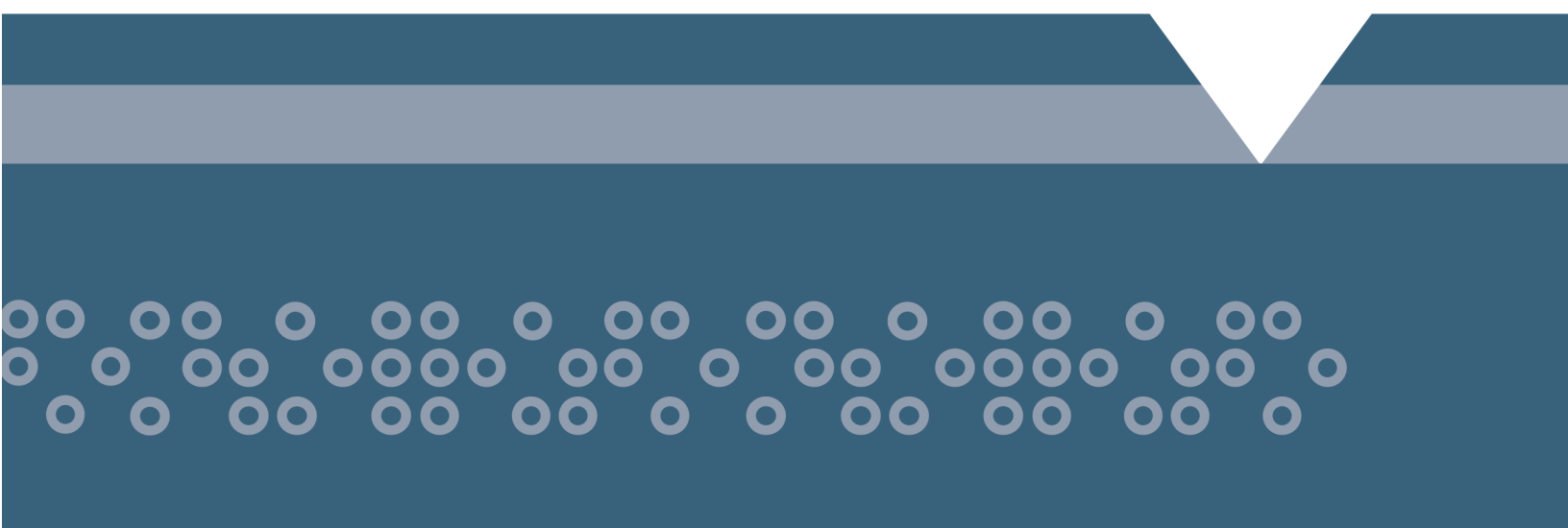


**Judicial Expense, Child Support, and Section 5 Funds
First Judicial District Court, Caddo Parish**

December 31, 2023



JUDICIAL EXPENSE, CHILD SUPPORT, AND SECTION 5 FUNDS

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA

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MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS (UNAUDITED)

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS (UNAUDITED)

Our discussion and analysis of the financial performance of the Judicial Expense, Child Support, and Section 5 Funds (Funds) for the First Judicial District Court provides an overview of the Funds' financial activities for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022. Please read it in conjunction with the Funds' financial statements, which begin on Page 4.

USING THIS ANNUAL REPORT

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements. The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities (on Pages 4 and 5) provide information about the activities of the Funds as a whole. Fund financial statements start on Page 6. For governmental activities, these statements tell how these services were financed in the short-term as well as what remains for future spending. Fund financial statements also report the Fund's operations in more detail than the government-wide statements by providing information about the Fund's most significant funds. The accompanying financial statements present information only on the funds maintained by the Judicial Expense, Child Support, and Section 5 Funds.

Reporting the Resources Maintained by the Funds as a Whole

The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities

Our analysis of the funds maintained by the Funds as a whole begins on Page 4. The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities report information about the funds maintained by the Funds as a whole and about its activities. These statements include all assets and liabilities using the accrual basis of accounting.

These two statements report the Funds' *net position* and changes in net position. The Funds' net position - the difference between assets and liabilities - is one way to measure the Funds' financial health, or *financial position*. Over time, *increases or decreases* in the Fund's net position are one indicator of whether its financial health is improving or deteriorating.

In the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities, we record the activities in the funds maintained by the Funds as governmental activities.

Governmental activities - expenses related to, and resources provided for, administering the First District Court.

Reporting the Most Significant Funds Maintained by the Funds

Our analysis of the major funds maintained by the Funds begins on Page 6. The fund financial statements provide detailed information about the most significant funds maintained by the Funds - not necessarily the Funds as a whole. The funds of the Judicial Expense, Child Support, and Section 5 Funds use the following accounting approaches.

Governmental fund - All of the Funds' expenses are reported in governmental funds, which focuses on how money flows into and out of this fund and the balances left at year-end that are available for spending. This fund is reported using an accounting method called *modified accrual basis*. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed *short-term view* of the Funds' operations and the expenses paid from the fund. Governmental fund information helps you determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance certain Fund expenses.

There are no differences between governmental activities (reported in the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities) and the governmental fund financial statements.

THE FUNDS MAINTAINED BY THE JUDICIAL EXPENSE, CHILD SUPPORT, AND SECTION 5 FUNDS AS A WHOLE

The Funds' total net position changed from December 31, 2022, decreasing by \$342,614, or 16.37%. Current assets decreased during the year and expenditures exceeded revenues resulting in a decrease in net position. Net positions are shown below.

	<u>Government-Wide Activities</u>	
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Current assets	\$ 1,790,260	\$ 2,119,196
Current liabilities	<u>(45,538)</u>	<u>(31,860)</u>
Net position:		
Unreserved and undesignated	<u>\$ 1,744,722</u>	<u>\$ 2,087,336</u>

THE FUNDS' ACTIVITIES

The governmental activities of the Funds include all activities of the Funds required by law and are funded by court fees and other fines. Major expenditures of the Funds, as well as revenues for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, are shown below:

	<u>Government-Wide Activities</u>	
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Revenues		
Fees	\$ 772,788	\$ 783,529
Other	<u>83,593</u>	<u>(60,593)</u>
Total revenues	856,381	722,936
Expenses		
General governmental	<u>1,198,995</u>	<u>1,091,651</u>
Increase (decrease) in net position	<u>\$ (342,614)</u>	<u>\$ (368,715)</u>

For the funds maintained by the Judicial Expense, Child Support, and Section 5 Funds, total revenues increased \$133,445, from total revenues in 2022 of \$722,936, to total revenues of \$856,381 in 2023. Revenues for the funds fluctuate due to the amount of court activity during the year.

In addition, total expenses increased by \$107,344, from \$1,091,651 in 2022, to \$1,198,995 in 2023. This was due mainly to increased spending on books and subscriptions, and a larger grant to the General Fund out of the Child Support Fund, which is driven by the needs of the Parish.

CONTACTING THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF THE FUNDS

This financial report is designed to provide our readers with a general overview of the finances for those funds maintained by the Judicial Expense, Child Support, and Section 5 Funds and to show the Funds' accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, please contact the Judicial Expense, Child Support, and Section 5 Funds of the First Judicial District Court, Caddo Parish, 501 Texas Street, Room G12, Shreveport, Louisiana, 71101.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



REGIONS TOWER
333 TEXAS STREET, SUITE 1525 | SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71101
318.429.1525 (P) | 318.429.2124 (F)

Honorable Ramona Emanuel, Chief Judge
Judicial Expense, Child Support, and Section 5 Funds for the First Judicial District Court
Caddo Parish, Louisiana

Independent Auditor's Report

Report on the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and the major funds of the Judicial Expense, Child Support, and Section 5 Funds of the First Judicial District ("the Funds") as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Fund'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 and the major fund of the Judicial Expense, Child Support, and Section 5 Funds for the First Judicial District as of December 31, 2023, 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 Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards (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 Judicial Expense, Child Support, and Section 5 Funds for the First Judicial District Court and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

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 Judicial Expense, Child Support, and Section 5 Funds for the First Judicial District Court's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

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 opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements, including omissions, are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

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

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Judicial Expense, Child Support, and Section 5 Funds for the First Judicial District 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 the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Judicial Expense, Child Support, and Section 5 Funds for the First Judicial District 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 management's discussion and analysis on Pages i through iii and budgetary comparison information on Pages 14 through 19 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of 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 an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The supplementary information on pages 20 through 23 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 28, 2024, on our consideration of Judicial Expense, Child Support, and Section 5 Funds for the First Judicial District 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 Judicial Expense, Child Support, and Section 5 Funds for the First Judicial District 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 considering Judicial Expense, Child Support, and Section 5 Funds for the First Judicial District Court's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Heard, McElroy & Vestal, LLC

Shreveport, Louisiana
June 28, 2024

JUDICIAL EXPENSE, CHILD SUPPORT, AND SECTION 5 FUNDS FOR THE FIRST

JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA

GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

DECEMBER 31, 2023

ASSETS	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 431,823
Investments	1,285,794
Receivable	<u>72,643</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 1,790,260</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION	
<u>Liabilities:</u>	
Accounts payable	\$ <u>45,538</u>
Total liabilities	45,538
<u>Net position:</u>	
Unrestricted	<u>1,744,722</u>
Total net position	<u>1,744,722</u>
Total liabilities and net position	<u>\$ 1,790,260</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

JUDICIAL EXPENSE, CHILD SUPPORT, AND SECTION 5 FUNDS FOR THE FIRST

JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA

GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

Expenses:

Governmental activities:

Salaries and related benefits	\$ 618,636
Books and subscriptions	82,586
General administration	<u>497,773</u>
Total expenses	1,198,995

Program revenue:

Criminal fees	34,754
Civil fees	106,952
Support enforcement collections	631,082
Interest earned	<u>83,593</u>
Total program revenue	<u>856,381</u>

Change in net position (342,614)

Net position-beginning of year 2,087,336

Net position-end of year \$ 1,744,722

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

JUDICIAL EXPENSE, CHILD SUPPORT, AND SECTION 5 FUNDS FOR THE FIRST

JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA

BALANCE SHEET-GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

DECEMBER 31, 2023

ASSETS	Judicial Expense Fund	Child Support Fund	Section 5 Fund	Summary Total - All Funds
Cash and cash equivalents-Note 2	\$ 83,285	\$ 168,088	\$ 180,450	\$ 431,823
Investments-Note 7	361,137	924,657	-	1,285,794
Receivable-Note 3	<u>16,052</u>	<u>54,627</u>	<u>1,964</u>	<u>72,643</u>
 Total assets	 <u>\$ 460,474</u>	 <u>\$ 1,147,372</u>	 <u>\$ 182,414</u>	 <u>\$ 1,790,260</u>
 LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE				
<u>Liabilities:</u>				
Accounts payable	<u>\$ 20,170</u>	<u>\$ 25,368</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 45,538</u>
Total liabilities	20,170	25,368	-	45,538
 <u>Fund balance:</u>				
Spendable-unassigned	<u>440,304</u>	<u>1,122,004</u>	<u>182,414</u>	<u>1,744,722</u>
 Total liabilities and fund balance	 <u>\$ 460,474</u>	 <u>\$ 1,147,372</u>	 <u>\$ 182,414</u>	 <u>\$ 1,790,260</u>
 Total fund equity for the governmental fund	 <u>\$ 440,304</u>	 <u>\$ 1,122,004</u>	 <u>\$ 182,414</u>	 <u>\$ 1,744,722</u>
Total net position of the governmental activities	<u>\$ 440,304</u>	<u>\$ 1,122,004</u>	<u>\$ 182,414</u>	<u>\$ 1,744,722</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

JUDICIAL EXPENSE, CHILD SUPPORT, AND SECTION 5 FUNDS FOR THE FIRST

JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND

CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE-GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	<u>Judicial Expense Fund</u>	<u>Child Support Fund</u>	<u>Section 5 Fund</u>	<u>Summary Total - All Funds</u>
<u>Revenues:</u>				
Criminal fees	\$ 34,754	\$ -	\$ 24,295	\$ 59,049
Civil fees	82,657	-	-	82,657
Support enforcement collections	-	631,082	-	631,082
Interest earned	<u>19,690</u>	<u>60,175</u>	<u>3,728</u>	<u>83,593</u>
Total revenues	137,101	691,257	28,023	856,381
<u>Expenditures:</u>				
General government-judicial:				
Salaries and related benefits	29,424	589,212	-	618,636
Books and subscriptions	82,586	-	-	82,586
General administration	<u>106,274</u>	<u>385,999</u>	<u>5,500</u>	<u>497,773</u>
Total expenditures	<u>218,284</u>	<u>975,211</u>	<u>5,500</u>	<u>1,198,995</u>
<u>Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures</u>	(81,183)	(283,954)	22,523	(342,614)
<u>Fund balance at beginning of year</u>	<u>521,487</u>	<u>1,405,958</u>	<u>159,891</u>	<u>2,087,336</u>
<u>Fund balance at end of year</u>	<u>\$ 440,304</u>	<u>\$ 1,122,004</u>	<u>\$ 182,414</u>	<u>\$ 1,744,722</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

JUDICIAL EXPENSE, CHILD SUPPORT, AND SECTION 5 FUNDS FOR THE FIRST

JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2023

Introduction

The Judicial Expense and Section 5 Funds for the First Judicial District Court were established by Louisiana Revised Statutes 13:996.16-18 for the purpose of administering the district court or the offices of the individual judges of the court. Operations of the Judicial Expense and Section 5 Funds for the First Judicial District Court are funded by court costs on criminal charges and costs on civil suits that are not exempted from court costs. The Child Support Fund for the First Judicial District Court was established by Louisiana Revised Statutes 46:236.5 for the purpose of providing hearing officers to process all cases referred by Support Enforcement Services. Operations of the Child Support Fund for the First Judicial District Court are funded by a five (5) percent administration fee as authorized by R.S.46.236.5(B)(1).

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Basis of Presentation

The accompanying financial statements of the Judicial Expense, Child Support, and Section 5 Funds have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and reporting principles. The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in conformity with GASB Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements-and Management's Discussion and Analysis-for State and Local Governments*, issued in June 1999.

The financial statements include:

- A Management Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) section providing an analysis of the Fund's overall financial position and results of operations.
- Governmental-Wide Financial statements.
- Fund Financial Statements

The Funds' basic financial statements include both Government-Wide (reporting the Fund as a whole) and fund financial statements (reporting the Fund's major funds). Both the Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements categorize primary activities as either governmental or business type. The Funds' functions and programs have been classified as governmental activities. The Funds do not have any business-type activities, fiduciary funds, or any component units that are fiduciary in nature. Accordingly, the Government-Wide financial statements do not include any of these activities or funds.

In the Government-Wide Statement of Net Position, the governmental type activities are reported on a full accrual, economic resource basis, which recognizes all long-term assets and receivables as well as long-term debt and obligations.

The Government-Wide Statement of Activities reports both the gross and net cost of the Fund's functions and significant programs. The Statement of Activities begins by presenting gross direct and indirect expenses and then reduces the expenses by related program revenues, such as operating and capital grants and contributions, to derive the net cost of each function or program. Program revenues must be directly associated with the function or program to be used to directly offset its cost.

The Government-Wide Statements focus upon the Funds' ability to sustain operations and the change in its net position resulting from the current year's activities.

The financial transactions of the Funds are reported in individual funds in the Fund Financial Statements. The General Fund of each of the three entities reported on is that entity's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the Funds, except those required to be accounted for in another fund. It is the only fund on the Funds' financial statements and therefore, the only major fund.

Reporting Entity

The First Judicial District Judicial Expense, Child Support, and Section 5 Funds ("Funds") are the basic level of government, which have financial accountability and control over all activities related to providing administrative functions to the district court or the offices of the individual judges of the court. The Funds are not included in any other governmental "reporting entity" as defined by GASB pronouncements, since the Judges of the First Judicial District are elected by the public and have decision making authority, the power to designate management, the ability to significantly influence operations and have primary financial accountability for fiscal matters. In addition, there are no component units as defined in Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement 14, which are included in the District's reporting entity.

Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting:

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

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows.

Government 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 collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the government considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of

the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting.

Private-sector standards of accounting and financial reporting issued prior to December 1, 1989, generally are followed in both the government-wide and fund financial statements to the extent that those standards do not conflict with or contradict guidance of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. Governments also have the option of following subsequent private-sector guidance for their business-type activities and enterprise funds, subject to this same limitation. The Funds have elected not to follow subsequent private-sector guidance because they do not have any business-type activities or enterprise funds.

B. Budget

The Judicial Expense and Child Support Funds adopt an annual budget for the General Fund for management control purposes. The budgets were prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting and were adopted in August 2022. The budgets are adopted and amended, as necessary, by the district judges. There were no amendments to the adopted budgets in the current year. The District Court Section 5 Fund has not adopted a budget. The budget will be adopted and amended, as necessary, by the district judges. All appropriations contained in the budgets lapse at year end, and encumbrance accounting is not used by the Funds.

C. Cash and Cash Equivalents and Investments

Cash includes amounts in demand deposits, interest bearing demand deposits, and money market accounts. Cash equivalents include amounts in time deposits. Under state law, the Funds may deposit funds in demand deposits, interest bearing demand deposits, money market accounts, or time deposits with state banks organized under Louisiana law and national banks having their principal offices in Louisiana. The Funds may invest in United States bonds, treasury notes, or certificates. These are classified as investments if their maturities at purchase exceed 90 days; however, if the original maturities are 90 days or less, they are classified as cash equivalents.

D. Compensated Absences

Employees of the Funds for the First Judicial District Court work for a one-year period as law clerks. These employees receive two weeks of paid vacation leave each year and eight hours of sick leave each month. Vacation leave may be accumulated only if the law clerk is employed for a second year. Employees are not compensated for any unused vacation or sick leave upon separation of service. At December 31, 2023, there are no material accumulated and vested leave benefits that require disclosure or accrual to conform with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

E. Fund Equity in Fund Financial Statements

Governmental fund equity is classified as fund balance. Beginning in 2011, the Funds implemented GASB Statement 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*. This statement provides more clearly defined fund balance categories to make the nature and extent of the constraints placed on a government's fund balance more transparent. The Funds' unassigned fund balance is the only fund equity type of the entities. This classification is the residual fund balance for the Funds. It also represents fund balance that has not been assigned to other funds and that has not

been restricted, committed, or assigned to specific purposes within the Judicial Expense, Child Support, and Section 5 Funds.

F. **Net Position**

The content and certain titles of the government-wide financial statements were changed upon the adoption by the Funds in 2012 of GASB Statement No. 63, *Financial Reporting of Deferred Outflows of Resources, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Net Position*. This statement provides reporting guidance for deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources, and adds them, when applicable, as elements of the financial statements, because they are distinct from assets and liabilities. In addition, because these additional elements may affect the residual amount of all of the elements presented in a statement of financial position, GASB 63 renames that measure as net position rather than net assets. The Funds had no deferred outflows or inflows of resources at December 31, 2023.

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

2. **Cash and Cash Equivalents**

At December 31, 2023, the Funds had cash and cash equivalents (book balances) totaling \$431,823 in the Caddo Parish Commission cash and investment pool.

Cash and cash equivalents are stated at cost, which approximates fair value. Under state law, these deposits must be secured by federal deposit insurance or pledge of qualifying securities owned by the bank. The fair value of the qualifying pledged securities plus the federal deposit insurance must at all times equal or exceed the amount on deposit with the bank. At December 31, 2023, deposit balances (bank balances) are fully secured by federal deposit insurance and qualified pledged securities. Information on the aggregate deposits of the Caddo Parish Commission and how they are secured is available in the financial statements of the Caddo Parish Commission.

3. **Receivables**

The following is a summary of receivables at December 31, 2023:

<u>Class of Receivables</u>	
Miscellaneous court fees	\$ 320
Civil fees	13,817
LA. Department of Social Services, Office of Family Support	49,628
Interest receivable	6,914
Court cost and fines	1,964
	<u>\$ 72,643</u>

4. **Pension Plan**

Judges of the district court are members of the State Employees Retirement System of Louisiana. Salaries of the judges and the employer's portion of retirement contributions are paid by the State Supreme Court and are not included in the accompanying financial statements.

Employees (law clerks) of the First Judicial District Court are members of the Parochial Employees

Retirement System of Louisiana, a multiple-employer (cost-sharing) public employee retirement system (PERS) (System), or members of the Caddo Parish Employee Retirement System (CPERS). Both PERS and CPERS are retirement systems, controlled and administered by separate boards of trustees. Generally, all full-time employees are eligible to participate in the System, with employee benefits vesting after 10 years of service. Although employees (law clerks) of the Funds are appointed for one-year terms as law clerks, they are required to become members of the System, and are required to contribute to the System; however, the employees do not remain in the System for sufficient time to become vested. Pension costs for the employees of the Funds are reported in the accompanying financial statements.

PERS is composed of two distinct plans (Plan A and Plan B) with separate assets and benefit provisions. Plan A was designed for employers out of the Social Security System, and Plan B was designed for employers that remained in the Social Security System as of January 1, 1980. None of the Judicial Expense Fund or Child Support Fund’s employees are in Plan B.

The following is a summary of payments to PERS Plan A, by fund, for the year ended December 31, 2023:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Total Payroll</u>	<u>Employees Covered</u>	<u>Required Contribution</u>	<u>Actual Contribution</u>
Judicial Expense	\$ 5,235	3	\$ 601	\$ 601
Child Support	143,982	3	16,558	16,558

Under Plan A, employees who retire at or after age 60 with at least 10 years of creditable service, at or after age 55 with 25 years of creditable service, or at any age with at least 30 years of creditable service, are entitled to a retirement benefit, payable monthly for life, equal to 3 percent of their final-average salary for each year of creditable service. The System also provides death and disability benefits. Benefits are established by state statute.

Contributions to the System include one-fourth of one per cent of the taxes shown to be collectible by the tax rolls of each parish, except Orleans and East Baton Rouge Parishes. These tax dollars are divided between Plan A and Plan B based proportionately on the salaries of the active members of each plan. State statute requires covered employees of Plan A to contribute a percentage of their salaries to the System. As provided by Louisiana Revised Statute 11:103, the employer contributions are determined by an actuarial valuation and are subject to change each year based on the results of the valuation for the prior fiscal year. During 2023, the Judicial Expense and Child Support Funds were required to contribute 11.5% of the salary of each employee covered by Plan A as an employer match.

Historical trend information showing the System’s progress in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due is presented in the System’s December 31, 2023 comprehensive annual financial report. The district court does not guarantee the benefits granted by the System.

Effective April 10, 2000, the Parish established the Employee’s Retirement System (ERS) to provide retirement benefits for certain employees who are not members of the Parochial Retirement System; a plan under IRS Code Section 457.

Under the ERS plan, the Parish contributes 11.5% of the employees’ salaries to the 457 plan. Certain vesting requirements must be met, and the contributions are invested at the direction of the employee.

The Section 5 Fund does not employ any individuals; therefore, the Section 5 fund does not contribute to PERS.

5. Expenditures of the Judicial District Not Included in the Accompanying Financial Statements

The accompanying financial statements do not include certain salary expenditures for the district court paid out of the funds of the Caddo Parish Commission or directly by the state.

6. Litigation

There is no litigation pending against the Funds at December 31, 2023.

7. Investments

Investments are included in the Caddo Parish Commission investment pool, consisting of Federal Home Loan Bank notes, FHMA notes and treasury notes. These investments are fully secured by pledged securities.

8. Subsequent Events

Management has evaluated subsequent events through June 28, 2024, the date which the financial statements were available to be issued, and the following significant subsequent event was noted.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

JUDICIAL EXPENSE, CHILD SUPPORT, AND SECTION 5 FUNDS FOR THE FIRST

JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA

BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE-JUDICIAL EXPENSE FUND

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

(Unaudited)

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
<u>Revenues:</u>			
Criminal fees	\$ 59,000	\$ 34,754	\$ (24,246)
Civil fees	75,000	82,657	7,657
Bond forfeitures	200	-	(200)
Interest earned	2,000	19,690	17,690
Total revenues	<u>\$ 136,200</u>	<u>\$ 137,101</u>	<u>\$ 901</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
General government-judicial:			
Salaries and related benefits	\$ 46,680	\$ 29,424	\$ 17,256
Books and subscriptions	50,600	82,586	(31,986)
General administration	156,250	106,274	49,976
Total expenditures	<u>\$ 253,530</u>	<u>\$ 218,284</u>	<u>\$ 35,246</u>
<u>Excess (deficit) of revenues over expenditures</u>	<u>(117,330)</u>	<u>(81,183)</u>	<u>36,147</u>
<u>Fund balance at beginning of year</u>	<u>\$ 521,487</u>	<u>\$ 521,487</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
<u>Fund balance at end of year</u>	<u>\$ 404,157</u>	<u>\$ 440,304</u>	<u>\$ 36,147</u>

JUDICIAL EXPENSE, CHILD SUPPORT, AND SECTION 5 FUNDS FOR THE FIRST

JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA

NOTES TO BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE-JUDICIAL EXPENSE FUND

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

(Unaudited)

1. Budget

Refer to Note 1 of the audited financial statements for details regarding the budget process.

JUDICIAL EXPENSE, CHILD SUPPORT, AND SECTION 5 FUNDS FOR THE FIRST

JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA

BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE-CHILD SUPPORT FUND

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

(Unaudited)

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
<u>Revenues:</u>			
Support Enforcement Collections	\$ 650,000	\$ 631,082	\$ (18,918)
Interest earned	<u>-</u>	<u>60,175</u>	<u>60,175</u>
Total revenues	<u>\$ 650,000</u>	<u>\$ 691,257</u>	<u>\$ 41,257</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
General government-judicial:			
Salaries and related benefits	\$ 573,134	\$ 589,212	\$ (16,078)
General administration	<u>288,750</u>	<u>385,999</u>	<u>(97,249)</u>
Total expenditures	861,884	975,211	(113,327)
<u>Excess (deficit) of revenues over expenditures</u>	<u>(211,884)</u>	<u>(283,954)</u>	<u>(72,070)</u>
<u>Fund balance at beginning of year</u>	<u>\$ 1,405,958</u>	<u>\$ 1,405,958</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
<u>Fund balance at end of year</u>	<u>\$ 1,194,074</u>	<u>\$ 1,122,004</u>	<u>\$ (72,070)</u>

JUDICIAL EXPENSE, CHILD SUPPORT, AND SECTION 5 FUNDS FOR THE FIRST

JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA

NOTES TO BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE-CHILD SUPPORT FUND

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

(Unaudited)

1. Budget

Refer to Note 1 of the audited financial statements for details regarding the budget process.

JUDICIAL EXPENSE, CHILD SUPPORT, AND SECTION 5 FUNDS FOR THE FIRST

JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA

BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE-SECTION 5 FUND

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

(Unaudited)

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
<u>Revenues:</u>			
Criminal fees	\$ -	\$ 24,295	\$ 24,295
Interest earned	-	3,728	3,728
Total revenues	<u>-</u>	<u>28,023</u>	<u>28,023</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
General administration	-	5,500	(5,500)
Total expenditures	-	5,500	(5,500)
<u>Excess (deficit) of revenues over expenditures</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,523</u>	<u>22,523</u>
<u>Fund balance at beginning of year</u>	<u>\$ 159,891</u>	<u>\$ 159,891</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
<u>Fund balance at end of year</u>	<u>\$ 159,891</u>	<u>\$ 182,414</u>	<u>\$ 22,523</u>

JUDICIAL EXPENSE, CHILD SUPPORT, AND SECTION 5 FUNDS FOR THE FIRST

JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA

NOTES TO BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE-SECTION 5 FUND

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

(Unaudited)

1. Budget

Refer to Note 1 of the audited financial statements for details regarding the budget process.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

JUDICIAL EXPENSE, CHILD SUPPORT, AND SECTION 5 FUNDS FOR THE FIRST

JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA

SCHEDULE OF COMPENSATION, BENEFITS, AND OTHER PAYMENTS TO AGENCY HEAD

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

David McClatchey, Judicial Administrator

Salary – other sources (unaudited)	\$ 94,554
Benefits – other sources	34,990
Travel	395
Other - dues	448

JUDICIAL EXPENSE, CHILD SUPPORT, AND SECTION 5 FUNDS FOR THE FIRST

JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA

JUSTICE SYSTEM FUNDING – RECEIVING SCHEDULE – JUDICIAL EXPENSE FUND

AS REQUIRED BY ACT 87 OF THE 2020 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	First Six Month Period Ended 6/30/2023	Second Six Month Period Ended 12/31/2023
Receipts From:		
Caddo Parish Sheriff, Criminal Court Costs and Fees	\$ 18,195	\$ 16,585
Clerk of Court, Civil Case Charges	45,099	40,785
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 63,294</u>	<u>\$ 57,370</u>

JUDICIAL EXPENSE, CHILD SUPPORT, AND SECTION 5 FUNDS FOR THE FIRST

JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA

JUSTICE SYSTEM FUNDING – RECEIVING SCHEDULE – CHILD SUPPORT FUND

AS REQUIRED BY ACT 87 OF THE 2020 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	First Six Month Period Ended 6/30/2023	Second Six Month Period Ended 12/31/2023
Receipts From:		
Support Enforcement Services	\$ 320,977	\$ 313,955
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 320,977</u>	<u>\$ 313,955</u>

JUDICIAL EXPENSE, CHILD SUPPORT, AND SECTION 5 FUNDS FOR THE FIRST

JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA

JUSTICE SYSTEM FUNDING – RECEIVING SCHEDULE – SECTION 5 FUND

AS REQUIRED BY ACT 87 OF THE 2020 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	First Six Month Period Ended 6/30/2023	Second Six Month Period Ended 12/31/2023
Receipts From:		
Caddo Parish Sheriff, Criminal Court Costs and Fees	\$ 15,801	\$ 9,107
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 15,801</u>	<u>\$ 9,107</u>

OTHER REPORTS REQUIRED BY

GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS



REGIONS TOWER
333 TEXAS STREET, SUITE 1525 | SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71101
318.429.1525 (P) | 318.429.2124 (F)

June 28, 2024

Honorable Ramona Emanuel, Chief Judge
Judicial Expense, Child Support, and Section 5 Funds for the First Judicial District Court
Caddo Parish, Louisiana

**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***

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 and major fund of the Judicial Expense, Child Support, and Section 5 Funds for the First Judicial District Court as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated June 28, 2024.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Judicial Expense, Child Support, and Section 5 Funds for the First Judicial District Court's (the "Funds") internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the 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 Funds' internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund'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 a deficiency in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be a material weakness.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented or detected and corrected on a timely basis. We consider the deficiency described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned cost as item 2023-01 to be a material weakness.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Funds' financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of their 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 one instance of noncompliance or other matters that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned cost as item 2023-02.

Management's Response to Findings

The Funds' response to the findings identified in our audit are described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs as items 2023-01 and 2023-02. The Funds' response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

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.

Heard, McElroy & Vestal, LLC

Shreveport, Louisiana

JUDICIAL EXPENSE, CHILD SUPPORT, AND SECTION 5 FUNDS FOR THE FIRST

JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

We have audited the financial statements of the Judicial Expense, Child Support, and Section 5 Funds for the First Judicial District Court as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023 and have issued our report thereon dated June 28, 2024. 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 audit of the financial statements as of December 31, 2023, resulted in an unmodified opinion.

Section I - Summary of Auditor's Reports

1. The auditor's report expresses an unmodified opinion on the basic financial statements of the First Judicial District Court - Judicial Expense, Child Support, and Section 5 Funds.
2. One material weakness is reported for the year ended December 31, 2023.
3. One instance of noncompliance was disclosed during the audit.
4. Federal awards - single audit, not applicable.

Section II - Financial Statement Findings

2023 - 01

Condition and Criteria: As is common in small operations, management has chosen to engage the auditor to propose certain year-end adjusting journal entries and to prepare the audited financial statements. Consistent with this decision, internal controls over the preparation of year-end adjusting entries and audited financial statements, complete with note disclosures in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, have not been established nor does management have the ability to perform these functions in-house. This condition, even though intentional, represents a material weakness in internal control under current generally accepted auditing standards, and results from management's need to balance the entity's financial complexity with the appropriate level of accounting expertise. It is not cost-effective for the entity to prepare its financial statements in-house.

Effect and Recommendation: Although generally accepted auditing standards require preparation of year-end adjusting entries and financial statements with note disclosures by the audited entity, prudent management dictates that the potential benefit from an internal control must exceed its cost. In this case, both management and the auditor do not believe that curing the control deficiency is cost effective, and do not believe that any corrective action is required.

2023 – 02

Condition and Criteria: In comparison of budgeted and actual expenditures, the Child Support Fund's expenditures are over budget by \$113,327 or 13.15%. Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1311 requires an amendment to the Fund's budget when receipts plus projected revenue collections for the year fail to meet budgeted revenues by 5% or more, or when actual expenditures plus projected expenditures to year end exceed budgeted expenditures by 5% or more. As a result, the Child Support Fund's actual expenditures failed to meet the budgeted expenditures threshold of 5%.

Effect: The entity was not in compliance with La R.S. 39:1311 for the period ending December 31, 2023.

Management's Response:

Management has agreed with this finding and plans to adopt a more realistic budget at the beginning of the year, and amend the budget as necessary throughout the year to ensure compliance with La R.S. 39:1311.

JUDICIAL EXPENSE, CHILD SUPPORT, AND SECTION 5 FUNDS FOR THE FIRST

JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA

SCHEDULE OF PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

2022-01 Lack of expertise to prepare annual financial statement in-house – repeated as **2023-01**.

2022-02 Noncompliance with budget act with respect to revenue (Judicial Expense Fund) – resolved.