					
Law enforcement	14,923,190	-	-	30,445	14,953,635
Corrections	6,059,739	-	354,126	42	6,413,907
Capital outlay					
Law enforcement	923,710	30,217	-	-	953,927
Corrections	87,430	-	198,319	-	285,749
Debt service					
Principal	60,643	-	4,459	-	65,102
Interest	5,111	-	318	-	5,429
Total expenditures	22,059,823	30,217	557,222	30,487	22,677,749
Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures	(20,958,366)	(7,636)	216,160	(6,694)	(20,681,580)
Other financing sources/uses					
Lease proceeds	74,956	-	-	-	74,956
Transfers from Board of County Commissioners	20,883,410	-	-	-	20,883,410
Total other financing sources/uses	20,958,366	-	-	-	20,883,410
Net change in fund balances	-	(7,636)	216,160	(6,694)	201,830
Fund balances at beginning of year	-	2,315,985	1,115,955	66,556	3,498,496
Fund balances at end of year	\$ -	\$ 2,308,349	\$ 1,332,115	\$ 59,862	\$ 3,700,326

See notes to financial statements.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SHERIFF
FIDUCIARY FUNDS
STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
September 30, 2024**

	Custodial Funds
ASSETS	
Cash	\$ 192,553
Accounts receivable	-
Due from other funds	29,378
Total assets	\$ 221,931
 LIABILITIES	
Due to Board of County Commissioners	\$ 5,239
Accounts payable	-
Due to other funds	54,163
Total liabilities	59,402
 NET POSITION	
Total liabilities and net position	\$ 221,931

See notes to financial statements.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SHERIFF
FIDUCIARY FUNDS
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION**

For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

	Custodial Funds
ADDITIONS	
Funds held for others	\$ 840,909
Sheriff civil fees	94,276
Total additions	935,185
 DEDUCTIONS	
Funds held for others	1,150,744
Sheriff civil fees	95,766
Total deductions	1,246,510
 Change in net position	 (311,325)
Net position - beginning of year	473,854
Net position - end of year	\$ 162,529

See notes to financial statements.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SHERIFF
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
September 30, 2024

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Reporting Entity - The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) in its Statement No. 14, "The Financial Reporting Entity," as amended by GASB 39 "Determining Whether Certain Organizations are Component Units an Amendment of GASB Statement 14," establishes standards for defining the financial reporting entity. In developing these standards, the GASB assumed that all governmental organizations are responsible to elected officials at the federal, state, or local level. Financial reporting by a state or local government should report the elected officials' accountability for those organizations.

The Sheriff, as established by Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Florida, is an elected official of the County. Although the Sheriff's Office is operationally autonomous from the Board of County Commissioners, it does not hold sufficient corporate powers of its own to be considered a legally separate entity for financial reporting purposes. Therefore, the Sheriff is reported as a part of the primary government of Columbia County, Florida. The Sheriff's financial statements do not purport to reflect the financial position or the results of operations of Columbia County, Florida, taken as a whole.

These special purpose financial statements of the Sheriff are issued separately to comply with Section 10.557(4), *Rules of the Auditor General for Local Governmental Entity Audits*, pursuant to Section 11.45(3), *Florida Statutes*.

B. Fund Accounting - Accounts are organized on the basis of funds, each of which is considered a separate accounting entity. The operations of each fund are accounted for with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund entity, revenues and expenditures. Governmental resources are allocated to and accounted for in individual funds based upon the purposes for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled. Separate columns are presented for each major fund and the nonmajor funds are combined into a single column in the fund financial statements and detailed in the combining section of this report. The funds and account group utilized by the Sheriff are as follows:

(i) Governmental Funds

General Fund - The General Fund of the Sheriff is used to account for all financial resources, which are generated from operations of the office or any other resources not required to be accounted for in another fund.

Construction Fund - The Construction Fund is used to account for funds appropriated by the Board of County Commissions for the construction of new facilities.

Inmate Welfare Fund - The Inmate Welfare Fund is used to account for funds restricted by *Florida Statute* to use for the benefit or care of inmates such as commissions on commissary and other services provided to inmates.

Nonmajor Governmental Funds – The nonmajor funds are special revenues funds which are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources which are legally restricted to expenditures for specified purposes. As of September 30, 2024, the Sheriff maintained the following nonmajor governmental funds:

Minimum Standards School
Drug Task Force
Work Program

(ii) **Fiduciary Funds**

Custodial Funds - Custodial Funds are used to account for assets held by the Sheriff as a custodian for other parties including individuals, private organizations, other governments, and/or other funds. Custodial Funds use the accrual basis of accounting. The following Custodial Funds are maintained by the Sheriff:

Inmate Trust
Individual Depositors Trust
Evidence Trust
Donations Trust

C. Basis of Accounting - The "Basis of Accounting" refers to when revenues and expenditures, and the related assets and liabilities, are recognized in the accounting records and reported in the financial statements. The Sheriff currently maintains his accounting records for all funds on the cash basis. However, for financial statement purposes appropriate adjustments are made to report governmental and fiduciary fund types using the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis, revenues are generally recognized when they become measurable and available as net current assets. Expenditures are reported when incurred with the exception of prepaid expenses and principal and interest on general long-term obligations.

D. Budget - Chapter 129, *Florida Statutes*, requires that budgets be adopted for all funds as may be required by law, sound financial practices, and generally accepted accounting principles and that budgets be adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Pursuant to this requirement, the County adopts an annual comprehensive appropriations budget.

In the budget comparisons included in these financial statements, both the amounts budgeted and the actual amounts reported are presented on the GAAP basis. Budgetary comparisons present the appropriated budget of the Sheriff.

E. Cash and Investments - Deposits are carried at cost which approximates market value. The carrying amount of deposits is separately displayed on the balance sheet as "Cash."

At September 30, 2024, the book balance of the Sheriff's deposits was \$5,212,376. The bank balances were \$5,440,774. These balances were covered by federal depository insurance or collateral held at various qualified public depositories. Chapter 280, *Florida Statutes*, defines the eligible collateral for these qualified public depositories.

The collateral for the Sheriff's deposits is categorized to give an indication of the level of risk assumed by the Sheriff at year end. Category 1 includes deposits that are insured or registered or for which the securities are held by the Sheriff or his agent in the Sheriff's name. Category 2 includes uninsured and unregistered deposits for which the securities are held by the counterparty's trust department or agent in the Sheriff's name. Category 3 includes uninsured or unregistered deposits for which the securities are held by the counterparty's trust department or agent, but not in the Sheriff's name.

Bank Deposit Covered by	Category			Bank Balance
	1	2	3	
Eligible collateral	\$ -	\$ 4,935,467	\$ -	\$ 4,935,467
FDIC Insurance	505,307	-	-	505,307
Total deposits	<u>\$ 505,307</u>	<u>\$ 4,935,467</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 5,440,774</u>

F. Inventories - It is the policy of the Sheriff to record the acquisition of supplies as expenditures at the time of purchase. The amount of supplies on hand at any one time would be a nominal amount and considered to be immaterial.

G. Fixed Assets - Fixed assets used in governmental fund type operations are accounted for in the general fixed assets accounts. All fixed assets acquired by purchase are recorded at historical cost. Donated assets are recorded at estimated fair market value at the date donated.

H. Compensated Absences - The Sheriff follows generally accepted accounting principles in accounting for accrued compensated absences. Since the annual and sick leave liability is considered long-term, it is recorded in the government-wide financial statements of the County. Compensated absences are expected to be paid out of the General Fund of the Sheriff and this practice is expected to continue in the future. The Sheriff maintained compensated absence records for the hours earned, used and available as of September 30, 2024. The balance of compensated absences is \$1,495,497.

I. Leases - The Sheriff has various leases for various equipment with remaining terms of one to five years at various monthly rates. The Sheriff reports leases as expenditures which totaled \$57,064 for the year ending September 30, 2024. Leases held by the Sheriff are reported as a right of use asset and lease liability in the government-wide financial statements of the County, in accordance with SGAS No. 87. The schedule below shows the minimum annual lease payments to maturity including principal and interest as of September 30, 2024:

<u>Year Ending September 30</u>	<u>Minimum Lease Payment</u>
2025	34,530
2026	23,317
2027	16,416
	<u>\$ 74,263</u>

J. Estimates - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with 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.

K. Risk Management - The Sheriff 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 Sheriff directly purchases insurance and participates in the risk management program through the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners which uses commercial insurance and a public entity risk pool to cover certain risks from loss.

NOTE 2. CHANGES IN GENERAL FIXED ASSETS

A summary of changes in general fixed assets follows:

	Balance 10/01/2023	Additions	Deletions	Balance 09/30/2024
Equipment	\$ 11,237,990	\$ 1,189,162	\$ (355,190)	\$ 12,071,962
Construction in progress	171,931	30,217	-	202,148
Accumulated depreciation	(9,238,643)	(916,205)	355,190	(9,799,658)
Capital assets, net	<u>\$ 2,171,278</u>	<u>\$ 303,174</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 2,474,452</u>

NOTE 3. PENSION PLAN

Plan Description - The Sheriff contributes to the Florida Retirement System ("System"), a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit plan administered by the State of Florida, Department of Administration, Division of Retirement. The System provides retirement, disability or death benefits to retirees or their designated beneficiaries. Chapter 121, *Florida Statutes*, establishes the authority for benefit provisions. Changes to the law can only occur through an act of the Florida Legislature. The System issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for the System. That report may be obtained by writing to the Florida Retirement System, 2639 North Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida, or by calling (850) 488-5706.

Funding Policy - The System was employee noncontributory through June 30, 2011. Effective July 1, 2011, employees are required to contribute 3% of their gross wages. The Sheriff is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The rates from October 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 and from July 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024, were as follows:

Class	October 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	July 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024
Regular Class	13.57%	13.63%
Special Risk Class	32.67%	32.79%
Special Risk Administrative Support	39.82%	39.82%
County Elected Officers	58.68%	58.68%
Senior Management Class	34.52%	34.52%
Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP)	21.13%	21.13%

The contribution requirements of plan members and the Sheriff are established and may be amended by the Florida Legislature. The Sheriff's contributions to the System for the years ending September 30, 2024, 2023, 2022 were \$3,245,047, \$2,602,823 and \$1,952,934 respectively, which are equal to the required contributions for each year.

NOTE 4. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Amounts received or receivable from grantor agencies are subject to audit and adjustment by grantor agencies, principally the State and Federal governments. Any disallowed claims, including amounts already collected, may constitute a liability of the applicable funds. The amount, if any, of expenditures which may be disallowed by the grantor cannot be determined at this time, although the Sheriff and Board of County Commissioners expect such amounts, if any, to be immaterial.

The Sheriff is defendant in various pending or threatened litigation. Although the outcome of these lawsuits is not presently determinable, in the opinion of the Sheriff's counsel, the resolution of these matters will not have a material adverse effect on the financial condition of the Sheriff.

NOTE 5. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Sheriff is exposed to risk or loss for claims and judgments for public liability, worker's compensation, and other special risks. Public liability and special risks are covered by commercial insurance policies which are accounted for in the Sheriff's general fund. The Sheriff bears no risk of loss under this type of coverage. There has been no significant reduction in insurance coverage from the prior fiscal year. Insurance coverage has been sufficient to cover all claims made in the prior three fiscal years.

The Sheriff is a member of Florida Sheriffs' Self-Insurance Fund, which administers insurance activities relating to property and general liability; Florida Sheriffs' Workers' Compensation Self-Insurance Fund, which administers workers' compensation insurance; and Sheriffs' Automobile Risk Program which administers automobile liability and physical damage insurance. Those funds and program absorb losses up to a specified amount annually and purchase excess coverage from third-party carriers. Each member is assessed his/her pro rata share of the estimated amount required to meet current year losses and operation expenses. Losses, if any, in excess of the fund or program ability to assess its members, would revert back to the member that incurred the loss.

The Sheriff is a member of the Florida Sheriffs Multiple Employers Trust Consortium, which is a self-funded healthcare pool. The funds contributed in the form of premiums and that of the program absorb losses up to a specified amount annually and purchases excess coverage from third-party carriers. Each member is assessed his/her pro rata share of the estimated amount required to meet current year losses and operation expenses. Losses, if any, in excess of the fund or program ability to assess its members, would revert back to the member that incurred the loss.

The Sheriff utilizes a pooled, self-funded health plan to provide comprehensive medical benefits to the employees, retirees and their dependents. It is funded by contributions from the Sheriff's Office and employees. In compliance with *Florida Statute* Section 112.08, an actuarial review of the Plan demonstrates the current rate structure of the Plan plus the current net assets available for benefits appears adequate to support current outstanding claims as well as those projected claims and expenses for the next Plan year.

NOTE 6. UNEARNED REVENUE

The Sheriff reports unearned revenue, if applicable, on the balance sheet. Unearned revenues also arise when resources are received by the government before it has a legal claim to them, as when grant monies are received prior to the incurrence of qualifying expenditures. In subsequent periods, when revenue recognition criteria are met, and the government has a legal claim to the resources, the liability for unearned revenue is removed from the balance sheet and revenue is recognized.

NOTE 7. FUND BALANCES – GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

As of September 30, 2024, fund balances of the governmental funds are classified as follows:

Nonspendable – amounts that cannot be spent either because they are in nonspendable form or because they are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

Restricted – amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes because of constitutional

provisions, charter requirements or enabling legislation or because of constraints that are externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or the laws or regulations of other governments.

Committed – amounts that can be used only for specific purposes determined by a formal action of the governing body. Commitments may be established, modified, or rescinded only through resolutions approved by the governing body.

Assigned – amounts that do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed, but that are intended to be used for specific purposes. Under current practices, the assignment of amounts for specific purposes is approved by the Sheriff.

Unassigned - all other spendable amounts.

Fund balances with restrictions are as follows at September 30, 2024:

	Classification					Total
	Nonspendable	Restricted	Committed	Assigned	Unassigned	
Special Revenue Funds						
Minimum Standards School	\$ -	\$ 25,023	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,023
Drug Task Force	-	21,286	-	-	-	21,286
Inmate Welfare	-	1,332,115	-	-	-	1,332,115
Construction Fund	-	2,308,349	-	-	-	2,308,349
Work Program	-	13,553	-	-	-	13,553
	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 3,700,326</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 3,700,326</u>

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SHERIFF
GENERAL FUND
STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance With Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
REVENUES				
Intergovernmental revenue				
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 59,838	\$ 59,838
Other intergovernmental revenue	-	-	126,903	126,903
Charges for services	-	-	330,896	330,896
Fines and forfeitures	-	-	43,744	43,744
Interest	-	-	21,125	21,125
Miscellaneous	-	-	518,951	518,951
Total revenues	-	-	1,101,457	1,101,457
EXPENDITURES				
Administration				
Personnel services	1,495,322	1,505,222	1,504,865	357
Operating expenses	266,600	263,190	264,176	(986)
Debt service	4,600	8,115	8,112	3
Total administration	1,766,522	1,776,527	1,777,153	(626)
Road Patrol				
Personnel services	4,518,776	4,592,671	4,874,109	(281,438)
Operating expenses	668,345	729,730	819,044	(89,314)
Capital outlay	400,000	494,620	558,631	(64,011)
Debt service	2,800	5,480	5,473	7
Total road patrol	5,589,921	5,822,501	6,257,257	(434,756)
Detective				
Personnel services	1,378,663	1,370,463	1,369,912	551
Operating expenses	134,950	158,135	157,789	346
Debt service	2,500	4,550	4,515	35
Total detective	1,516,113	1,533,148	1,532,216	932
Civil				
Personnel services	516,870	515,010	514,441	569
Operating expenses	43,105	41,960	43,997	(2,037)
Debt service	3,000	5,250	5,221	29
Total civil	562,975	562,220	563,659	(1,439)
Records Evidence				
Personnel services	445,399	400,649	399,690	959
Operating expenses	33,700	24,985	24,541	444
Debt service	1,500	3,500	3,394	106
Total records evidence	480,599	429,134	427,625	1,509
Communications				
Personnel services	165,135	152,085	151,149	936
Operating expenses	13,000	13,400	13,365	35
Total communications	178,135	165,485	164,514	971

Continued.
See notes to schedule.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SHERIFF
GENERAL FUND
STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL (CONTINUED)
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024**

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance With Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
Corrections				
Personnel services	4,866,951	4,585,576	4,520,713	64,863
Operating expenses	1,245,500	1,267,295	1,539,026	(271,731)
Capital outlay	69,000	69,000	87,430	(18,430)
Debt service	11,000	13,375	13,320	55
Total corrections	6,192,451	5,935,246	6,160,489	(225,243)
Sheriff task force				
Personnel services	540,627	538,927	628,064	(89,137)
Operating expenses	55,300	57,975	76,575	(18,600)
Debt service	2,300	2,300	21,357	(19,057)
Total sheriff task force	598,227	599,202	725,996	(126,794)
School resources				
Personnel services	1,915,589	1,933,894	1,933,047	847
Operating expenses	145,500	140,400	139,927	473
Total school resources	2,061,089	2,074,294	2,072,974	1,320
Bullet Proof Vest				
Operating expenses	-	-	8,445	(8,445)
Total Bullet Proof Vest	-	-	8,445	(8,445)
Information technology				
Operating expenses	367,800	449,025	446,736	2,289
Capital outlay	100,000	93,500	93,444	56
Total information technology	467,800	542,525	540,180	2,345
Community services				
Personnel services	433,214	475,374	474,549	825
Operating expenses	63,665	79,130	78,634	496
Debt service	300	1,000	957	43
Total community services	497,179	555,504	554,140	1,364
Courts judicial				
Personnel services	808,131	738,731	737,733	998
Operating expenses	64,500	51,275	50,941	334
Debt service	2,500	3,450	3,405	45
Total court judicial	875,131	793,456	792,079	1,377
Warrants				
Personnel services	158,650	155,860	155,626	234
Operating expenses	3,100	2,790	2,764	26
Total warrants	161,750	158,650	158,390	260

Continued.
See notes to schedule.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SHERIFF
GENERAL FUND
STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL (CONCLUDED)
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024**

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance With Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
FSA Disaster Recovery Unit				
Capital outlay	-	-	268,435	(268,435)
Total guardian program	-	-	268,435	(268,435)
Guardian program				
Operating expenses	-	-	1,678	(1,678)
Capital outlay	-	-	3,200	(3,200)
Total guardian program	-	-	4,878	(4,878)
Crime analyst grant				
Personnel services	-	-	50,343	(50,343)
Operating expenses	-	-	1,050	(1,050)
Total crime analyst grant	-	-	51,393	(51,393)
Total expenditures	20,947,892	20,947,892	22,059,823	(1,111,931)
Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures	(20,947,892)	(20,947,892)	(20,958,366)	(10,474)
Other financing sources (uses)				
Lease proceeds	-	-	74,956	74,956
Transfers from the Board of County Commissioners	20,947,892	20,947,892	20,883,410	(64,482)
Total other financing sources	20,947,892	20,947,892	20,958,366	10,474
Net change in fund balance	-	-	-	-
Fund balance beginning of year	-	-	-	-
Fund balance end of year	-	-	-	-

See notes to schedule.

OTHER INFORMATION

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SHERIFF
NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
COMBINING BALANCE SHEET
September 30, 2024**

	Minimum Standards School	Drug Task Force	Work Program	Totals
ASSETS				
Cash	\$ 25,023	\$ 22,476	\$ 13,553	\$ 61,052
Total assets	<u>\$ 25,023</u>	<u>\$ 22,476</u>	<u>\$ 13,553</u>	<u>\$ 61,052</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES				
LIABILITIES				
Accounts payable	\$ -	\$ 1,190	\$ -	\$ 1,190
Total liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>1,190</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,190</u>
FUND BALANCES				
Restricted	25,023	21,286	13,553	59,862
Total liabilities and fund balances	<u>\$ 25,023</u>	<u>\$ 22,476</u>	<u>\$ 13,553</u>	<u>\$ 61,052</u>

See notes to financial statements.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SHERIFF
NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024**

	Minimum Standards School	Drug Task Force	Work Program	Totals
REVENUES				
Intergovernmental	\$ -	\$ 13,725	\$ -	\$ 13,725
Charges for services	-	-	279	279
Fines and forfeitures	6,910	1,950	-	8,860
Interest	224	259	296	779
Miscellaneous	-	150	-	150
Total revenues	7,134	16,084	575	23,793
EXPENDITURES				
Public Safety				
Law enforcement				
Operating expenses	2,161	28,284	-	30,445
Total law enforcement	2,161	28,284	-	30,445
Detention and correction				
Operating expenses	-	-	42	42
Total detention and correction	-	-	42	42
Total expenditures	2,161	28,284	42	30,487
Net change in fund balances	4,973	(12,200)	533	(6,694)
Fund balances beginning of year	20,050	33,486	13,020	66,556
Fund balances end of year	\$ 25,023	\$ 21,286	\$ 13,553	\$ 59,862

See notes to financial statements.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SHERIFF
FIDUCIARY FUNDS
COMBINING STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024**

	Inmate Trust	Individual Depositors	Evidence Trust	Donations Trust	Total Custodial Funds
ASSETS					
Cash	\$ 41,659	\$ 5,239	\$ 115,525	\$ 30,130	\$ 192,553
Due from other funds	29,378	-	-	-	29,378
Total assets	\$ 71,037	\$ 5,239	\$ 115,525	\$ 30,130	\$ 221,931
LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION					
LIABILITIES					
Due to Board of County Commissioners	\$ -	\$ 5,239	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,239
Due to other funds	54,163	-	-	-	54,163
Total liabilities	54,163	5,239	-	-	59,402
NET POSITION	16,874	-	115,525	30,130	162,529
Total liabilities and net position	\$ 71,037	\$ 5,239	\$ 115,525	\$ 30,130	\$ 221,931

See notes to financial statements.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SHERIFF
FIDUCIARY FUNDS
COMBINING STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

	Inmate Trust	Individual Depositors	Evidence Trust	Donations Trust	Total Custodial Funds
ADDITIONS					
Funds held for others	\$ 684,378	\$ -	\$ 99,467	\$ 57,064	\$ 840,909
Sheriff civil fees	-	94,276	-	-	94,276
Total additions	684,378	94,276	99,467	57,064	935,185
DEDUCTIONS					
Funds held for others	1,023,627	-	88,324	38,793	1,150,744
Sheriff civil fees	-	95,766	-	-	95,766
Total deductions	1,023,627	95,766	88,324	38,793	1,246,510
Change in net position	(339,249)	(1,490)	11,143	18,271	(311,325)
Net position - beginning of year	356,123	1,490	104,382	11,859	473,854
Net position - end of year	\$ 16,874	\$ -	\$ 115,525	\$ 30,130	\$ 162,529

See notes to financial statements.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SHERIFF
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024**

Federal Grantor/Pass Through Grantor Program Title	ALN / CSFA#	GRANT #	PROGRAM OR AWARD AMOUNT	REPORTED IN PRIOR YEARS	EXPENDITURES
FEDERAL AWARDS					
<i>U.S. Department of Justice</i>					
Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program	16.607	FY2022	\$ 6,899.31	\$ 2,996.51	\$ 3,903.00
Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program	16.607	FY2023	4,726	-	4,542
			<u>11,626</u>	<u>2,997</u>	<u>8,445</u>
<i>U.S. Department of Homeland Security passed through State of Florida Division of Emergency Management</i>					
Homeland Security Grant Program - Crime Analyst Grant	97.067	R0680	58,000	36,576	20,704
Homeland Security Grant Program - Crime Analyst Grant	97.067	R0904	58,000	-	30,689
			<u>116,000</u>	<u>36,576</u>	<u>51,393</u>
Total Federal Awards			<u>\$ 127,625.66</u>	<u>\$ 39,572.08</u>	<u>\$ 59,838.00</u>

See notes to schedule of expenditures of federal awards.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SHERIFF**

Notes to Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards

For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

NOTE 1. REPORTING ENTITY

The Sheriff, as established by Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Florida, is an elected official of the County. Although the Sheriff's Office is operationally autonomous from the Board of County Commissioners, it does not hold sufficient corporate powers of its own to be considered a legally separate entity for financial reporting purposes. Therefore, the Sheriff is reported as a part of the primary government of Columbia County, Florida. The Sheriff's financial statements do not purport to reflect the financial position or the results of operations of Columbia County, Florida, taken as a whole.

These special purpose financial statements of the Sheriff are issued separately to comply with Section 10.557(4), *Rules of the Auditor General for Local Governmental Entity Audits*, pursuant to Section 11.45(3), *Florida Statutes*.

NOTE 2. BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

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

The modified accrual basis of accounting is followed in the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards. Under the modified accrual basis, revenues are recognized when they become measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the Columbia County Sheriff considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days after the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting.

NOTE 3. INDIRECT COST RATE

The Sheriff did not elect to utilize the 10% de minimis indirect cost rate.

NOTE 4. SUBRECIPIENTS

No Federal Awards were passed through to subrecipients.

OTHER REPORTS AND LETTERS



Powell and Jones CPA

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

To the Honorable Wallace F. Kitchings
The Sheriff of Columbia 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 special purpose financial statements of the Columbia County Sheriff as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Columbia County Sheriff's special purpose financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated June 10, 2025.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Columbia County 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 Columbia County Sheriff's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Columbia County 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 may exist that have not been identified.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Columbia County 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 determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Powell & Jones".

Powell and Jones CPA
Lake City, Florida
June 10, 2025



Powell and Jones CPA

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MANAGEMENT LETTER REQUIRED BY CHAPTER 10.550, RULES OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

To the Honorable Wallace F. Kitchings
The Sheriff of Columbia County, Florida

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the special purpose fund financial statements of the Columbia County Sheriff, as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, and have issued our report thereon dated June 10, 2025.

Auditor's Responsibility

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

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* and Independent Accountants 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 are dated June 10, 2025 should be considered in conjunction with this management letter.

Prior Audit Findings

Section 10.554(l)(i)l., Rules of the Auditor General, require 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 reportable findings in the prior year.

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.

Our audit did not disclose any further items that would be required to be reported under the *Rules of the Auditor General*, Chapter 10.550.

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, Columbia County Board of County Commissioners, the Columbia County Sheriff, and applicable management, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Conclusion

We have reviewed information regarding our audit with the Sheriff and have provided him with appropriate documentation as requested. We very much enjoyed the challenges and experiences associated with this audit of the Sheriff's Office. We appreciate the overall high quality of the financial records and personnel in the Sheriff's Office. We also appreciate the helpful assistance, professionalism and courtesy afforded us by these employees.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Powell & Jones".

Powell and Jones CPA
Lake City, Florida
June 10, 2025



Powell and Jones CPA

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

To the Honorable Wallace F. Kitchings
The Sheriff of Columbia County, Florida

We have examined the Columbia 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 those requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Sheriff's compliance based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and, accordingly, included examining, on a test basis, evidence about the Sheriff's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our examination provides a reasonable basis for our opinion. Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the Sheriff's compliance with specified requirements.

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

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Columbia County, Florida Sheriff, and the Auditor General, State of Florida, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Powell and Jones CPA
Lake City, Florida
June 10, 2025

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
 For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Honorable Tomi S. Brown, Supervisor of Elections
Columbia County, Florida

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the major fund of the Columbia County, Florida Supervisor of Elections (the Supervisor), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Supervisor basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the major fund of the Supervisor of Elections, as of September 30, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position, 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 and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, 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 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.

The accompanying financial statements were prepared for the purpose of complying with Section 218.39(8), Florida Statutes, and Rule 10.557(5) of Chapter 10.550, *Rules of the Auditor General - Local Governmental Entity Audits*. As described in Note 1 to the financial statements, the Supervisor is part of the reporting for Columbia County, Florida. Accordingly, these financial statements are not a complete presentation of the reporting entity's basic financial statements.

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 Supervisor'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 generally accepted auditing standards 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 aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards 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 Supervisor'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 Supervisor's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the budgetary comparison information 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.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated August 20, 2025, on our consideration of the Supervisor'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 Columbia County Supervisor'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 Columbia County Supervisor's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Powell and Jones CPA
Lake City, FL
August 20, 2025

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
GENERAL FUND
BALANCE SHEET
September 30, 2024**

	General Fund
ASSETS	
Current assets	
Cash	\$ 25,078
Due from other funds	52,077
Total assets	77,155
 LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	
LIABILITIES	
Current liabilities	
Accounts payable	27,908
Accrued payroll liabilities	49,247
Total liabilities	77,155
FUND BALANCE	
Restricted	-
Total fund balances	-
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$ 77,155

See notes to financial statements.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
GENERAL FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024**

REVENUES	
Miscellaneous	\$ 2,149
Total revenues	<u>2,149</u>
 EXPENDITURES	
Current expenditures	
General government	
Personnel services	1,026,782
Operating expenses	332,251
Debt service	
Principal	27,085
Interest	2,960
Total expenditures	<u>1,389,078</u>
 Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures	 <u>(1,386,929)</u>
 OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	
Interfund net transfers from Board of County Commissioners	1,386,929
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>1,386,929</u>
Net change in fund balances	-
Fund balance beginning of year	-
Fund balance end of year	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>

See notes to financial statements.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
September 30, 2024

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following is a summary of the more significant accounting policies of the Columbia County Supervisor of Elections (Supervisor).

A. Reporting Entity - The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) in its Statement No. 14, "The Financial Reporting Entity," as amended by GASB 39 "Determining Whether Certain Organizations Are Component Units an Amendment of GASB Statement 14," establishes standards for defining the financial reporting entity. In developing these standards, the GASB assumed that all governmental organizations are responsible to elected officials at the federal, state, or local level. Financial reporting by a state or local government should report the elected officials' accountability for those organizations.

The Supervisor, as established by Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Florida, is an elected official of the County. Although the Supervisor' Office is operationally autonomous from the Board of County Commissioners, it does not hold sufficient corporate powers of its own to be considered a legally separate entity for financial reporting purposes. Therefore, the Supervisor of Elections is reported as a part of the primary government of Columbia County, Florida. The Supervisor financial statements do not purport to reflect the financial position or the results of operations of Columbia County, Florida, taken as a whole.

The financial statements of the Supervisor are issued separately to comply with Section 10.557(4), *Rules of the Auditor General for Local Governmental Entity Audits*, pursuant to Section 11.45(3), *Florida Statutes*.

B. Fund Accounting - Accounts are organized on the basis of funds, each of which is considered a separate accounting entity. The operations of each fund are accounted for with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund entity, revenues and expenditures. Government resources are allocated to and accounted for in individual funds based upon the purposes for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled. The funds utilized by the Supervisor of Elections are as follows:

(i) **Governmental Fund**

General Fund - The General Fund of the Supervisor is used to account for all financial resources which are generated from operations of the office, or any other resources not required to be accounted for in another fund.

C. Basis of Accounting - Basis of Accounting refers to when revenues and expenditures and the related assets and liabilities are recognized in the accounting records and reported in the financial statements. The Supervisor currently maintains accounting records for all funds on the cash basis. However, for financial statement purposes appropriate adjustments are made to report governmental and fiduciary fund types using the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis, revenues are generally recognized when they become measurable and available as net current assets. Expenditures are reported when incurred with the exception of prepaid expenses and principal and interest on general long-term obligations.

The Supervisor reports unearned revenue, if applicable, on its combined balance sheet. Unearned revenues arise when a potential revenue does not meet both the “measurable” and “available” criteria for recognition in the current period. Unearned revenues also arise when resources are received by the government before it has a legal claim to them, as when grant monies are received prior to the incurrence of qualifying expenditures. In subsequent periods, when both revenue recognition criteria are met, or when the government has a legal claim to the resources, the liability for unearned revenue is removed from the combined balance sheet and revenue is recognized.

D. Budget - Chapter 129, *Florida Statutes*, requires that budgets be adopted for all funds as may be required by law, sound financial practices, and generally accepted accounting principles and that budgets be adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Pursuant to this requirement, the County adopts an annual comprehensive appropriations budget, which includes the operating budget of the Supervisor of Elections.

In the budget comparisons included in these financial statements, both the budgeted and the actual amounts reported are presented on the GAAP basis. Budgetary comparisons present the appropriated budget of the Supervisor of Elections.

E. Cash and Investments - Deposits are carried at cost which approximates market value. The carrying amount of deposits is separately displayed on the balance sheet as "Cash." At September 30, 2024, the bank balance of the Supervisor of Elections' deposits was \$55,903. The total balance was covered by federal depository insurance.

F. Inventories - It is the policy of the Supervisor of Elections to record the acquisition of supplies as expenditures at the time of purchase. The amount of supplies on hand at any one time would be a nominal amount and considered to be immaterial.

G. Capital Assets - Capital assets used in governmental fund type operations are accounted for in the Board of County Commissioners' general fixed assets accounts. All fixed assets acquired by purchase are recorded at historical cost. Donated assets are recorded at estimated fair market value at the date donated. Equipment of the Board is depreciated using the straight-line method over useful lives of three to twelve years.

H. Compensated Absences - The Supervisor of Elections follows generally accepted accounting principles in accounting for accrued compensated absences. Since the annual and sick leave liability is considered long-term, it is recorded in the government-wide financial statements of the County. Compensated absences are expected to be paid out of the Supervisor of Elections and this practice is expected to continue in the future. The Supervisor of Elections maintained compensated absence records for the hours earned, used and available. As of September 30, 2024, the balance of compensated absences is \$41,786.

I. Estimates - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with 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.

J. Risk Management - The Supervisor is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to and destruction to property of others. The Supervisor directly purchases insurance and participates in the risk management program through the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners which uses commercial insurance and a public entity risk pool to cover certain risks from loss.

NOTE 2. PENSION PLAN

Plan Description - The Supervisor contributes to the Florida Retirement System (System), a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit plan administered by the State of Florida, Department of Administration, Division of Retirement. The System provides retirement, disability or death benefits to retirees or their designated beneficiaries. Chapter 121, *Florida Statutes*, establishes the authority for benefit provisions. Changes to the law can only occur through an act of the Florida Legislature. The System issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for the System. That report may be obtained by writing to the Florida Retirement System, 2639 North Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida, or by calling (850) 488-5706.

Funding Policy - The System was employee non-contributory through June 30, 2011. Effective July 1, 2011, employees must contribute 3% of their gross wages. The Supervisor of Elections is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The rates for the year ended September 30, 2024, were as follows:

Class	October 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	July 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024
Regular Class	13.57%	13.63%
Special Risk Class	32.67%	32.79%
Special Risk Administrative Support	39.82%	39.82%
Elected Officers	58.68%	58.68%
Senior Management Class	34.52%	34.52%
Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP)	21.13%	21.13%

The contribution requirements of plan members and the Supervisor are established and may be amended by the Florida Legislature. The Supervisor' contributions to the System for the years ending September 30, 2024, 2023, and 2022 were \$146,209, \$125,984, and \$104,437, respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year.

NOTE 3. OPERATING LEASE PAYABLE

The Supervisor has various leases for office equipment with remaining terms of one to five years at various monthly rates. The Supervisor reports leases as expenditures which totaled \$30,045 for the year ending September 30, 2024. Long term leases were reported as debt service principal and interest of \$27,085 and \$2,960 in the governmental fund financial statements as of September 30, 2024. Leases held by the Supervisor of Elections are reported as a right of use asset and lease liability in the government-wide financial statements of the County, in accordance with SGAS No. 87. The schedule below shows the annual interest expense and lease principal payments to maturity as of September 30, 2024:

Year Ending September 30,	Payment	Interest	Principal
2025	\$ 24,004	\$ 1,286	\$ 22,718
2026	7,690	267	7,423
	\$ 31,694	\$ 1,553	\$ 30,141

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
GENERAL FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance With Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
REVENUES				
Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,149	\$ 2,149
Total revenues	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,149</u>	<u>2,149</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Current expenditures				
General government				
Personnel services	780,880	780,880	1,026,782	(245,902)
Operating expenses	340,254	340,254	332,251	8,003
Debt service				
Principal	-	-	27,085	(27,085)
Interest	-	-	2,960	(2,960)
Total expenditures	<u>1,121,134</u>	<u>1,121,134</u>	<u>1,389,078</u>	<u>(267,944)</u>
Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>(1,121,134)</u>	<u>(1,121,134)</u>	<u>(1,386,929)</u>	<u>(265,795)</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Interfund transfers from Board of County Commissioners	1,363,043	1,363,043	1,386,929	23,886
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>1,363,043</u>	<u>1,363,043</u>	<u>1,386,929</u>	<u>23,886</u>
Net change in fund balances	-	-	-	-
Fund balance beginning of year	-	-	-	-
Fund balance end of year	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

See Notes to the Financial Statements

COMPLIANCE SECTION



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

To Tomi S. Brown, Supervisor of Elections
Columbia 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 governmental fund of the Columbia County, Florida Supervisor of Elections (the Supervisor), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Supervisors' basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated August 20, 2025

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Supervisor 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 Columbia County Supervisor's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Supervisors' 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 noted two deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. These material weaknesses have been discussed in the Management Letter below.

Compliance and Other Matters

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

Purpose of this Report

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Powell & Jones".

Powell and Jones CPA
Lake City, FL
August 20, 2025



Powell and Jones CPA

1359 S.W. Main Blvd.
Lake City, FL 32025
Phone 386.755.4200

MANAGEMENT LETTER REQUIRED BY CHAPTER 10.550, RULES OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

Honorable Tomi S. Brown, Supervisor of Elections
Columbia County, Florida

We have audited the financial statements of the Columbia County, Florida Supervisor (the Supervisor), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, and have issued our report thereon dated August 20, 2025.

We have issued our Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* dated August 20, 2025. Disclosures in that report should be considered in conjunction with this management letter.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Additionally, our audit was conducted in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 10.550, *Rules of the Auditor General*, which govern the conduct of local governmental entity audits performed in the State of Florida and require that certain items be addressed in this letter.

PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS

Section 10.554(1)(1), Rules of the Auditor General, requires that we determine whether or not corrective action have been taken to address findings and recommendations made in the preceding financial audit report. Below is a tabulation of findings that are uncorrected from the preceding audit:

Tabulation of Uncorrected Audit Findings		
Current Year	2022-23 FY	2021-22 FY
Finding No.	Finding No.	Finding No.
2024-1	2023-1	NA

FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Financial Emergency Status – We have determined that the Supervisor did not meet any of the conditions described in Section 218.503(1), *Florida Statutes*, that might result in a financial emergency.

Financial Condition Assessment – As required by the *Rules of the Auditor General* (Sections 10.554(1)(i)5.b. and 10.556(8)), we applied financial condition assessment procedures. It is management’s responsibility to monitor the entity’s financial condition, and our financial condition

assessment was based in part on representations made by management and the review of financial information they provided.

Our audit did not disclose any further items that would be required to be reported under the *Rules of the Auditor General*, Chapter 10.554(1)(f).

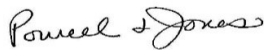
Property Assessed Clean Energy Programs (PACE) - As required by Section 10.554(1)(i)6.a., Rules of the Auditor General, the Supervisor did not have a property assessed clean energy (PACE) program that finances qualifying improvements authorized pursuant to Section 163.081 or Section 163.082, Florida Statutes, operated within the Town's geographical boundaries during the fiscal year under audit.

Financial Management - Section 10.554(1)(i)2., Rules of the Auditor General requires that we communicate any recommendations to improve financial management. All such recommendations in connection with our audit have been recorded in the Schedule of Findings.

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.

CONCLUSION

We have reviewed information regarding our audit with the Supervisor and have provided him with appropriate documentation as requested. We very much enjoyed the challenges and experiences associated with this audit of the Office. We appreciate the overall high quality of the financial records and personnel in the Supervisors' Office. We also appreciate the helpful assistance and courtesy afforded us by these employees.



Powell and Jones CPA
Lake City, FL
August 20, 2025



Powell and Jones CPA

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

To the Honorable Tomi S. Brown, Supervisor of Elections
Columbia County, Florida

We have examined the Columbia County, Florida Supervisor of Elections' (the Supervisor) 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's compliance with those requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Supervisor's compliance based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and, accordingly, included examining, on a test basis, evidence about the Supervisor compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our examination provides a reasonable basis for our opinion. Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the Supervisor compliance with specified requirements.

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

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Columbia County, Florida Supervisor, and the Auditor General, State of Florida, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Powell & Jones

Powell and Jones CPA
Lake City, FL
August 20, 2025



Schedule of Findings

Material Weaknesses

2024-1: Bank Reconciliations

Criteria: Internal control over financial reporting requires that bank reconciliations be performed to agree bank balances reported on the bank statements with the cash balances recorded within the accounting software.

Condition: During the audit, we identified multiple discrepancies in the recording of financial transactions. Specifically, a duplicate payroll payment of \$32,000 was recorded; three payroll expense transactions totaling \$19,739 were not recorded; payroll tax of \$5,857 was reversed; a transfer to the Board of \$20,102 was recorded; and several checks totaling \$97,056 were omitted from the accounting records.

Effect: These discrepancies resulted in a \$100,080 misstatement in cash. These misstatements were corrected with our audit adjustments. Failure to properly reconcile bank accounts can result in misstated financial statements and unreliable financial reporting. Additionally, inadequate reconciliation procedures increase the risk of undetected errors, misstatements, and potential fraud.

Cause: These issues were caused by a manual bank reconciliation process that accurately tracked outstanding checks and deposits but was not reconciled to the cash balance in QuickBooks.

Recommendation: We recommend that the Town utilize the reconciliation feature within the accounting software or make changes to the manual reconciliation process to agree the bank statement balance with the cash account balance within the accounting software.

Significant Deficiencies

2024-2: Cutoff

Criteria: According to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), financial statements are to be presented on the accrual basis of accounting. Under accrual accounting, expenditures are recognized when goods or services are received, regardless of when payment is made. Expenditures incurred in a fiscal period but paid subsequent to that period should be recorded as expenditures in the period incurred and as accounts payable at year-end.

Condition: During our audit, we noted that the bookkeeper did not record accounts payable of \$27,908 identified during our subsequent disbursement testing. As a result, certain expenditures were recognized in the period in which the disbursements were made, rather than in the period in which the expenditures were incurred.

Effect: This resulted in an understatement of expenditures and accounts payable of \$27,908, which was corrected through our audit adjustments.

Cause: The bookkeeper did not utilize the accounts payable function in the accounting system or maintain an alternative method to track accounts payable balances at year-end.

Recommendation: We recommend that all payments be entered into the accounting system using the accounts payable function and that, during year-end closeout, procedures be implemented to review significant disbursements made after year-end to ensure proper cutoff.



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Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings

2023-1: Bank Reconciliations

The Supervisor's office has been unable to utilize its accounting software to perform bank reconciliations. As a result, we found that for the period from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023 that there had been no bank reconciliations completed.

Current year status

This finding remained uncorrected in current year. It has been repeated as finding number 2024-01.

2023-2: Classification Review

The Supervisor's office receives the majority of its financial support through scheduled transfers from Columbia County's Board of County Commissioners (the Board). These transfers are intended to cover the Supervisor's approved budget for the year. After year-end, the Supervisor returns any excess funds received less expenditures incurred (net income) back to the Board. During the audit, we found that in June 2023, the Supervisor had recorded a liability for its monthly receipt from the Board of \$104,905 instead of recognizing it as an incoming transfer. The result was that the Supervisor's net income was lower, and accordingly, substantially less was returned to the Board than was due after year-end.

Current year status

This finding was substantially corrected in the current year.