HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
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YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP
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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Honorable Board of County Commissioners
Hardee County, Florida

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the discretely presented component unit, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Hardee County, Florida (the County), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, based on our audit and the report of other auditors, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the discretely presented component unit, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the County, as of September 30, 2025, and the respective changes in financial position, and, where applicable, cash flows thereof and the respective budgetary comparisons for the General Fund, Transportation Trust Fund, Fire Control Fund, Grants Fund, and Economic Development Authority Fund for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We did not audit the financial statements of the Hardee County Industrial Development Authority (the Authority), which represent 100%, of the assets, net position, and revenues of the discretely presented component unit as of September 30, 2025. Those statements were audited by other auditors whose report has been furnished to us, and our opinion, insofar as it relates to the amounts included for the Authority, is based solely on the report of the other auditors.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the County and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 17, the County implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*, effective for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025. GASB Statement No. 101 requires the liabilities to be recognized for leave attributable to services already rendered, that accumulates and is more likely than not to be used or otherwise paid or settled. The provisions of GASB Statement No. 101 have been applied to the County's net position at October 1, 2024. Our opinions are not modified with respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

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

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

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

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.

- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the County's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, information on other postemployment benefits, and information on pension benefits 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 GAAS, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements. The combining and individual fund financial statements and schedules and the schedule of expenditures of federal awards and state financial assistance, as required by Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200*, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*; and Chapter 10.550*, Local Government Entity Audits*, Rules of the Auditor General of the State of Florida, 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 GAAS by us and other auditors. In our opinion, the combining and individual fund financial statements and schedules and schedule of expenditures of federal awards and state financial assistance are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Honorable Board of County Commissioners
Hardee County, Florida

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 30, 2026, on our consideration of the County's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering County's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Lakeland, Florida
June 30, 2026

Hardee County Management hereby provides a narrative overview and analysis of Hardee County, Florida (the County) financial activities for fiscal year ended September 30, 2025. This report provides comparative data for fiscal years 2025 and 2024.

Financial Highlights

Significant financial highlights for fiscal year 2025 are as follows:

- Total assets and deferred outflows of resources of the County exceeded total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources by $94.09 million. Of this amount, $89.94 million was invested in capital assets, net of related debt; $12.75 million was restricted for various purposes; and unrestricted net deficit was $8.59 million.
- The total net position was $13.41 million more than the previous year's net position.
- The County's total liabilities decreased by $6.91 million or 12.09% from the previous year.
- As of September 30, 2025, the combined total governmental funds' fund balance reflected a balance of $35.34 million, a decrease of 10.27% from the previous year.
- The County's total unassigned fund balance was $18.20 million.

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the County's basic financial statements. The County's basic financial statements are comprised of three components: government-wide financial statements; fund financial statements; and notes to the financial statements. This report also contains other supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements themselves.

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the County's finances, in a manner similar to a private-sector business. The statements include the statement of net position and the statement of activities.

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

The statement of activities presents information showing how the government's net position changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods (e.g., uncollected taxes and earned but unused vacation leave).

Both the statement of net position and the statement of activities distinguish between the functions that are supported by governmental activities and business-type activities. Governmental activities are primarily supported by property taxes, charges for services, fuel taxes, sales taxes, and grants. Business-type activities are supported by charges to the users of those activities, such as water and sewer service charges, and landfill tipping fees. The governmental activities of the County include general government, public safety, transportation, human services, culture and recreation, physical environment, and economic environment. The business-type activities of the County include water, wastewater, and solid waste.

The government-wide financial statements are listed in the table of contents.

Fund Financial Statements

A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The County uses fund accounting to ensure compliance with finance-related legal requirements. Fund financial statements present financial information for governmental funds, proprietary funds, and fiduciary funds.

The ***Governmental Fund Financial Statements*** provide information on the current assets, deferred inflows of resources, and liabilities of the funds, changes in current financial resources (revenues and expenditures), and current available resources. Governmental funds are used to account for the same functions as reported in the governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund financial statements focus on near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources, as well as on balances of spendable resources available at the end of the fiscal year. Hardee County has 18 governmental funds. Information is presented separately in the governmental fund balance sheet and in the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances for the General Fund, Transportation Trust Fund, Fire Control Fund, Grants Fund, and Economic Development Authority Fund. Data from the other governmental special revenue funds are combined into a single, aggregated presentation. Individual fund data for each of these nonmajor governmental special revenue funds is provided in the form of combining statements within the report. To demonstrate compliance with the Board of County Commissioners' adopted budget, a budgetary comparison statement has been provided for the General Fund and other major governmental special revenue funds.

The basic governmental fund financial statements are listed in the table of contents.

The ***Proprietary Funds Financial Statements*** provide information on all assets and liabilities of the funds, changes in the economic resources (revenues and expenses), and total economic resources. An enterprise fund is a type of proprietary fund. The County maintains three enterprise funds to account for its water, wastewater, and solid waste operations. Proprietary funds provide the same type of information as the government-wide financial statements for business-type activities, only in more detail.

The basic proprietary fund financial statements are listed in the table of contents.

The ***Fiduciary Funds Financial Statements*** are used to account for resources held for the benefit of parties outside the government. Fiduciary funds are not reflected in the government-wide financial statement because resources of those funds are not available to support the County's own programs. The accounting used for fiduciary funds is much like that used for proprietary funds.

The basic fiduciary funds financial statement are listed in the table of contents.

Notes to the Financial Statements

The notes provide additional information that is essential for a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements. Those notes to the financial statements are listed in the table of contents.

Government-Wide Financial Analysis

As noted earlier, net position may serve as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. In our case, the County's total assets and deferred outflows of resources exceeded liabilities and deferred inflows of resources by $94.09 million at the close of the most recent fiscal year. The following schedule provides a summary of assets, liabilities, and net position of the County.

Hardee County's Net Position

The largest portion of the County's net position (95.59%) reflects its investment in capital assets, (e.g., land, buildings and improvements, machinery and equipment, infrastructure, and right-to-use leased equipment) less any related debt used to acquire those assets that remain outstanding. These assets are used to provide services to citizens and 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.

Overall, the County's net position increased by $13.41 million.

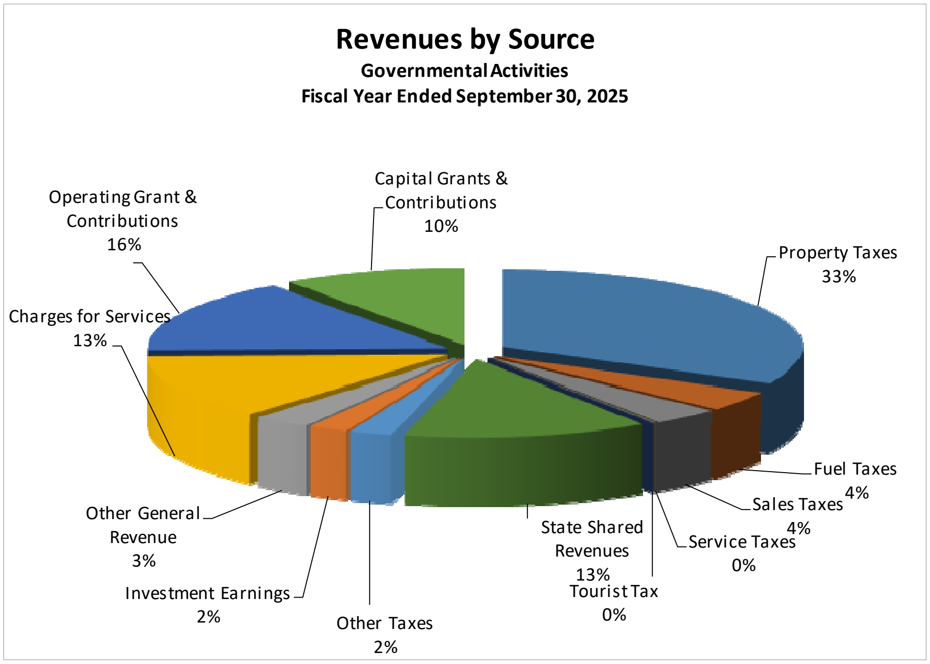
Hardee County's Net Position

	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Total	
	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2024	FY 2025
Assets:						
Current and Other Assets	$ 50,427,214	$ 45,325,091	$ 4,988,886	$ 4,753,011	$ 55,416,100	$ 50,078,102
Capital Assets	59,808,011	72,082,324	19,079,213	21,292,647	78,887,224	93,374,971
Total Assets	110,235,225	117,407,415	24,068,099	26,045,658	134,303,324	143,453,073
Deferred Outflows of Resources	8,528,130	7,543,129	245,268	266,698	8,773,398	7,809,827
Liabilities:						
Current Liabilities	9,490,805	6,337,926	585,080	637,999	10,075,885	6,975,925
Noncurrent Liabilities	38,892,033	34,381,290	8,195,650	8,894,086	47,087,683	43,275,376
Total Liabilities	48,382,838	40,719,216	8,780,730	9,532,085	57,163,568	50,251,301
Deferred Inflows of Resources	5,060,307	6,647,213	169,917	275,270	5,230,224	6,922,483
Net Position:						
Net Investment in Capital Assets	58,329,010	70,934,390	17,283,814	19,003,585	75,612,824	89,937,975
Restricted	15,934,473	12,745,657	-	-	15,934,473	12,745,657
Unrestricted	(8,943,273)	(6,095,932)	(1,921,094)	(2,498,584)	(10,864,367)	(8,594,516)
Total Net Position	$ 65,320,210	$ 77,584,115	$ 15,362,720	$ 16,505,001	$ 80,682,930	$ 94,089,116

Hardee County's Changes in Net Position

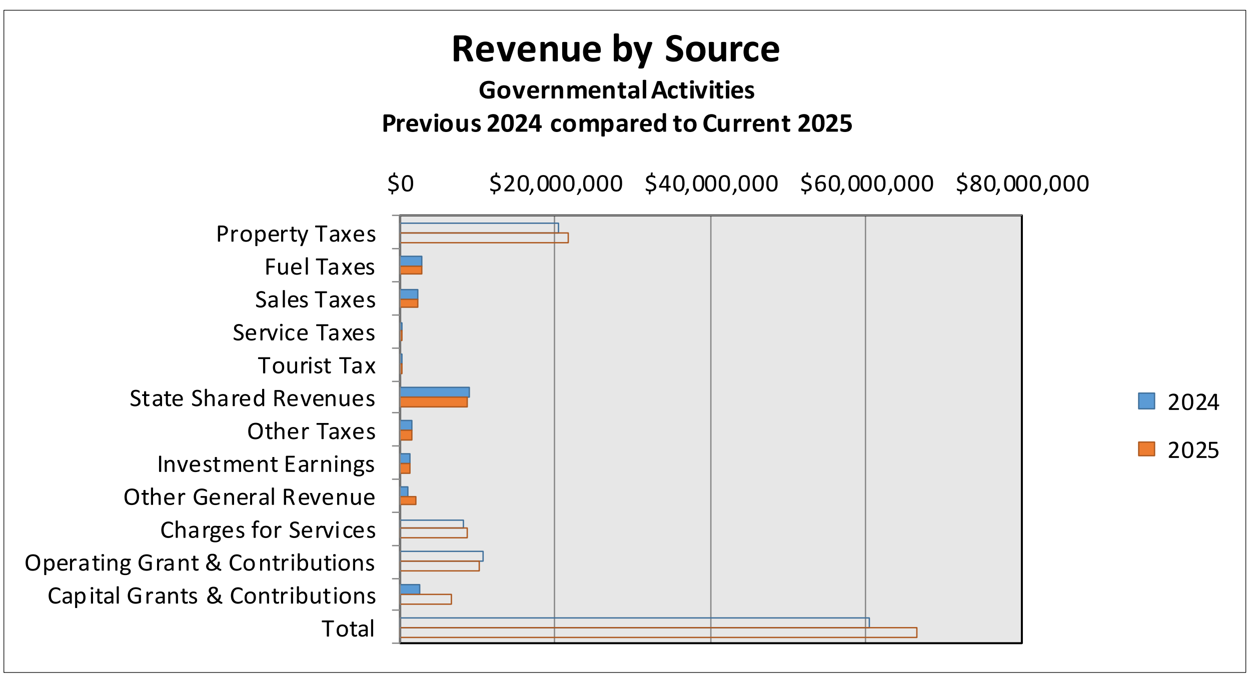
	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Total	
	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2024	FY 2025
Revenues:						
Program Revenues:						
Charges for Services	$ 8,167,202	$ 8,799,602	$ 3,562,288	$ 4,168,059	$ 11,729,490	$ 12,967,661
Operating Grants and Contributions	10,885,720	10,286,734	109,820	108,237	10,995,540	10,394,971
Capital Grants and Contributions	2,641,522	6,571,479	871,724	2,451,068	3,513,246	9,022,547
General Revenues:						
Property Taxes	20,366,707	21,723,391	-	-	20,366,707	21,723,391
Other Taxes	6,908,348	6,846,214	-	-	6,908,348	6,846,214
State Shared Revenue	9,018,004	8,742,170	-	-	9,018,004	8,742,170
Other	7,933,364	3,484,492	197,741	410,385	8,131,105	3,894,877
Total Revenues	65,920,867	66,454,082	4,741,573	7,137,749	70,662,440	73,591,831
Expenses:						
General Government	18,686,292	14,355,778	-	-	18,686,292	14,355,778
Public Safety	23,934,828	26,299,838	-	-	23,934,828	26,299,838
Physical Environment	441,060	671,136	-	-	441,060	671,136
Transportation	6,618,996	7,280,207	-	-	6,618,996	7,280,207
Economic Environment	4,563,142	2,692,880	-	-	4,563,142	2,692,880
Human Services	976,288	1,014,746	-	-	976,288	1,014,746
Culture and Recreation	2,442,786	2,355,390	-	-	2,442,786	2,355,390
Debt Service:						
Interest on Long-Term Debt	13,238	30,084	-	-	13,238	30,084
Solid Waste	-	-	2,303,073	3,565,460	2,303,073	3,565,460
Wauchula Hills Wastewater	-	-	1,768,655	1,983,969	1,768,655	1,983,969
Vandolah Wastewater	-	-	124,353	155,115	124,353	155,115
Total Expenses	57,676,630	54,700,059	4,196,081	5,704,544	61,872,711	60,404,603
Change in Net Position Before Transfers	8,244,237	11,754,023	545,492	1,433,205	8,789,729	13,187,228
Transfers	176,171	244,460	(176,171)	(244,460)	-	-
Change in Net Position	8,420,408	11,998,483	369,321	1,188,745	8,789,729	13,187,228
Net Position - Beginning of Year, as Previously Reported	56,899,802	65,320,210	14,993,399	15,362,720	71,893,201	80,682,930
Restatement	-	265,422	-	(46,464)	-	218,958
Net Position - Beginning of Year, as Restated	56,899,802	65,585,632	14,993,399	15,316,256	71,893,201	80,901,888
Net Position - End of Year	$ 65,320,210	$ 77,584,115	$ 15,362,720	$ 16,505,001	$ 80,682,930	$ 94,089,116

The following chart depicts revenues of the governmental activities for the year.

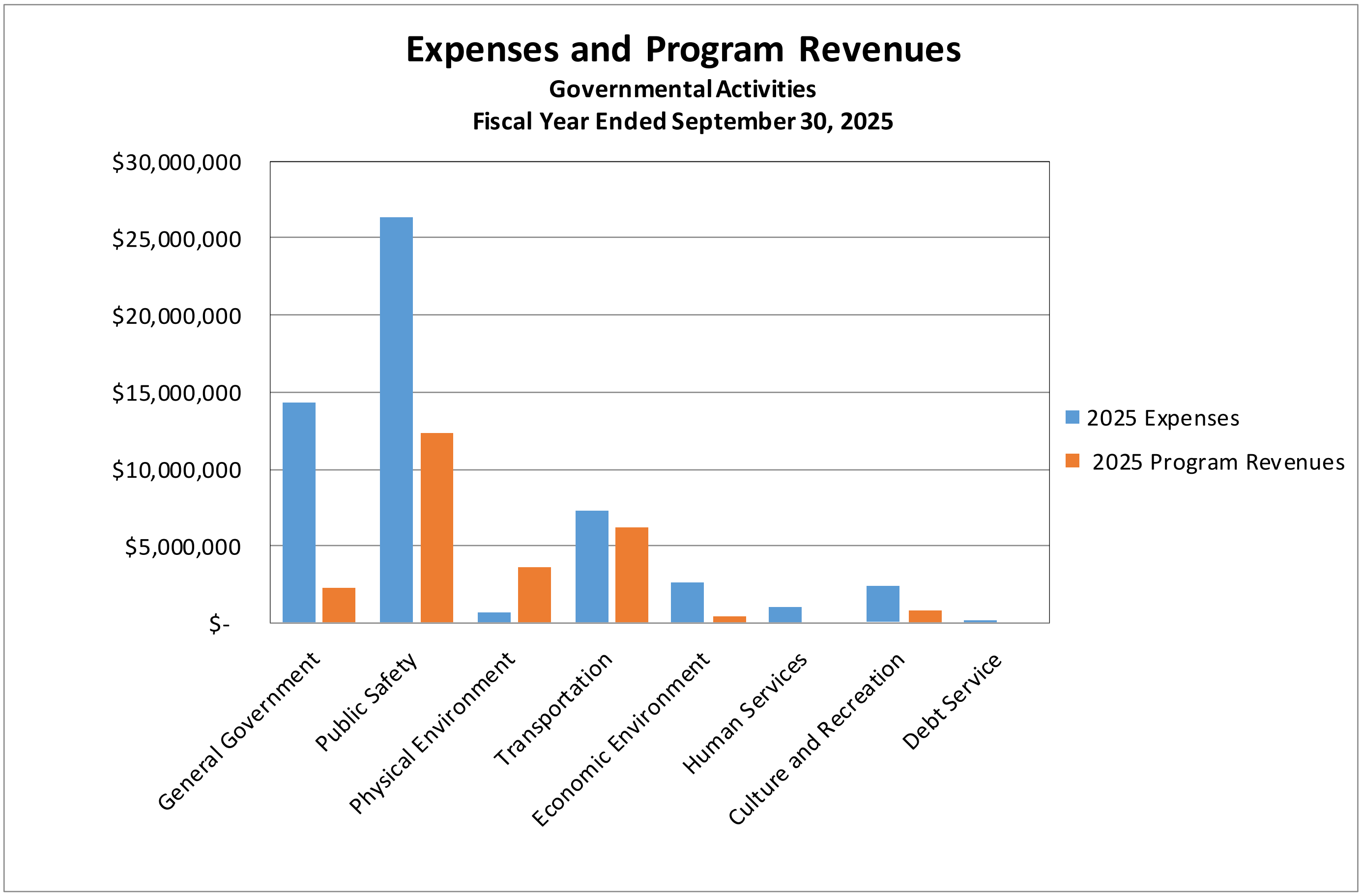


(Any amounts shown as 0% are less than 0.5% of the total revenues.)

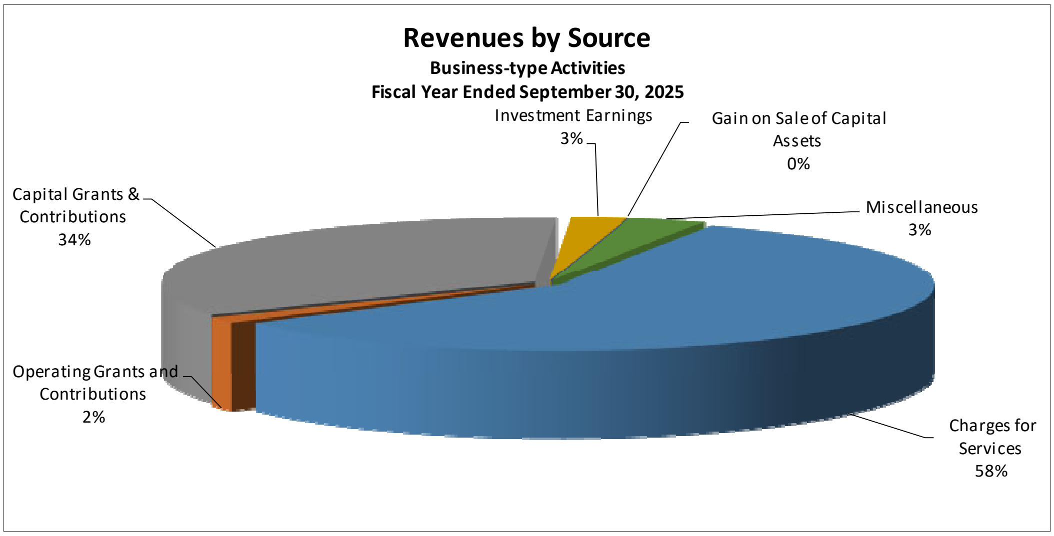
The following chart depicts the major revenue sources as a comparison of fiscal year revenues.



The following chart depicts governmental activity expenses compared to program revenue (e.g., charges for services, operating grants, and contributions), which funded those activities for the fiscal year; the amounts not funded by program revenues were funded by general revenues (e.g., property taxes, state shared revenue, etc.).

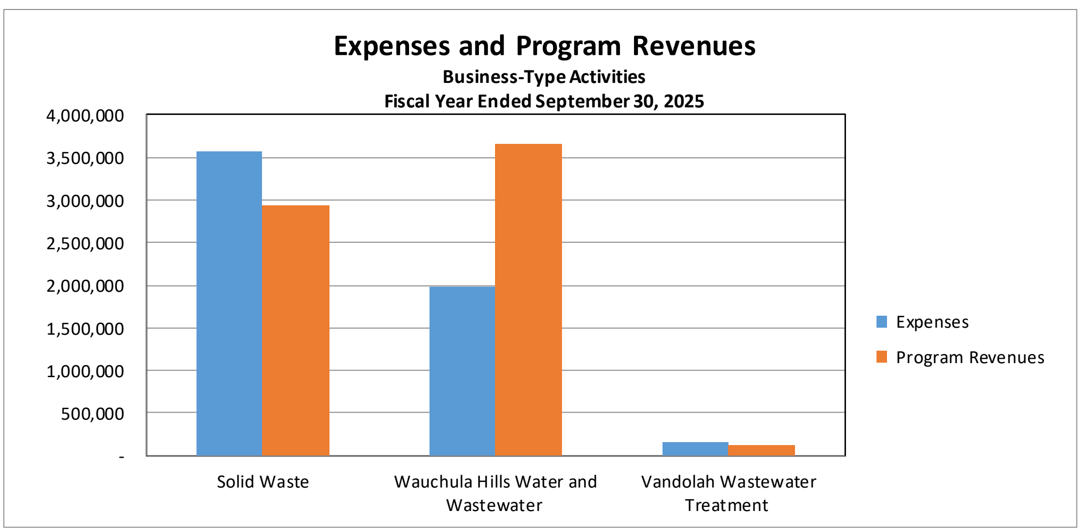


The following chart depicts revenues of the business-type activities for the year:



(Any amounts shown as 0% are less than 0.5% of the total revenues.)

The following chart depicts business-type activities expenses compared to program revenue (e.g., charges for services, operating grants and contributions, capital grants and contributions, etc.), which funded those activities for the fiscal year.



An analysis of the County's "Changes in Net Position" reflects that the overall revenues have increased by $13.19 million. Further analysis shows that the overall increase is attributed to a $1.19 million increase in business-type activities and a $12.00 million increase in governmental type activities. Major factors contributing to the increased revenues in the governmental type activities are as follows:

- A $3.93 million increase in capital grants and contributions related to public safety and physical environment funded projects.
- A $1.36 million increase in property taxes related to the increase in property valuations.

The changes in revenues in the business-type activities are as follows:

- A $1.58 million increase in capital grants and contributions primarily related to water and wastewater funded projects.

County expenses illustrate an overall decrease of $1.66 million. The overall decrease was due to a decrease in governmental activities of $2.98 million and an offsetting increase in the business-type activities of $1.32 million. The decrease of the government type activities expenses is due to the following activities below:

- A $4.33 million decrease in general government due to awarded grants in the prior year that were not awarded in the current year.
- A $2.37 million increase in public safety due to an increase in awarded public safety grants resulting in an increase in related expenditures.
- A $1.87 million decrease in economic environment primarily due to the EDA's decrease in grant awards for economic development projects.

The increase in expenses of the business-type activities was reflective of the following:

- A $1.26 million increase in Solid Waste due to an increase in closure and post-closure recognized costs.

Financial Analysis of the Government's Funds

As noted earlier, the County uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

Governmental Funds

The focus of Hardee County's governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of accessible resources. Such information is useful in assessing the County's financing requirements; in particular, unassigned fund balance may serve as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year.

As of the end of the current fiscal year, the County's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of $35.34 million. Approximately $4.45 million of the fund balance is restricted within the General Fund, $2.11 million within the Transportation Fund, $92 thousand within the Grants Fund, $5.34 million within the Economic Development Authority Fund, and $1.97 million is restricted within the nonmajor governmental funds. Committed fund balances were $259 thousand within the Fire Control Fund and $560 thousand within the nonmajor governmental funds. At the end of the current fiscal year, the unassigned fund balance of the General Fund was $18.21 million, which represents 52% of the total fund balance for all governmental funds. Unassigned fund balances are those dollars which are available for spending at the government's discretion. As a measure of the General Fund's liquidity, General Fund unassigned balance represents 46% of the total general fund expenditures.

Proprietary Funds

Hardee County's proprietary funds provide the same type of information found in the government-wide business-type activities financial statements, but in more detail. Net position of the Solid Waste Fund decreased by $540 thousand and Wauchula Hills Water/Wastewater Treatment Fund increased by $1.78 million.

Budgetary Highlights

Budget and actual comparison schedules are provided in the Basic Financial Statements for the General fund and all major special revenue funds. Budget and actual comparison schedules are also provided in the combining and individual fund statements and schedules for all nonmajor funds with annually appropriated budgets. The budget and actual comparison schedules show the original adopted budgets, the final revised budget, actual results, and variance between the final budget and actual results for the general and major special revenue funds. After the original budget is approved, it may be revised for a variety of reasons such as unforeseen circumstances, new bond or loan proceeds, new grant awards, or other unanticipated revenues.

The difference between the original and final amended budget for the General Fund was a $5.54 million increase and included the following:

- The most significant impact to the changes in the budget was an increase in public safety of $2.57 million primarily due to Hurricane disaster relief and recovery activities.
- Capital outlay also increased by $1.24 million due to additional capital asset projects approved during the fiscal year.

Total revenues were $3.06 million under budget. This was primarily due to federal and state grant revenues that were budgeted by not able to be recognized during the year.

Total expenditures were $12.09 million under budget. This was primarily due to General Government, Public Safety, and Capital Outlay expenditures being under budget for disaster recovery and capital projects, respectively, not completed during the fiscal year.

Capital Assets

The County's investments in capital assets for its governmental and business-type activities as of September 30, 2025 were $93.37 million (net of accumulated depreciation).

Hardee County's Capital Assets
(Net of Depreciation)

	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Total	
	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2024	FY 2025
Land	$ 3,691,552	$ 5,067,943	$ 962,625	$ 962,625	$ 4,654,177	$ 6,030,568
Construction in Progress	6,848,073	14,049,393	1,234,890	2,916,882	8,082,963	16,966,275
Buildings and Improvements	14,234,915	16,749,027	7,736,853	7,684,983	21,971,768	24,434,010
Machinery and Equipment	7,716,180	10,219,597	1,711,884	2,449,456	9,428,064	12,669,053
Infrastructure	26,639,557	24,903,490	7,424,201	7,272,517	34,063,758	32,176,007
Right-to-Use Leased Equipment	74,345	668,874	8,760	6,184	83,105	675,058
Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements	603,389	424,000	-	-	603,389	424,000
Total Capital Assets	$ 59,808,011	$ 72,082,324	$ 19,079,213	$ 21,292,647	$ 78,887,224	$ 93,374,971

Additional information on the County's capital assets can be found in Note 6 to the financial statements.

Debt Management

As of September 30, 2025, the County had total long-term liabilities outstanding of $43.28 million. Of this amount, $6.99 million is notes payable, $680 thousand is leases, $210 thousand is SBITAs, $1.99 million is compensated absences, $5.87 million is landfill closure and post closure obligations, $24.55 million is net pension liability, and other postemployment benefits (OPEB) obligations consisted of $2.99 million.

Hardee County's Long-Term Liabilities

	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Total	
	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2024	FY 2025
Notes Payable	$ 4,846,343	$ 4,760,895	$ 1,730,000	$ 2,230,000	$ 6,576,343	$ 6,990,895
Finance Purchases	97,418	-	-	-	97,418	-
Leases	74,523	674,454	8,284	5,756	82,807	680,210
SBITAs	315,581	210,177	-	-	315,581	210,177
Compensated Absences	2,054,924	1,955,304	5,287	34,716	2,060,211	1,990,020
Landfill Closure/Post Closure	-	-	5,565,670	5,870,162	5,565,670	5,870,162
Net Pension Liability	28,628,041	23,959,332	752,818	587,679	29,380,859	24,547,011
OPEB Obligations	2,875,203	2,821,128	133,591	165,773	3,008,794	2,986,901
Total	$ 38,892,033	$ 34,381,290	$ 8,195,650	$ 8,894,086	$ 47,087,683	$ 43,275,376

Additional information on Hardee County's long-term debt can be found in Notes 7,10, 11, 12 and 14 of this report.

Economic Factors and Next Year's Budgets and Rates

Local, national, and international economic factors influence the County's revenues in a variety of ways. Positive economic growth correlates with increased revenues from property taxes, sales taxes, fuel taxes, charges for services, and state revenue sharing, as well as state and federal grants. Economic growth may be measured by a variety of indicators such as employment growth, employment diversity, unemployment rate, new construction and assessed values, diversity of the property tax base, and Enterprise Fund revenue and net position growth.

The following factors were considered when the fiscal year 26 budget was prepared:

- The property tax millage rate was reduced to 7.9200 mills in 2026.
- Taxable property values in Hardee County increased from fiscal year 2025 at $2,686,688,347 to $2,825,395,864 for fiscal year 2026. This was an increase in taxable assessed values of over 5 percent, resulting in an estimated $1.1 million in additional revenue.
- Hardee County had a 4.90% percent unemployment rate in September 2025, as reported by the Florida Department of Commerce, Bureau of Workforce Statistics and Economic Research and CareerSource Heartland.
- Increased costs in employee benefits, adding 14 new FTEs, COLA and potential for merit increases, resulted in an 11 percent personnel increase in the County's fiscal year 2026 budget.
- Hurricane Ian, a strong category 4 hurricane, impacted Hardee County on September 28, 2022. Additionally, while still recovering from the storm of 2022, Hardee County was affected by Hurricane Milton on October 9, 2024. In FY26, the County anticipates receiving FEMA reimbursements and to reimburse general fund $1 million leaving a balance of a little less than a million dollars still awaiting reimbursement. The County will continue hurricane mitigation expenses in the 2026 budget.
- Federal Disaster Emergency Management Loan was received in May 2024 in the amount of $4,846,343. This loan was to help fund disaster projects up front. As the projects are completed then the loan is forgiven. The County will utilize these funds to continue hurricane mitigation expenses in the 2026 budget.
- Utility rate study revealed that the rates for Wauchula Hills were insufficient to cover the operating costs. After the necessary notifications, the utility fees were increased in an effort to cover the deficiency in Fiscal Year 2025. However, the commercial capacity fees the study recommended were not implemented. A new rate study is being conducted in Fiscal Year 2026 to ascertain the financial health of the fund and what adjustments to fees are recommended.
- Vandolah Utility's primary source of revenue is from a large user agreement with Lakeside Neurologic Rehabilitation Center in Wauchula. Historically, the agreement required the company to cover the operating costs after the payments from the other customers were deducted. During the development of the Fiscal Year 2026 budget, several capital replacement projects were identified that the utility could not afford. This led to the County renegotiating the large user agreement with Lakeside Neurologic. It is believed that the new contract will implement a 3.5% increase in the contribution each year beginning in FY27.
- Hardee County has identified the need for capital improvements and was awarded several capital improvement grants that will be reflected in FY26 budget; including the Emergency Operations Center, Hardee County Sheriff Office Construction Project, Sheriff Detention Facility, Multi-Government Complex, Fire Station 1, Infrastructure improvements at Pioneer Park. And WIFI for County Parks.

- Hardee County identified the need to set money aside to plan for capital replacements. During fiscal year 2025 the capital reserve fund was created with a $250,000 contribution. The fiscal year 2026 continues this commitment with a budgeted contribution of $150,000.

- The District 10 Medical Examiner Building in Polk County is shared by Polk, Highlands, and Hardee counties. It was determined that a new building is necessary with the cost shared on a pro rata share of the workload. Hardee County agreed to contribute $250,000 in both fiscal year 2025 and fiscal year 2026.

Hardee County identified the need to set money aside to plan for capital replacements. During fiscal year 2025 the capital reserve fund was created with a $250,000 contribution. The fiscal year 2026 continues this commitment with a budgeted contribution of $150,000.

Requests for Information

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of Hardee County's finances. Questions concerning budgets, long-term financial planning, future debt issuances, or questions related to the management of the County operations should be addressed to the County Manager at:

County Commissioners Office
412 West Orange St., Rm. 103
Wauchula, FL 33873

If you have questions concerning the Basic Financial Statements or other accounting information in this report, please contact the Clerk of Courts at:

Clerk of Courts
P. O. Drawer 1749
Wauchula, FL 33873

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Primary Government			Component Unit
	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total	Industrial Development Authority
ASSETS				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	$ 28,337,754	$ 1,911,219	$ 30,248,973	$ 22,482,533
Investments	-	-	-	6,508,157
Deposits Held by Others	10,068	1,030,751	1,040,819	-
Accounts Receivable, Net	1,348,587	223,209	1,571,796	
Lease Receivable	-	-	-	12,707,444
Internal Balances	1,029,721	(1,029,721)	-	-
Due from Other Governmental Agencies	9,119,525	1,165,183	10,284,708	165,125
Prepaid Items	104,291	9,516	113,807	134,646
Inventory - Supplies	326,113	-	326,113	-
Inventory - Property Held for Resale	-	-	-	458,162
Restricted Assets:				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	5,049,032	1,442,854	6,491,886	-
Capital Assets, Not Being Depreciated/Amortized	19,117,336	3,879,507	22,996,843	15,456,371
Capital Assets, Net of Accumulated Depreciation/ Amortization	52,964,988	17,413,140	70,378,128	17,801,769
Total Assets	117,407,415	26,045,658	143,453,073	75,714,207
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES				
Pension Related Items	6,865,191	226,861	7,092,052	-
Other Postemployment Benefits Related Items	677,938	39,837	717,775	-
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	7,543,129	266,698	7,809,827	-
LIABILITIES				
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	3,052,670	492,339	3,545,009	412,778
Due to Other Governmental Agencies	1,138,028	30,990	1,169,018	-
Deposits	-	65,795	65,795	-
Unearned Revenue	2,147,228	48,875	2,196,103	1,250
Noncurrent Liabilities:				
Due Within One Year	1,452,027	636,935	2,088,962	-
Due in More Than One Year	6,148,803	7,503,699	13,652,502	-
Net Pension Liability	23,959,332	587,679	24,547,011	-
Total Other Postemployment Benefits Liability	2,821,128	165,773	2,986,901	-
Total Liabilities	40,719,216	9,532,085	50,251,301	414,028
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES				
Lease Related Items	-	-	-	11,433,625
Pension Related Items	6,118,153	244,182	6,362,335	-
Other Postemployment Benefits Related Items	529,060	31,088	560,148	-
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	6,647,213	275,270	6,922,483	11,433,625
NET POSITION				
Net Investment in Capital Assets	70,934,390	19,003,585	89,937,975	33,258,140
Restricted for:				
Court Innovations	530,724	-	530,724	-
Court Technology	21,823	-	21,823	-
E-911	424,913	-	424,913	-
Economic Development	5,343,194	-	5,343,194	29,413,780
Grants	1,251,785	-	1,251,785	-
Inmate Welfare	163,186	-	163,186	-
Public Safety	440,943	-	440,943	-
Official Records	168,381	-	168,381	-
Tourist Development	439,811	-	439,811	-
Transportation	3,960,897	-	3,960,897	-
Total Restricted	12,745,657	-	12,745,657	29,413,780
Unrestricted (Deficit)	(6,095,932)	(2,498,584)	(8,594,516)	1,194,634
Total Net Position	$ 77,584,115	$ 16,505,001	$ 94,089,116	$ 63,866,554

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

Functions/Programs	Expenses	Program Revenues: Charges for Services	Program Revenues: Operating Grants and Contributions	Program Revenues: Capital Grants and Contributions	Net Revenue (Expense) and Changes in Net Position — Primary Government: Governmental Activities	Primary Government: Business-Type Activities	Primary Government: Total	Component Unit: Industrial Development Authority
PRIMARY GOVERNMENT								
Governmental Activities:								
General Government	$ 14,355,778	$ 1,737,849	$ 481,005	$ 50,379	$ (12,086,545)	$ -	$ (12,086,545)	$ -
Public Safety	26,299,838	5,935,620	5,097,706	1,346,292	(13,920,220)	-	(13,920,220)	-
Physical Environment	671,136	508,776	2,836,853	243,510	2,918,003	-	2,918,003	-
Transportation	7,280,207	72,125	1,266,913	4,805,237	(1,135,932)	-	(1,135,932)	-
Economic Environment	2,692,880	-	480,444	-	(2,212,436)	-	(2,212,436)	-
Human Services	1,014,746	-	-	-	(1,014,746)	-	(1,014,746)	-
Culture and Recreation	2,355,390	545,232	123,813	126,061	(1,560,284)	-	(1,560,284)	-
Debt Service:								
Interest and Fiscal Charges	30,084	-	-	-	(30,084)	-	(30,084)	-
Total Governmental Activities	54,700,059	8,799,602	10,286,734	6,571,479	(29,042,244)	-	(29,042,244)	-
Business-Type Activities:								
Solid Waste	3,565,460	2,829,331	108,237	-	-	(627,892)	(627,892)	-
Wauchula Hills Water and Wastewater	1,983,969	1,209,188	-	2,451,068	-	1,676,287	1,676,287	-
Vandolah Wastewater Treatment	155,115	129,540	-	-	-	(25,575)	(25,575)	-
Total Business-Type Activities	5,704,544	4,168,059	108,237	2,451,068	-	1,022,820	1,022,820	-
Total Primary Government	$ 60,404,603	$ 12,967,661	$ 10,394,971	$ 9,022,547	(29,042,244)	1,022,820	(28,019,424)	-
COMPONENT UNIT								
Industrial Development Authority	$ 3,547,931	$ 955,936	$ 150,944	$ 813,922	-	-	-	(1,627,129)
GENERAL REVENUES								
Taxes:								
Property Taxes					21,723,391	-	21,723,391	-
Fuel Taxes					2,743,680	-	2,743,680	-
Sales Tax					2,441,663	-	2,441,663	-
Communication Services Tax					45,539	-	45,539	-
Tourist Tax					84,619	-	84,619	-
Other Taxes					1,530,713	-	1,530,713	-
State Shared Revenues					8,742,170	-	8,742,170	-
Mosaic Income					-	-	-	6,610,919
Investment Earnings					1,438,549	172,653	1,611,202	1,313,842
Gain on Sale of Capital Assets					213,376	-	213,376	90,418
Insurance Recoveries					163,175	-	163,175	-
Mining Contribution					500,000	-	500,000	-
Miscellaneous					1,169,392	237,732	1,407,124	65,935
Transfers					244,460	(244,460)	-	-
Total General Revenues and Transfers					41,040,727	165,925	41,206,652	8,081,114
CHANGES IN NET POSITION					11,998,483	1,188,745	13,187,228	6,453,985
Net Position - Beginning of Year, as Originally Reported					65,320,210	15,362,720	80,682,930	57,412,569
Change in Accounting Principle					265,422	(46,464)	218,958	-
Net Position, Beginning of Year, as Restated					65,585,632	15,316,256	80,901,888	57,412,569
NET POSITION - END OF YEAR					$ 77,584,115	$ 16,505,001	$ 94,089,116	$ 63,866,554

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BALANCE SHEET – GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Major					Nonmajor	
	General Fund	Transportation Trust Fund	Fire Control Fund	Grants Fund	Economic Development Authority Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS							
Cash and Cash Equivalents	$ 13,653,831	$ 791,500	$ 388,794	$ 3,303,868	$ 7,282,747	$ 2,917,014	$ 28,337,754
Restricted Cash and Cash Equivalents	5,049,032	-	-	-	-	-	5,049,032
Deposits	5,753	4,315	-	-	-	-	10,068
Accounts Receivable, Net	1,056,998	400	-	-	-	291,189	1,348,587
Due from Other Funds	4,995,117	-	-	2,995	-	54,696	5,052,808
Due from Other Governments	1,210,683	6,076,963	101,034	1,601,063	-	129,782	9,119,525
Prepaid Items	64,167	-	-	-	-	40,124	104,291
Inventory of Supplies, at Cost	326,113	-	-	-	-	-	326,113
Total Assets	$ 26,361,694	$ 6,873,178	$ 489,828	$ 4,907,926	$ 7,282,747	$ 3,432,805	$ 49,348,178

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BALANCE SHEET — GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS (CONTINUED)
SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Major					Nonmajor	
	General Fund	Transportation Trust Fund	Fire Control Fund	Grants Fund	Economic Development Authority Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES, AND FUND BALANCES							
LIABILITIES							
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	$ 1,778,204	$ 572,276	$ 137,844	$ 444,006	$ 804	$ 119,536	$ 3,052,670
Due to Other Funds	52,808	2,592,165	11,653	1,356,059	-	10,402	4,023,087
Due to Other Governments	27,166	-	424	276,977	424,751	408,710	1,138,028
Unearned Revenue	700,324	-	-	1,387,128	-	59,776	2,147,228
Total Liabilities	2,558,502	3,164,441	149,921	3,464,170	425,555	598,424	10,361,013
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES							
Unavailable Revenue:							
Intergovernmental	26,451	1,594,172	81,304	1,351,681	-	119,547	3,173,155
Emergency Medical Services	474,504	-	-	-	-	-	474,504
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	500,955	1,594,172	81,304	1,351,681	-	119,547	3,647,659
FUND BALANCES							
Nonspendable	390,280	-	-	-	-	40,124	430,404
Restricted	4,445,530	2,114,565	-	92,075	5,343,194	1,970,132	13,965,496
Committed	-	-	258,603	-	-	560,033	818,636
Assigned	260,730	-	-	-	1,513,998	150,038	1,924,766
Unassigned	18,205,697	-	-	-	-	(5,493)	18,200,204
Total Fund Balances	23,302,237	2,114,565	258,603	92,075	6,857,192	2,714,834	35,339,506
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances	$ 26,361,694	$ 6,873,178	$ 489,828	$ 4,907,926	$ 7,282,747	$ 3,432,805	

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, therefore, are not reported in the funds.	72,082,324
Certain receivables are not available to pay current period expenditures and, therefore, are reported as deferred inflows of resources in the funds.	3,647,659
Long-term liabilities, including financed purchases, leases, SBITAs, and accrued compensated absences are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.	(7,600,830)
Net pension liability is not due and payable in the current period, therefore, the liabilities and the related deferred outflows and inflows of resources are not reported in the funds.	(23,212,294)
Total other postemployment benefits liability is not due and payable in the current period, therefore, the liabilities and the related deferred outflows and inflows of resources are not reported in the funds.	(2,672,250)
Net Position of Governmental Activities	$ 77,584,115

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES — GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Major					Nonmajor	
	General Fund	Transportation Trust Fund	Fire Control Fund	Grants Fund	Economic Development Authority Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES							
Taxes	$ 24,210,593	$ 1,452,324	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 84,619	$ 25,747,536
Licenses and Permits	1,078,456	-	-	-	-	-	1,078,456
Intergovernmental	9,749,280	7,889,271	775,821	5,611,366	1,530,713	885,716	26,442,167
Charges for Services	3,353,104	72,125	23,178	-	-	1,215,062	4,663,469
Fines and Forfeitures	11,438	-	-	-	-	239,505	250,943
Assessments	-	-	2,675,275	-	-	-	2,675,275
Interest	864,087	72,052	30,452	158,033	231,937	81,869	1,438,430
Miscellaneous	1,023,406	203,999	23,733	314,385	-	125,758	1,691,281
Total Revenues	40,290,364	9,689,771	3,528,459	6,083,784	1,762,650	2,632,529	63,987,557
EXPENDITURES							
Current:							
General Government	10,865,537	-	-	230,739	-	2,253,145	13,349,421
Public Safety	22,157,560	-	2,990,587	628,345	-	607,388	26,383,880
Physical Environment	28,036	-	-	197,890	-	444,257	670,183
Transportation	-	4,571,767	-	-	-	-	4,571,767
Economic Environment	-	-	-	787,611	1,908,756	-	2,696,367
Human Services	906,405	-	-	81,032	-	-	987,437
Culture and Recreation	2,166,845	-	-	-	196,426	-	2,363,271
Capital Outlay	3,394,898	8,154,104	783,633	5,177,752	-	112,344	17,622,731
Debt Service:							
Principal Retirement	297,024	2,546	100,832	-	-	3,007	403,409
Interest	25,898	228	3,617	-	-	341	30,084
Total Expenditures	39,842,203	12,728,645	3,878,669	7,103,369	2,105,182	3,420,482	69,078,550
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	448,161	(3,038,874)	(350,210)	(1,019,585)	(342,532)	(787,953)	(5,090,993)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)							
Transfers In	435,741	303,536	231,518	79,594	-	1,189,207	2,239,596
Transfers Out	(1,154,265)	-	(142,500)	(17,241)	-	(681,130)	(1,995,136)
Proceeds from Sale of Capital Assets	-	213,376	-	-	-	-	213,376
Insurance Recoveries	163,175	-	-	-	-	-	163,175
Leases	706,434	-	-	-	-	8,636	715,070
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	151,085	516,912	89,018	62,353	-	516,713	1,336,081
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	599,246	(2,521,962)	(261,192)	(957,232)	(342,532)	(271,240)	(3,754,912)
Fund Balances - Beginning of Year	22,702,991	4,636,527	519,795	1,049,307	7,199,724	2,986,074	39,094,418
FUND BALANCES - END OF YEAR	$ 23,302,237	$ 2,114,565	$ 258,603	$ 92,075	$ 6,857,192	$ 2,714,834	$ 35,339,506

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

Net Change in Fund Balances - Total Governmental Funds	$ (3,754,912)
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 or amortization expense. This is the amount by which capital outlay exceeded depreciation and amortization in the current period.	12,274,313
Long-term liabilities are reported in the statement of net position but not in the governmental funds because they are not due and payable in the current period. Also, governmental funds report the effect of premiums, discounts and similar items when debt is first issued, whereas these amounts are amortized in the statement of activities. This amount is the net effect of these differences in the treatment of long-term debt and related items.	(477,463)
Some revenues reported in the statement of activities will not be collected for several months after the fiscal year-end and, therefore, are not reported as revenues in governmental funds.	1,817,216
Changes in net pension liability and related pension amounts reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in the governmental funds.	2,241,592
Changes in total other postemployment benefits (OPEB) liability and related OPEB amounts reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in the governmental funds.	(102,263)
Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities	$ 11,998,483

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES — BUDGET AND ACTUAL — GENERAL FUND
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget - Positive
	Original	Final	Actual	(Negative)
REVENUES				
Taxes	$ 27,338,608	$ 27,338,608	$ 24,210,593	$ (3,128,015)
Licenses and Permits	959,475	959,475	1,078,456	118,981
Intergovernmental	10,204,110	10,802,139	9,749,280	(1,052,859)
Charges for Services	2,973,668	3,615,617	3,353,104	(262,513)
Fines and Forfeitures	30,300	30,300	11,438	(18,862)
Interest	87,000	180,672	864,087	683,415
Miscellaneous	54,700	414,841	1,023,406	608,565
Total Revenues	41,647,861	43,341,652	40,290,364	(3,051,288)
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
General Government	13,950,375	13,689,839	10,865,537	2,824,302
Public Safety	25,148,072	27,722,736	22,157,560	5,565,176
Physical Environment	42,944	42,944	28,036	14,908
Human Services	1,087,467	1,087,467	906,405	181,062
Culture and Recreation	2,626,668	2,626,668	2,166,845	459,823
Capital Outlay	3,495,527	4,738,898	3,394,898	1,344,000
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	35,000	35,000	297,024	(262,024)
Interest	5,000	5,000	25,898	(20,898)
Other Expenditures	-	1,980,563	-	1,980,563
Total Expenditures	46,391,053	51,929,115	39,842,203	12,086,912
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(4,743,192)	(8,587,463)	448,161	9,035,624
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers In	378,500	378,500	435,741	57,241
Transfers Out	(5,710,889)	(4,009,521)	(1,154,265)	2,855,256
Insurance Recoveries	-	38,284	163,175	124,891
Lease Issuance	-	-	706,434	706,434
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(5,332,389)	(3,592,737)	151,085	3,743,822
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	(10,075,581)	(12,180,200)	599,246	12,779,446
Fund Balances - Beginning of Year	10,075,581	12,180,200	22,702,991	10,522,791
FUND BALANCES - END OF YEAR	$ -	$ -	$ 23,302,237	$ 23,302,237

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES — BUDGET AND ACTUAL — TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUND
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget - Positive
	Original	Final	Actual	(Negative)
REVENUES				
Taxes	$ 2,225,000	$ 2,225,000	$ 1,452,324	$ (772,676)
Intergovernmental	25,878,626	25,878,626	7,889,271	(17,989,355)
Charges for Services	86,500	86,500	72,125	(14,375)
Interest	15,450	15,450	72,052	56,602
Miscellaneous	257,000	257,000	203,999	(53,001)
Total Revenues	28,462,576	28,462,576	9,689,771	(18,772,805)
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Transportation	6,098,219	6,098,219	4,571,767	1,526,452
Capital Outlay	24,345,336	24,345,336	8,154,104	16,191,232
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	-	-	2,546	(2,546)
Interest	-	-	228	(228)
Other Expenditures	231,000	231,000	-	231,000
Total Expenditures	30,674,555	30,674,555	12,728,645	17,945,910
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(2,211,979)	(2,211,979)	(3,038,874)	(826,895)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers In	186,700	186,700	303,536	116,836
Proceeds from Sale of Capital Assets	50,000	50,000	213,376	163,376
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	236,700	236,700	516,912	280,212
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	(1,975,279)	(1,975,279)	(2,521,962)	(546,683)
Fund Balances - Beginning of Year	1,975,279	1,975,279	4,636,527	2,661,248
FUND BALANCES - END OF YEAR	$ -	$ -	$ 2,114,565	$ 2,114,565

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES — BUDGET AND ACTUAL — FIRE CONTROL FUND
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget - Positive
	Original	Final	Actual	(Negative)
REVENUES				
Intergovernmental	$ 9,571,068	$ 9,571,068	$ 775,821	$ (8,795,247)
Charges for Services	43,000	43,000	23,178	(19,822)
Assessments	2,823,975	2,823,975	2,675,275	(148,700)
Interest	37,500	37,500	30,452	(7,048)
Miscellaneous	5,000	6,000	23,733	17,733
Total Revenues	12,480,543	12,481,543	3,528,459	(8,953,084)
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Public Safety	3,455,559	3,455,559	2,990,587	464,972
Capital Outlay	9,596,068	9,596,068	783,633	8,812,435
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	35,000	35,000	100,832	(65,832)
Interest	5,000	5,000	3,617	1,383
Other Expenditures	277,089	277,089	-	277,089
Total Expenditures	13,368,716	13,368,716	3,878,669	9,490,047
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(888,173)	(887,173)	(350,210)	536,963
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers In	629,372	629,372	231,518	(397,854)
Transfers Out	(100,000)	(100,000)	(142,500)	(42,500)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	529,372	529,372	89,018	(440,354)
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	(358,801)	(357,801)	(261,192)	96,609
Fund Balances - Beginning of Year	500,000	500,000	519,795	19,795
FUND BALANCES - END OF YEAR	$ 141,199	$ 142,199	$ 258,603	$ 116,404

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES — BUDGET AND ACTUAL — GRANTS FUND
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget - Positive
	Original	Final	Actual	(Negative)
REVENUES				
Intergovernmental	$ 76,612,491	$ 76,612,491	$ 5,611,366	$ (71,001,125)
Interest	1,000	1,000	158,033	157,033
Miscellaneous	17,507	17,507	314,385	296,878
Total Revenues	76,630,998	76,630,998	6,083,784	(70,547,214)
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
General Government	17,507	17,507	230,739	(213,232)
Public Safety	14,066,292	14,066,292	628,345	13,437,947
Physical Environment	365,572	365,572	197,890	167,682
Economic Environment	351,000	351,000	787,611	(436,611)
Human Services	169,931	169,931	81,032	88,899
Capital Outlay	61,757,601	61,757,601	5,177,752	56,579,849
Total Expenditures	76,727,903	76,727,903	7,103,369	69,624,534
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(96,905)	(96,905)	(1,019,585)	(922,680)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers In	99,405	99,405	79,594	(19,811)
Transfers Out	(2,500)	(2,500)	(17,241)	(14,741)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	96,905	96,905	62,353	(34,552)
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	-	-	(957,232)	(957,232)
Fund Balances - Beginning of Year	-	-	1,049,307	1,049,307
FUND BALANCES - END OF YEAR	$ -	$ -	$ 92,075	$ 92,075

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES — BUDGET AND ACTUAL — ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FUND
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget - Positive
	Original	Final	Actual	(Negative)
REVENUES				
Intergovernmental	$ 1,600,000	$ 1,530,713	$ 1,530,713	$ -
Interest	266,150	216,447	231,937	15,490
Total Revenues	1,866,150	1,747,160	1,762,650	15,490
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Economic Environment	7,601,533	6,543,216	1,908,756	4,634,460
Recreation	245,460	245,460	196,426	49,034
Total Expenditures	7,846,993	6,788,676	2,105,182	4,683,494
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	(5,980,843)	(5,041,516)	(342,532)	4,698,984
Fund Balances - Beginning of Year	8,018,158	7,190,568	7,199,724	9,156
FUND BALANCES - END OF YEAR	$ 2,037,315	$ 2,149,052	$ 6,857,192	$ 4,708,140

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION — PROPRIETARY FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Business-Type Activities - Enterprise Funds			
	Solid Waste Fund	Wauchula Hills Water/ Wastewater Treatment Fund	Vandolah Wastewater Treatment (Nonmajor Fund)	Total Enterprise Funds
ASSETS				
Current Assets:				
Cash	$ 1,135,497	$ 651,383	$ 124,339	$ 1,911,219
Deposits	1,027,155	3,596	-	1,030,751
Accounts Receivable, Net	86,813	125,722	10,674	223,209
Due from Other Funds	-	748	-	748
Due from Other Governmental Agencies	3,388	1,161,795	-	1,165,183
Prepaid Items	9,516	-	-	9,516
Total Current Assets	2,262,369	1,943,244	135,013	4,340,626
Noncurrent Assets:				
Restricted Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,442,854	-	-	1,442,854
Capital Assets:				
Land	372,775	424,850	165,000	962,625
Construction in Progress	-	2,916,882	-	2,916,882
Buildings and Improvements	3,621,412	5,801,121	1,184,598	10,607,131
Equipment	3,629,483	998,077	8,961	4,636,521
Infrastructure	7,218,397	17,187,015	-	24,405,412
Right-to-Use Leased Equipment	4,878	4,734	645	10,257
Less: Accumulated Depreciation/ Amortization	(9,390,329)	(12,317,458)	(538,394)	(22,246,181)
Total Capital Assets, Net of Accumulated Depreciation/Amortization	5,456,616	15,015,221	820,810	21,292,647
Total Noncurrent Assets	6,899,470	15,015,221	820,810	22,735,501
Total Assets	9,161,839	16,958,465	955,823	27,076,127
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES				
Pension Related Items	119,845	94,137	12,879	226,861
Other Postemployment Benefits Related Items	15,145	22,610	2,082	39,837
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	134,990	116,747	14,961	266,698

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION — PROPRIETARY FUNDS (CONTINUED)
SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Business-Type Activities - Enterprise Funds			
	Solid Waste Fund	Wauchula Hills Water/ Wastewater Treatment Fund	Vandolah Wastewater Treatment (Nonmajor Fund)	Total Enterprise Funds
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities:				
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	$ 217,355	$ 270,845	$ 4,139	$ 492,339
Due to Other Governmental Agencies	-	30,990	-	30,990
Due to Other Funds	25,348	1,004,506	615	1,030,469
Deposits	24,842	40,953	-	65,795
Unearned Revenue	-	48,875	-	48,875
Accrued Compensated Absences, Current Portion	13,526	11,516	-	25,042
Notes Payable, Current Portion	500,000	-	-	500,000
Landfill Closure and Postclosure Costs, Current Portion	109,272	-	-	109,272
Leases, Current Portion	1,221	1,232	168	2,621
Total Current Liabilities	891,564	1,408,917	4,922	2,305,403
Noncurrent Liabilities:				
Accrued Compensated Absences, Less Current Portion	4,783	4,891	-	9,674
Net Pension Liability	247,795	288,279	51,605	587,679
Other Postemployment Benefits	63,024	94,087	8,662	165,773
Notes Payable, Less Current Portion	1,730,000	-	-	1,730,000
Landfill Closure and Post-Closure Costs	5,760,890	-	-	5,760,890
Leases, Less Current Portion	1,807	1,169	159	3,135
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	7,808,299	388,426	60,426	8,257,151
Total Liabilities	8,699,863	1,797,343	65,348	10,562,554
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES				
Pension Related Items	133,795	97,188	13,199	244,182
Other Postemployment Benefits Related Items	11,819	17,645	1,624	31,088
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	145,614	114,833	14,823	275,270
NET POSITION				
Net Investment in Capital Assets	3,233,028	14,950,074	820,483	19,003,585
Unrestricted	(2,781,676)	212,962	70,130	(2,498,584)
Total Net Position	$ 451,352	$ 15,163,036	$ 890,613	$ 16,505,001

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION — PROPRIETARY FUNDS
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Business-Type Activities - Enterprise Funds			
	Solid Waste Fund	Wauchula Hills Water/ Wastewater Treatment Fund	Vandolah Wastewater Treatment (Nonmajor Fund)	Total Enterprise Funds
OPERATING REVENUES				
Sales and Charges for Services	$ 1,539,806	$ 1,209,188	$ 129,540	$ 2,878,534
Special Assessments	1,289,525	-	-	1,289,525
Total Operating Revenues	2,829,331	1,209,188	129,540	4,168,059
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Personal Services	806,296	647,606	86,942	1,540,844
General and Administrative	1,892,354	516,274	44,382	2,453,010
Depreciation	579,346	819,982	23,777	1,423,105
Total Operating Expenses	3,277,996	1,983,862	155,101	5,416,959
OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	(448,665)	(774,674)	(25,561)	(1,248,900)
NONOPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)				
Intergovernmental	108,237	-	-	108,237
Interest Income	139,467	28,621	4,565	172,653
Interest Expense	(95,894)	(107)	(14)	(96,015)
Gain (Loss) on Sale of Capital Assets	(191,570)	-	-	(191,570)
Miscellaneous Revenue	15,290	222,442	-	237,732
Total Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses), Net	(24,470)	250,956	4,551	231,037
INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND TRANSFERS	(473,135)	(523,718)	(21,010)	(1,017,863)
CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND TRANSFERS				
Capital Contributions	-	2,451,068	-	2,451,068
Transfers In	-	4,400	-	4,400
Transfers Out	(67,000)	(152,750)	(29,110)	(248,860)
Total Capital Contributions and Transfers	(67,000)	2,302,718	(29,110)	2,206,608
CHANGE IN NET POSITION	(540,135)	1,779,000	(50,120)	1,188,745
Net Position - Beginning of Year, as Originally Reported	1,014,637	13,407,350	940,733	15,362,720
Change in Accounting Principle	(23,150)	(23,314)	-	(46,464)
Net Position - Beginning of Year, as Restated	991,487	13,384,036	940,733	15,316,256
NET POSITION - END OF YEAR	$ 451,352	$ 15,163,036	$ 890,613	$ 16,505,001

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS — PROPRIETARY FUNDS
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Business-Type Activities - Enterprise Funds			
	Solid Waste Fund	Wauchula Hills Water/ Wastewater Fund	Vandolah Wastewater Treatment (Nonmajor Fund)	Total Enterprise Funds
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Receipts from Customers and Users	$ 2,832,626	$ 1,158,045	$ 129,230	$ 4,119,901
Payments to Suppliers	(1,663,306)	(360,402)	(44,012)	(2,067,720)
Payments to Employees	(864,475)	(652,048)	(90,390)	(1,606,913)
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	304,845	145,595	(5,172)	445,268
CASH FLOWS FROM NONCAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Intergovernmental Grants	108,237	-	-	108,237
Other Nonoperating Revenue	11,671	222,442	-	234,113
Cash Received from Interfund Borrowings	25,623	1,004,506	-	1,030,129
Transfers to Other Fund	(67,000)	(148,350)	(28,495)	(243,845)
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Noncapital Financing Activities	78,531	1,078,598	(28,495)	1,128,634
CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Capital Grants, State Shared Revenues, and Contributions	-	1,387,428	-	1,387,428
Acquisition and Construction of Capital Assets	(995,729)	(2,761,005)	-	(3,756,734)
Cash Proceeds on issuance of Long-Term Debt	2,730,000	-	-	2,730,000
Principal Paid on Leases and Long-Term Debt	(2,231,179)	(1,187)	(162)	(2,232,528)
Interest Paid	(95,894)	(107)	(14)	(96,015)
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Capital and Related Financing Activities	(592,802)	(1,374,871)	(176)	(1,967,849)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Interest Received	139,467	28,621	4,565	172,653
Net Cash Provided by Investing Activities	139,467	28,621	4,565	172,653
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(69,959)	(122,057)	(29,278)	(221,294)
Cash and Cash Equivalents - Beginning of Year	3,675,465	773,440	153,617	4,602,522
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - END OF YEAR	$ 3,605,506	$ 651,383	$ 124,339	$ 4,381,228
CLASSIFIED AS				
Cash	$ 1,135,497	$ 651,383	$ 124,339	$ 1,911,219
Restricted Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,442,854	-	-	1,442,854
Deposits	1,027,155	-	-	1,027,155
Total	$ 3,605,506	$ 651,383	$ 124,339	$ 4,381,228

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS — PROPRIETARY FUNDS (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Business-Type Activities - Enterprise Funds			
	Solid Waste Fund	Wauchula Hills Water/ Wastewater Fund	Vandolah Wastewater Treatment (Nonmajor Fund)	Total Enterprise Funds
RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING INCOME (LOSS) TO NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Operating Income (Loss)	$ (448,665)	$ (774,674)	$ (25,561)	$ (1,248,900)
Adjustments to Reconcile Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities:				
Depreciation/Amortization	579,346	819,982	23,777	1,423,105
Changes in Assets and Liabilities:				
(Increase) Decrease in:				
Accounts Receivable	3,295	35,543	(310)	38,528
Prepaid Items	9,515	-	-	9,515
Deferred Outflows - Pensions	(11,279)	(5,712)	(837)	(17,828)
Deferred Outflows - OPEB	3,952	(7,512)	(42)	(3,602)
Increase (Decrease) in:				
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	(82,412)	124,882	370	42,840
Due to Other Government Agencies	(2,547)	30,990	-	28,443
Deposits	-	3,200	-	3,200
Unearned Revenue	-	(89,886)	-	(89,886)
Accrued Compensated Absences	(10,128)	(6,907)	-	(17,035)
Net Pension Liability	(89,213)	(66,918)	(9,008)	(165,139)
Total OPEB Liability	(7,382)	38,424	1,140	32,182
Landfill Closure and Postclosure Costs	304,492	-	-	304,492
Deferred Inflows - Pensions	55,675	35,727	4,917	96,319
Deferred Inflows - OPEB	196	8,456	382	9,034
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	$ 304,845	$ 145,595	$ (5,172)	$ 445,268
SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURE OF INVESTING, CAPITAL, AND FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Assets Acquired Through Retainage and Accounts Payable	$ -	$ 62,746	$ -	$ 62,746
Transfer of Capital Assets	$ -	$ 1,063,640	$ -	$ 1,063,640

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION — FIDUCIARY FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Custodial Funds
ASSETS	
Cash	$ 1,294,536
LIABILITIES	
Due to Individuals	81,472
Due to Other Governments	405,442
Deposit - Installment Taxes	366,524
Total Liabilities	853,438
NET POSITION	
Restricted for Individuals, Organizations, and Other Governments	441,098
Total Net Position	$ 441,098

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION — FIDUCIARY FUNDS
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Custodial Funds
ADDITIONS	
Collections from Individuals	$ 406,394
Property Tax Collections for Other Governments	20,155,728
Evidence Collected	9,743
Collections for Court Related Activities	1,541,463
Licenses, Taxes, and Fees Collected for Other Governments	6,457,632
Total Additions	28,570,960
DEDUCTIONS	
Medical, Dental, and Life Insurance	43,879
Payments to Individuals	473,585
Payments of Court Related Funds	1,645,068
Payments to Other Entities	117,202
Payments to Other Governments	26,616,938
Total Deductions	28,896,672
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION	(325,712)
Fiduciary Net Position - Beginning of Year	766,810
FIDUCIARY NET POSITION - END OF YEAR	$ 441,098

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Reporting Entity

Hardee County, Florida (the County) is a non-charter County established under the Constitution and laws of the state of Florida. The six offices elected county wide are as follows: Board of County Commissioners (the Board) composed of five members, Clerk of Circuit Court (the Clerk), Sheriff, Tax Collector, Property Appraiser, and Supervisor of Elections.

The Board, as the legislative body for the County, budgets and provides the funding used by the separate constitutional officers with the exception of fees collected by the Tax Collector, Property Appraiser, and Clerk. The Clerk maintains the accounting system for the Board's operations. The Clerk, Property Appraiser, Tax Collector, Sheriff, and Supervisor of Elections each maintain their own accounting system. The operations of the Board and each constitutional officer have been combined in these financial statements.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (GAAP) require that each unit of government define a governmental reporting entity. The accompanying financial statements present the financial position and results of operations of the applicable funds of the County.

GAAP requires that these financial statements include all entities for which the County is considered to be financially accountable (component unit). The County is financially accountable if it 1) holds a majority equity interest and it doesn't meet the definition of an investment; or 2) appoints a voting majority of the organization's governing body and (a) 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 board, (b) a governing board appointed by a higher level of government, or (c) a jointly appointed board. If a component unit is, in substance, part of the government's operations, it should be reported as a blended component unit. Otherwise, a component unit should be discretely presented. Based on the criteria, the County management determined that the County has one discretely presented component unit and one blended component unit.

Discretely Presented Component Unit

The Hardee County Industrial Development Authority (the Authority), as authorized by Chapter 159.44-159.53 of the Florida Statutes, was created for the purpose of financing and refinancing projects for the public purposes in the manner provided by the Florida Industrial Development Financing Act and by Chapter 159.44-159.53 of the Florida Statutes and for the purpose of fostering economic development of Hardee County.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Discretely Presented Component Unit (Continued)

The Authority is reported in a separate column in the government-wide financial statements to emphasize that it is legally separate from the primary government. The County entered into an agreement with a private entity which otherwise assumed to provide financial support to the Authority. Separate audited financial statements for the Hardee County Industrial Development Authority are available upon request at 107 East Main Street, Wauchula, Florida 33873.

Blended Component Unit

The Hardee County Economic Development Authority (EDA), established in accordance with Section 211.3103 of the Florida Statutes, was created to solicit, rank, and fund projects that provide economic development opportunities and infrastructure within the geographic boundaries of Hardee County and to otherwise maximize the use of federal, local, and private resources. The Board represents the majority of the voting members on the EDA. The Clerk maintains the accounting system for the EDA. The EDA is reported as a special revenue fund and as a major fund of the County. Separate audited financial statements for the EDA are available upon request at 412 West Orange Street, Room 103, Wauchula, Florida 33873.

Basis of Presentation, Basis of Accounting, and Measurement Focus

The accounting principles of the County conform to GAAP as applicable to governments. The following is a summary of the significant accounting principles and policies used in the preparation of these financial statements.

Fund Accounting

The accounts of the County are organized on the basis of 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, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, fund balances or net position, 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. The fiduciary statement includes financial information for the custodial funds. The custodial funds of the County are used to account for assets associated with activities which benefit other governments.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

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. 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.

Government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting, as are the proprietary 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 Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 33 – *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Nonexchange Transactions*.

Program revenues derive directly from the program itself or from parties outside the reporting government's taxpayers or citizenry, as a whole; they reduce the cost of the function to be financed from the government's general revenues. Program revenues include charges for services, program specific operating grants and contributions, and program specific capital grants and contributions. 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 expenditures. Proceeds of long-term debt are recorded as liabilities in the government-wide financial statements, rather than as other financing sources. Amounts paid to reduce long-term indebtedness of the reporting government are reported as a reduction of the related liability, rather than as expenditures.

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

The County's fiduciary funds presented in the fund financial statements include custodial funds. These funds are not incorporated into the government-wide statements.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

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. Revenues susceptible to accrual are certain tax revenues, intergovernmental revenues, ambulance fees, and investment earnings. Major revenue sources not susceptible to accrual include charges for services (other than ambulance fees), fines and forfeitures, and miscellaneous revenue. For this purpose, the County considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. All other revenue items are considered to be measurable only when cash is received by the County. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting.

Under the current financial resources measurement focus, only current assets, deferred outflows of resources, current liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources 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.

Because of their spending measurement focus, expenditure recognition for governmental funds excludes amounts represented by noncurrent liabilities. Since they do not affect net current assets, such long-term amounts are not recognized as governmental fund 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 other financing sources 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 enterprise funds 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 or services are delivered. In the fund financial statements, proprietary funds are presented using the economic resources measurement focus. This means that all assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources (whether current or noncurrent) associated with their activity are included on their statement of net position. Proprietary fund’s operating statements present increases (revenues) and decreases (expenses) in total net position.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Proprietary Funds (Continued)

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 grants, investment earnings and miscellaneous other revenues result from nonexchange transactions or ancillary activities.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the County's policy to first apply restricted resources when an expense is in incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted assets are available.

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

Custodial Funds

The custodial funds use the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Ending net position is restricted for individuals, organizations, and other governments.

Basis of Presentation

GASB Statement No. 34 sets forth minimum criteria (percentage of the assets plus deferred outflows of resources, liabilities plus deferred inflows of resources, revenues, or expenditures/expenses of each fund category and the governmental and enterprise combined) for the determination of major funds. The County has used GASB Statement No. 34 minimum criteria for major fund determination. The nonmajor funds are combined in a column in the fund financial statements and detailed in the combining section.

The County considers the Fire Control Fund important to financial statement users because of the public interest and is, therefore, reporting this governmental funds as major even though the quantitative criteria have not been met.

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.

Transportation Trust Fund – The Transportation Trust Fund, a special revenue fund, accounts for the proceeds of local, state, and federal gas taxes, which are restricted for use in the operation of the County's road and bridge, and equipment maintenance departments.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Governmental Major Funds (Continued)

Fire Control Fund – The Fire Control Fund, a special revenue fund, accounts for assessments committed to providing countywide fire protection services.

Grants Fund – The Grants Fund, a special revenue fund, was established to account for all community development enhancement projects that are funded through various restricted state, federal, and other funding agencies.

Economic Development Authority Fund – The Economic Development Authority Fund, a special revenue fund, was established to solicit, rank, and fund projects that provide economic development opportunities and infrastructure within the geographic boundaries of Hardee County.

Proprietary Major Funds

Solid Waste Fund – The Solid Waste Fund accounts for the fees imposed on users of the Hardee County Landfill; and for the closure and post-closure liability along with the restricted cash required by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Wauchula Hills Water/Wastewater Treatment Fund – The Wauchula Hills Water/Wastewater Treatment fund accounts for the operations of the Wauchula Hills Water and Wastewater utilities.

Fiduciary Funds

Custodial Funds – Custodial Funds are fiduciary in nature and used to account for assets associated with various activities, which benefit individuals and other governments.

Budgets and Budgetary Accounting

The County follows the procedures provided by Florida Statutes in establishing final budget balances reported on the financial statements.

Budgets are prepared, public hearings are held, and original budgets are adopted annually for governmental funds in accordance with procedures and time intervals prescribed by law.

Budgets are prepared for the governmental funds on a basis consistent with GAAP and are based upon the final amended amounts.

Appropriations lapse at year-end to the extent that they have not been expended. Budget appropriations may not be legally exceeded on a fund basis, which is the legal level of control.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Budgets and Budgetary Accounting (Continued)

Final budget amounts reported are based upon the final amended budget.

Formal budgetary integration is employed as a management control device during the year for all governmental funds and proprietary funds except for Sheriff's Commissary Fund, Sheriff's Education Fund, Sheriff's E-911 Fund, Sheriff's Youth Fund, Sheriff's Flower Fund, and Sheriff's Drug Task Force Fund.

Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable is shown at its net realizable value and reduced by an allowance for uncollectible accounts.

Interfund Transactions

Interfund transactions are accounted for in the following manner:

Transactions for services rendered are recorded as revenues in the receiving fund and as expenditures or expenses (as appropriate) in the disbursing fund.

Transactions to reimburse a fund for expenditures made by it for the benefit of another fund are recorded as expenditures or expenses (as appropriate) in the disbursing fund and as a reduction of expenditures or expenses (as appropriate) in the receiving fund; and transactions to shift revenues from the fund budgeted to receive them to the fund budgeted to expend them are recorded as transfers in and out, respectively.

Transfers are reported in the "Other Financing Sources (Uses)" section in the statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances and in the "Transfers" section in the statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in fund Net position. As of fiscal year-end, any unpaid amounts related to these transactions are reported as due from/to other funds on the balance sheet. Assets acquired or constructed by resources of a governmental fund which are subsequently transferred to a proprietary fund are accounted for as expenditures within the governmental fund and as contributed capital in the proprietary fund.

Inventory of Supplies

Inventory shown in the General Fund consists of expendable supplies held for consumption and road materials valued at cost. Inventories are valued at the lower of cost (first-in, first-out) or market. Inventory is accounted for using the consumption method.

Prepaid Items

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid items. Prepaid items are expensed during the periods benefited.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Unearned Revenues

Unearned revenue at the government-wide level arises only when the County receives resources before it has legal claim to them. Governmental funds report unearned revenue in connection with resources that have been received, but not yet earned.

Revenues in the proprietary funds which have not been earned are reported in accordance with the accrual basis of accounting as unearned revenue. The unearned revenue will be recognized as revenues in the fiscal year they are earned.

Capital Assets

Capital assets which include property, plant, equipment, right-to-use lease assets, and infrastructure assets (e.g., roads, bridges, right-of-way, and sewer distribution systems 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 real or personal property that have a value equal to or greater than the capitalization threshold for their respective asset class and have an estimated useful life greater than of one year. The cost of improvements and replacements which extend the useful lives and/or increase the capacity or efficiency of the asset are capitalized. Repairs and maintenance costs which do not improve or extend the useful life of the respective assets are charged to expense when incurred.

Capital assets are recorded as expenditures in the general and special revenue funds at the time of purchase. Machinery and equipment is recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if actual historical cost is not available. Land, buildings, improvements, and equipment are valued at historical cost or at estimated acquisition value for those assets contributed.

Right-to-use lease assets are initially measured at the present value of payments expected to be made during the lease term, adjusted for lease payments made at or before the lease commencement date, plus certain initial direct costs. Subsequently, the lease asset is amortized in a systematic and rational manner over the shorter of the lease term or the useful life of the underlying asset.

Subscription-based information technology arrangements (SBITA) assets are initially measured as the sum of the present value of payments expected to be made during the subscription term, payments associated with the SBITA contract made to the SBITA vendor at the commencement of the subscription term, when applicable, and capitalizable implementation costs, less any SBITA vendor incentives received form the SBITA vendor at the commencement of the SBITA term. SBITA assets are amortized in a systematic and rational manner over the shorter of the subscription term or the useful life of the underlying IT assets.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Capital Assets (Continued)

The Board holds legal title for the capital assets used in the operations of the Board, Clerk, Property Appraiser, Supervisor of Elections, and Tax Collector, and is accountable for them under Florida Law. The Sheriff is accountable for, and thus maintains, capital assets records pertaining only to equipment used in their operations. These assets have been combined with the Board's governmental activities' capital assets in the statement of net position. Capital assets used by the governmental funds are reported in the financial statements of the County. Capital assets of the enterprise funds are reported in the Proprietary Funds financial statements.

Depreciation/amortization on capital assets is charged as an expense against operations which is closed to net position. Accumulated depreciation/amortization is reported on the proprietary funds statement of new position. Depreciation/amortization has been provided over the estimated useful lives using the straight-line method.

Property Taxes

Under the laws of the state of Florida, the assessment of all properties and the collection of all county, municipal, and school board property taxes are consolidated in the offices of the County Property Appraiser and County Tax Collector. The laws of the state regulating tax assessments are also designed to assure a consistent property valuation method statewide. Florida Statutes permit counties to levy property taxes at a rate of up to 10 mills for general operations. The tax levy rate for general operations of the County for the year ended September 30, 2025 was 8.8000 mills.

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

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

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

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Property Taxes (Continued)

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

The County does not accrue its portion of the County held tax certificates because such amounts are not measurable and available as of the balance sheet date.

Compensated Absences

The unpaid vacation and sick leave accumulated by employees is accrued as an expense when incurred in the government-wide statement of activities and the proprietary funds. Therefore, the entire unpaid liability for compensated absences is recorded in the government-wide statement of net position. In the government-wide statements, compensated absences (i.e. paid absences for employee vacation leave and sick leave) are accrued as liabilities to the extent that it has not been used that is attributable to services already rendered, accumulates and is more likely than not to be used for time off or otherwise paid in cash or settled through noncash means. The liability also includes amounts for leave that has been used for time off but has not yet been paid in cash or settled through noncash means and certain other types of leave.

Restricted Assets

Certain funds of the County are classified as restricted assets on the balance sheet and on the statement of net position because the restriction is either imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation or imposed externally by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments. Therefore, their use is limited by applicable laws and regulations.

Encumbrances

Encumbrance accounting, under which purchase orders, contracts, and other commitments for the expenditure of monies are recorded in order to reserve that portion of the applicable appropriation, is not employed by the County because it is, at present, not necessary to assure effective budgetary control or to facilitate effective cash planning and control.

Landfill Closure and Post-Closure Costs

The County has obtained engineering estimates of future costs to close and monitor the current sanitary landfill site in accordance with state and federal guidelines. Estimated landfill closing and monitoring costs are being accrued in the Solid Waste Fund over the operating life of the landfill representing the commitment to fund such costs for the future.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP, as applicable to government entities, requires management to make use of estimates that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements. Actual results could differ from estimates.

Other Postemployment Benefit Obligations (OPEB)

In the statement of net position, liabilities are recognized for the County's total OPEB liability as determined by an actuarial review of healthcare coverage purchased by retirees to continue participation in the County's health plans. OPEB expense is recognized immediately for change in the OPEB liability resulting from current year service cost, interest in the total OPEB liability, and change of benefit terms or actuarial assumptions.

Pensions

In the government-wide and proprietary funds statements of net position, liabilities are recognized for the County's proportionate share of each pension plan's net pension liability. For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows/inflows of resources, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Florida Retirement System (FRS) defined benefit plan and the Health Insurance Subsidy (HIS) and additions to/deductions from FRS's and HIS's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the FRS and HIS plans. For this purpose, plan contributions are recognized as of employer payroll paid dates and benefit payments and refunds of employee contributions are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

Fund Balance, Net Position, and Spending Policy

In accordance with GASB Statement No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting, and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*, the Board classified fund balance in governmental funds as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned.

- **Nonspendable fund balance.** 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 fund balance.** Amounts that can be spent for specific purposes because of 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 fund balance.** Includes amounts that can only be used for specific purposes. Committed fund balance is reported pursuant to grant funds awarded and passed by the Board, the County's highest level of decision-making authority.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Fund Balance, Net Position, and Spending Policy (Continued)

- **Assigned fund balance.** 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 the County's adopted policy, only the Board may assign amounts for specific purposes.

- **Unassigned fund balance.** Includes amounts that have not been assigned to other funds or restricted, committed or assigned to a specific purpose within the General Fund. Unassigned may also include deficit fund balance amounts within other governmental funds.

Net position represents the difference between assets and liabilities. The net investment in capital assets consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation/amortization, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowings used for the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets. The net investment in capital assets excludes unspent debt proceeds. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on use either through enabling legislation or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, laws, or regulations of other governments. All net position not reported as net investment in capital assets or restricted net position, is reported as unrestricted net position.

The Board has not formally adopted fund balance, net position, and spending policies to clearly define the process for tracking the various classifications of fund balance/net position. When a fund expenditure is incurred, for which restricted, committed, assigned, or unassigned fund balance amounts are available to be used, the Board will first use restricted amounts, then committed amounts, then assigned amounts, and finally unassigned amounts. When both restricted and unrestricted net position is available for use, the Board will first use restricted.

Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statement of net position includes a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred outflows of resources, represents a consumption of net assets that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense) until then. The County can have multiple items that qualify for reporting in this category including lease related items, differences between expected and actual experience, changes in actuarial assumptions, net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments, changes in the proportion and differences between the County's contributions and proportionate share of contributions, and the County's contributions subsequent to the measurement date, relating to the FRS Pension Plan, the HIS Program, and the County's OPEB Plan.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources (Continued)

In addition to liabilities, the statement of net position and governmental funds balance sheet includes a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element represents an acquisition of net assets or fund balance that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The County can have multiple items that qualify for reporting in this category including lease related items, differences between expected and actual experience, changes in actuarial assumptions, net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments, and changes in the proportion and differences between the County's contributions and proportionate share of contributions, relating to the FRS Pension Plan, the HIS Program, and the County's OPEB Plan.

The County also has several items, which arise only under a modified accrual basis of accounting that qualified for reporting in this category. Accordingly, the items are reported in the governmental funds balance sheet. The governmental funds report unavailable revenues from intergovernmental revenues and charges for emergency medical services. The amounts are deferred and recognized as an inflow of resources in the period in which the amounts become available.

NOTE 2 RECONCILIATION OF GOVERNMENT-WIDE AND FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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, $35,339,506, differs from "net position" of governmental activities, $77,584,115, reported in the statement of net position. This difference primarily results from the long-term economic 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 those assets is 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	$ 185,442,755
Accumulated Depreciation/Amortization	(113,360,431)
Total	$ 72,082,324

NOTE 2 RECONCILIATION OF GOVERNMENT-WIDE AND FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Explanation of Differences Between the Governmental Fund Balance Sheet and the Government-Wide Statement of Net Position (Continued)

Receivable Transactions

Certain receivables are not available to pay current period expenditures, and therefore are reported as deferred inflows of resources in the funds. Balances as of September 30, 2025, were:

Unavailable Revenue	$ 3,647,659

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 as of September 30, 2025, were:

Leases	$ (674,454)
SBITAs	(210,177)
Compensated Absences	(1,955,304)
Legislative Appropriation Program Loan	(4,760,895)
Total	$ (7,600,830)

Pension Related Items

Net pension liability is not due and payable in the current period, therefore, the liabilities and related deferred outflows and inflows of resources are not reported in the funds. Balances as of September 30, 2025, were:

Net Pension Liability	$ (23,959,332)
Deferred Outflows of Resources - Pension Related Items	6,865,191
Deferred Inflows of Resources - Pension Related Items	(6,118,153)
Total	$ (23,212,294)

NOTE 2 RECONCILIATION OF GOVERNMENT-WIDE AND FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Explanation of Differences Between the Governmental Fund Balance Sheet and the Government-Wide Statement of Net Position (Continued)

Other Postemployment Benefits Related Items

Total OPEB liability is not due and payable in the current period, therefore, the liabilities and the related deferred outflows and inflows of resources are not report in the funds. Balances as of September 30, 2025, were:

Total OPEB Liability	$ (2,821,128)
Deferred Outflows of Resources - OPEB Related	677,938
Deferred Inflows of Resources - OPEB Related	(529,060)
Total	$ (2,672,250)

Elimination of Interfund Receivables/Payables

Interfund receivables and payables in the amount of $4,023,087 between governmental funds have been eliminated for the statement of net position.

Explanation of Differences Between the Governmental Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances to Changes in Net Position on the Statement of Activities

The “net change in fund balances” for governmental funds, ($3,754,912), differs from the “change in net position” for governmental activities, $11,998,483, reported in the statement of activities. The 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 effects of the differences are 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/amortization expense. As a result, fund balances decrease by the amount of financial resources expended, whereas net position decreases by the amount of depreciation/amortization expense charged for the year.

Capital Outlay	$ 17,284,531
Depreciation/Amortization Expense	(5,282,976)
Difference	$ 12,274,313

NOTE 2 RECONCILIATION OF GOVERNMENT-WIDE AND FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Explanation of Differences Between the Governmental Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances to Changes in Net Position on the Statement of Activities (Continued)

Long-Term Debt Transactions

The issuance of long-term debt provides current financial resources to governmental funds, while the repayment of the principal of long-term debt consumes the current financial resources of governmental funds. Neither transaction, however, has any effect on net position.

Net Change in Compensated Absences	$	(165,802)
Issuance of Lease		(715,070)
Principal Repayment - Leases		115,139
Principal Repayment - SBITAs		105,404
Principal Repayment - Financed Purchases		182,866
Net Adjustment	$	(477,463)

Revenue Transactions

Some revenue reported in the statement of activities will not be collected for several months after the fiscal year-end and, therefore, are not reported as revenues in governmental funds.

Intergovernmental Revenues	$	1,767,840
Charges for Services		49,376
Total	$	1,817,216

Pension Related Items

Changes in net pension liability and related pension amounts reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in the governmental funds.

Pension Expense	$	2,241,592

Other Postemployment Benefits Related Items

Changes in total OPEB liability and related OPEB amounts reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in the governmental funds.

OPEB Expense	$	(102,263)

Reclassification and Eliminations

Transfers in and transfers out in the amount of $1,995,136 between governmental funds are eliminated.

NOTE 3 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

At September 30, 2025, the bank balance of the County's deposits consisted of demand deposits of $38,137,288.

Custodial Credit Risk

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the government's deposits may not be returned to it. The County's monies must be deposited in banks designated as qualified public depositories by the Chief Financial Officer, Florida Department of Financial Services. Therefore, the County's total deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation and collateralized by the Bureau of Collateral Management, Division of Treasury, Florida Department of Financial Services. Other than the preceding, the County has no policy on custodial credit risk.

Collateral is provided for demand deposits through the Florida Security for Public Deposits Act. This law establishes guidelines for qualification and participation by banks and savings associations, procedures for the administration of the collateral requirements and characteristics of eligible collateral. Under this law, the qualified public depository must pledge at least 25% of the average daily balance for each month of all public deposits in excess of any applicable deposit insurance.

Additional collateral, up to a maximum of 150%, may be required if deemed necessary under the conditions set forth in this law. Eligible collateral consists of obligations of the United States and its agencies and obligations of states and their local political subdivisions and unaffiliated corporations.

Obligations pledged to secure deposits must be delivered to the Department of Financial Services or, with the approval of the Chief Financial Officer, to a bank, savings association or trust company provided a power of attorney is delivered to the Chief Financial Officer. On a monthly basis, the Chief Financial Officer determines that the collateral has a market value adequate to cover the deposits under the provisions of this law.

A reconciliation of deposits to amounts shown on the statement of net position and statement of fiduciary net position – fiduciary funds is as follows:

Deposits	$ 38,031,205
Petty Cash and Change Funds	4,190
Total	$ 38,035,395

Statement of Net Position:	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	$ 30,248,973
Cash and Cash Equivalents - Restricted	6,491,886
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position - Fiduciary Funds:	
Cash	1,294,536
Total	$ 38,035,395

NOTE 4 ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Accounts receivable consist of the following at September 30, 2025 for the governmental funds individual major funds and nonmajor funds:

	General Fund	Transportation Trust Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Receivables:				
Emergency Medical Services	$ 1,422,403	$ -	$ -	$ 1,422,403
Miscellaneous	81,649	400	291,189	373,238
Accounts Receivable, Gross	1,504,052	400	291,189	1,795,641
Less: Allowance for Uncollectible Accounts	(447,054)	-	-	(447,054)
Accounts Receivable, Net	$ 1,056,998	$ 400	$ 291,189	$ 1,348,587

Accounts receivable consist of the following at September 30, 2025 for the enterprise funds individual major funds and nonmajor fund:

	Solid Waste Fund	Wauchula Hills Water/ Wastewater Treatment Fund	Vandolah Wastewater Treatment Fund (Nonmajor Fund)	Total Enterprise Funds
Receivables:				
Landfill Charges	$ 86,813	$ -	$ -	$ 86,813
Utility Charges	-	125,722	10,674	136,396
Accounts Receivable, Net	$ 86,813	$ 125,722	$ 10,674	$ 223,209

NOTE 5 DETAIL OF CAPITAL ASSETS

A summary of changes in capital assets for the year ended September 30, 2025 is as follows:

	Balance October 1, 2024	Additions	(Deletions)	Transfers/ Reclassification	Balance September 30, 2025
Governmental Activities:					
Capital Assets, Not Being Depreciated:					
Land	$ 3,691,552	$ 1,346,291	$ -	$ 30,100	$ 5,067,943
Construction in Progress	6,848,073	9,491,291	-	(2,289,971)	14,049,393
Total Capital Assets, Not Being Depreciated	10,539,625	10,837,582	-	(2,259,871)	19,117,336
Capital Assets, Being Depreciated:					
Buildings and Improvements	29,495,870	1,372,877	-	1,736,786	32,605,533
Equipment	24,285,178	4,828,261	(1,915,134)	49,215	27,247,520
Infrastructure	104,331,103	45,003	-	507,995	104,884,101
Subtotal	158,112,151	6,246,141	(1,915,134)	2,293,996	164,737,154
Less: Accumulated Depreciation for:					
Buildings and Improvements	(15,260,955)	(595,551)	-	-	(15,856,506)
Equipment	(16,568,998)	(2,098,250)	1,656,766	(17,441)	(17,027,923)
Infrastructure	(77,691,546)	(2,289,065)	-	-	(79,980,611)
Subtotal	(109,521,499)	(4,982,866)	1,656,766	(17,441)	(112,865,040)
Total Capital Assets, Being Depreciated, Net	48,590,652	1,263,275	(258,368)	2,276,555	51,872,114
Right-to-Use Lease Assets:					
Equipment	141,204	715,250	-	-	856,454
Less: Accumulated Amortization	(66,859)	(120,721)		-	(187,580)
Total Right-to-Use Lease Assets, Net	74,345	594,529	-	-	668,874
Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangement Assets	731,811	-	-	-	731,811
Less: Accumulated Amortization	(128,422)	(179,389)	-	-	(307,811)
Total Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangement Assets, Net	603,389	(179,389)	-	-	424,000
Governmental Activities Capital Assets, Net	$ 59,808,011	$ 12,515,997	$ (258,368)	$ 16,684	$ 72,082,324

NOTE 5 DETAIL OF CAPITAL ASSETS (CONTINUED)

	Balance October 1, 2024	Additions	(Deletions)	Transfers/ Reclassification	Balance September 30, 2025
Business-Type Activities:					
Capital Assets, Not Being Depreciated:					
Land	$ 962,625	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 962,625
Construction in Progress	1,234,890	2,375,363	-	(693,371)	2,916,882
Total Capital Assets, Not Being Depreciated	2,197,515	2,375,363	-	(693,371)	3,879,507
Capital Assets, Being Depreciated:					
Buildings and Improvements	10,548,086	59,045	-	-	10,607,131
Equipment	4,347,822	1,419,318	(1,096,494)	(34,125)	4,636,521
Infrastructure	23,622,356	89,685	-	693,371	24,405,412
Subtotal	38,518,264	1,568,048	(1,096,494)	659,246	39,649,064
Less: Accumulated Depreciation for:					
Buildings and Improvements	(2,811,233)	(110,915)	-	-	(2,922,148)
Equipment	(2,635,938)	(374,874)	806,306	17,441	(2,187,065)
Infrastructure	(16,198,155)	(934,740)	-	-	(17,132,895)
Subtotal	(21,645,326)	(1,420,529)	806,306	17,441	(22,242,108)
Total Capital Assets, Being Depreciated, Net	16,872,938	147,519	(290,188)	676,687	17,406,956
Right-to-Use Lease Assets:					
Equipment	10,257	-	-	-	10,257
Less: Accumulated Amortization	(1,497)	(2,576)	-	-	(4,073)
Total Right-to-Use Lease Assets, Net	8,760	(2,576)	-	-	6,184
Business-Type Activities Capital Assets, Net	$ 19,079,213	$ 2,520,306	$ (290,188)	$ (16,684)	$ 21,292,647

NOTE 5 DETAIL OF CAPITAL ASSETS (CONTINUED)

Depreciation/amortization expense for the year ended September 30, 2025 was charged to functions/programs of the primary government as follows:

Governmental Activities:	
General Government	$ 1,412,782
Public Safety	1,193,008
Physical Environment	12,828
Transportation	2,607,685
Human Services	27,309
Culture/Recreation	29,364
Total Depreciation/Amortization Expense	$ 5,282,976
Business-Type Activities:	
Solid Waste	$ 579,346
Wauchula Hills Water/Wastewater Treatment	819,982
Vandolah Wastewater Treatment	23,777
Total Depreciation/Amortization Expense	$ 1,423,105

NOTE 6 LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

A summary of the changes in long-term liabilities for the year ended September 30, 2025 is as follows:

	Balance October 1, 2024	Additions	(Reductions)	Balance September 30, 2025	Due Within One Year
Governmental Activities:					
Direct Borrowing:					
Financed Purchases	$ 97,418	$ -	$ (97,418)	$ -	$ -
LAP Loan	4,846,343	-	(85,448)	4,760,895	-
Leases	74,523	715,070	(115,139)	674,454	158,178
SBITAs	315,581	-	(105,404)	210,177	107,005
Compensated Absences	1,789,502	165,802	-	1,955,304	1,186,844
Total Governmental Activities	$ 7,123,367	$ 880,872	$ (403,409)	$ 7,600,830	$ 1,452,027
Business-Type Activities:					
Direct Borrowing:					
FLGFC Note	$ 1,730,000	$ 2,730,000	$ (2,230,000)	$ 2,230,000	$ 500,000
Leases	8,284	-	(2,528)	5,756	2,621
Compensated Absences	51,751	-	(17,035)	34,716	25,042
Landfill Closure and Post-Closure Costs	5,565,670	304,492	-	5,870,162	109,272
Total Business-Type Activities	$ 7,355,705	$ 3,034,492	$ (2,249,563)	$ 8,140,634	$ 636,935

NOTE 6 LONG-TERM LIABILITIES (CONTINUED)

Compensated Absences

The compensated absences beginning balance was restated pursuant to implementation of GASB 101. Additionally, the compensated absences activity is reported as a net change pursuant to GASB 101. See Note 1 for a summary of the County's compensated absences policy.

Direct Borrowing – FLGFC Note

The Board issued a note payable to the Florida Local Government Finance Commission (FLGFC) for $2,780,000 during fiscal year 2021 for the purposes of providing the Board with sufficient funds to refinance an existing loan previously made to the County by FLGFC. Principal payments are due annually, beginning March 1, 2022. Interest payments are due monthly, based on the market rate of commercial paper. The note is payable from and secured by designated revenues of the Board. During fiscal year 2025, the County refinanced this note and increased the note by an additional $1,000,000, resulting in a refinanced principal amount of $2,730,000. During the year, $500,000 of principal and $95,766 in interest and related fees were paid. The note contains a provision that in an event of default, all payments may become due and payable.

Maturity is as follows:

	Business-Type Activities Florida Local Government Finance Commission	
Year Ending September 30,	Principal	Interest
2026	$ 500,000	$ 22,243
2027	500,000	-
2028	500,000	-
2029	730,000	-
Total	$ 2,230,000	$ 22,243

Direct Borrowing – Florida Legislative Appropriate Program (LAP) Loan

The County entered into an agreement with the State of Florida, Division of Emergency Management to receive $4,846,343 from the Hurricane Recovery Grant Program. Pursuant to the 2023 Specific Appropriations 25676A, the Florida Legislative Appropriation Program (LAP) provided resources to fund hurricane repairs and recovery to publicly owned facilities damaged by Hurricanes Ian and/or Nicole, infrastructure repairs, and loss of local and county revenues within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster declarations for Hurricane Ian and/or Hurricane Nicole. Terms and conditions to receive the funds are that the recipient has, or will have, a Public Assistance (PA) Project Worksheet (PW) on file. Funding will be used as an advanced payment or a zero percent loan to get projects started and shall be repaid up to the amount of the funds subsequently received from FEMA. The agreement terminates upon the completion of all eligible work and payment of all eligible costs in accordance with the Public Assistance Program requirements. As of September 30, 2025, outstanding LAP loan payable totaled $4,760,895.

NOTE 6 LONG-TERM LIABILITIES (CONTINUED)

Lessee Arrangement

The County leases equipment under long-term, noncancelable lease agreements. The leases expire at various dates through 2030 and provide for renewal options in various terms.

Total future minimum lease payments under lease agreements are as follows:

	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		
Year Ending September 30,	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest	Total
2026	$ 158,178	$ 20,034	$ 2,621	$ 157	$ 180,990
2027	155,539	14,704	2,594	61	172,898
2028	146,941	9,555	541	3	157,040
2029	148,085	4,548	-	-	152,633
2030	65,711	597	-	-	66,308
Total Minimum Lease Payments	$ 674,454	$ 49,438	$ 5,756	$ 221	$ 729,869

Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITA)

SBITAs entered into by the County are included as other financing sources and capital outlay expenditures in the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance in the year of inceptions. Payments made in accordance with the SBITA terms are reported as debt service expenditures as they are incurred.

Total future minimum SBITA payments under subscription agreements are as follows:

	Governmental Activities		
Year Ending September 30,	Principal	Interest	Total
2026	$ 107,005	$ 5,843	$ 112,848
2027	103,172	2,204	105,376
Total Minimum SBITA Payments	$ 210,177	$ 8,047	$ 218,224

NOTE 7 DUE TO/DUE FROM OTHER FUNDS

The balance of due from other funds and due to other funds are as follows at September 30, 2025:

	Due from Other Funds	Due to Other Funds
Major Funds:		
General Fund	$ 4,995,117	$ 52,808
Transportation Trust	-	2,592,165
Fire Control Fund	-	11,653
Grants Fund	2,995	1,356,059
Wauchula Hills Water/Wastewater Treatment Fund	748	1,004,506
Solid Waste Fund	-	25,348
Nonmajor Governmental Funds	54,696	10,402
Nonmajor Enterprise Fund	-	615
Total	$ 5,053,556	$ 5,053,556

Amounts due to and from other funds arise from timing differences as a result of transactions and cash transfers for operating purposes.

NOTE 8 FUND BALANCES

The governmental funds are classified as follows:

Nonspendable		$ 430,404
Restricted:		
Court Innovations	$ 530,724	
Court Technology	21,823	
Economic Development Authority:		
Economic Development	5,343,194	
E-911	382,640	
Grants	92,075	
Inmate Welfare	163,186	
Law Enforcement Education	45,047	
Law Enforcement Trust	192,819	
Law Enforcement - Other	5,252	
Records Modernization	188,830	
Emergency Disaster	4,445,530	
Tourist Development	439,811	
Transportation	2,114,565	
Total Restricted		13,965,496
Committed:		
Clerk Related Functions	149,000	
Fire Control	258,603	
Mining	411,033	
Total Committed		818,636
Assigned:		
County Operations	1,664,036	
Capital Replacement	260,730	
Total Assigned		1,924,766
Unassigned		18,200,204
Total Fund Balances		$ 35,339,506

NOTE 9 DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS

Florida Retirement System Pension Plan

Background

The Florida Retirement System (FRS) was created by Chapter 121, Florida Statutes, to provide a defined benefit pension plan for participating public employees. The FRS was amended in 1998 to add the Deferred Retirement Option Program under the defined benefit plan and amended in 2000 to provide a defined contribution plan alternative to the defined benefit plan for FRS members effective July 1, 2002. This integrated defined contribution pension plan is the FRS Investment Plan. Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, established the Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy (HIS) Program, a cost-sharing, multiemployer defined benefit pension plan, to assist retired members of any state-administered retirement system in paying the costs of health insurance.

Essentially all regular employees of the County are eligible to enroll as members of the State-administered FRS. Provisions relating to the FRS are established by Chapters 121 and 122, Florida Statutes; Chapter 112, Part IV, Florida Statutes; Chapter 238, Florida Statutes; and FRS Rules, Chapter 60S, Florida Administrative Code; wherein eligibility, contributions, and benefits are defined and described in detail. Such provisions may be amended at any time by further action from the Florida Legislature. The FRS is a single retirement system administered by the Florida Department of Management Services, Division of Retirement, and consists of the two cost-sharing, multiple employer defined benefit plans and other nonintegrated programs. A comprehensive annual financial report of the FRS, which includes its financial statements, required supplementary information, actuarial report, and other relevant information, is available from the Florida Department of Management Services' Web site (www.dms.myflorida.com).

Plan Description

The Florida Retirement System Pension Plan (FRS Plan) is a cost-sharing, multiemployer defined benefit pension plan, with a Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) for eligible employees. The general classes of membership are as follows:

- Regular Class – Members of the FRS who do not qualify for membership in the other classes.
- Elected County Officers Class – Members who hold specified elective offices in local government.
- Senior Management Service Class (SMSC) – Members in senior management level positions.
- Special Risk Class – Members who are special risk employees, such as law enforcement officers, meet the criteria to qualify for this class.

NOTE 9 DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)

Florida Retirement System Pension Plan (Continued)

Plan Description (Continued)

Employees enrolled in the FRS Plan prior to July 1, 2011, vest at six years of creditable service and employees enrolled in the FRS Plan on or after July 1, 2011, vest at eight years of creditable service. All vested members, enrolled prior to July 1, 2011, are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 62, or at any age after 30 years of service, except for members classified as special risk who are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 55 or at any age after 25 years of service. All members enrolled in the FRS Plan on or after July 1, 2011, once vested, are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 65 or any time after 33 years of creditable service, except for members classified as special risk who are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 55 or at any age after 30 years of service. Employees enrolled in the FRS Plan may include up to four years of credit for military service toward creditable service. The FRS Plan also includes an early retirement provision; however, there is a benefit reduction for each year a member retires before his or her normal retirement date. The FRS Plan provides retirement, disability, death benefits, and annual cost-of-living adjustments to eligible participants.

DROP, subject to provisions of Section 121.091, Florida Statutes, permits employees eligible for normal retirement under the FRS Plan to defer receipt of monthly benefit payments while continuing employment with an FRS participating employer. An employee may participate in DROP for a period not to exceed 60 months after electing to participate, except that certain instructional personnel may participate for up to 96 months. During the period of DROP participation, deferred monthly benefits are held in the FRS Trust Fund and accrue interest. The net pension liability does not include amounts for DROP participants, as these members are considered retired and are not accruing additional pension benefits.

Benefits Provided

Benefits under the FRS Plan are computed on the basis of age and/or years of service, average final compensation, and service credit. Credit for each year of service is expressed as a percentage of the average final compensation. For members initially enrolled before July 1, 2011, the average final compensation is the average of the five highest fiscal years' earnings; for members initially enrolled on or after July 1, 2011, the average final compensation is the average of the eight highest fiscal years' earnings. The total percentage value of the benefit received is determined by calculating the total value of all service, which is based on the retirement class to which the member belonged when the service credit was earned. Members are eligible for in-line-of-duty or regular disability and survivors' benefits.

NOTE 9 DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)

Florida Retirement System Pension Plan (Continued)

Benefits Provided (Continued)

The following chart shows the percentage value for each year of service credit earned:

Class, Initial Enrollment, and Retirement Age/Years of Service	% Value
Regular Class Members Initially Enrolled Before July 1, 2011:	
Retirement up to Age 62 or up to 30 Years of Service	1.60
Retirement up to Age 63 or up to 31 Years of Service	1.63
Retirement up to Age 64 or up to 32 Years of Service	1.65
Retirement up to Age 65 or up to 33 Years of Service	1.68
Regular Class Members Initially Enrolled on or After July 1, 2011:	
Retirement up to Age 65 or up to 33 Years of Service	1.60
Retirement up to Age 66 or up to 34 Years of Service	1.63
Retirement up to Age 67 or up to 35 Years of Service	1.65
Retirement up to Age 68 or up to 36 Years of Service	1.68
Elected County Officers	3.00
Senior Management Service Class	2.00
Special Risk Regular:	
Service from December 1, 1970 Through September 30, 1974	2.00
Service on and After October 1, 1974	3.00

As provided in Section 121.101, Florida Statutes, if the member is initially enrolled in the FRS before July 1, 2011, and all service credit was accrued before July 1, 2011, the annual cost-of-living adjustment is 3% 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 3% determined by dividing the sum of the pre-July 2011 service credit by the total service credit at retirement multiplied by 3%. FRS Plan members initially enrolled on or after July 1, 2011, will not have a cost-of-living adjustment after retirement.

Contributions

The Florida Legislature establishes contribution rates for participating employers and employees. Effective July 1, 2011, all FRS Plan members (except those in DROP) are required to make 3% employee contributions on a pretax basis. The contribution rates attributable to the County, effective July 1, 2024, were applied to employee salaries as follows: regular employees 13.63%, special risk 32.79%, county elected officials 58.68%, senior management 34.52%, and DROP participants 21.13%. The County's contributions to the FRS Plan were $3,741,707 for the year ended September 30, 2025.

NOTE 9 DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)

Florida Retirement System Pension Plan (Continued)

Pension Costs

At September 30, 2025, the County reported a liability of $19,016,583 for its proportionate share of the FRS Plan's net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2025, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2025. The County's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the County's contributions received by FRS during the measurement period for employer payroll paid dates from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, relative to the total employer contributions received from all of FRS's participating employers. At June 30, 2025, the County's proportion was 0.061274374%, which was an increase of 0.001322106% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2024.

For the year ended September 30, 2025, the County recognized pension expense of $1,722,638 for its proportionate share of FRS's pension expense. In addition, the County reported its proportionate share of FRS's deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources from the following sources:

Description	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences Between Expected and Actual Economic Experience	$ 2,031,171	$ -
Changes in Actuarial Assumptions	2,208,319	-
Net Difference Between Projected and Actual Earnings on Pension Plan Investments	-	3,175,010
Changes in Proportion and Differences Between County Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	1,249,308	1,236,695
County Contributions Subsequent to the Measurement Date	902,930	-
Total	$ 6,391,728	$ 4,411,705

$902,930 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from County contributions to the FRS Plan subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the fiscal year ended September 30, 2026. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized as an increase (decrease) in pension expense as follows:

Year Ending September 30,	Amount
2026	$ 2,907,136
2027	(400,955)
2028	(797,529)
2029	(631,559)
2030	-
Thereafter	-

NOTE 9 DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)

Florida Retirement System Pension Plan (Continued)

Actuarial Assumptions

The total pension liability in the July 1, 2025, actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

FRS Actuarial Assumptions:	
Inflation	2.40% Per Year
Salary Increases	3.50%, Average, Including Inflation
Investment Rate of Return	6.70%

Mortality rates were based on the PUB-2010 base table, varies by member category and sex, projected generationally with Scale MP-2018. The actuarial assumptions used in the July 1, 2025, valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2023.

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was not based on historical returns, but instead is based on a forward-looking capital market economic model. The allocation policy's description of each asset class was used to map the target allocation to the asset classes shown below. Each asset class assumption is based on a consistent set of underlying assumptions and includes an adjustment for the inflation assumption.

The target allocation, as outlined in the FRS Plan's investment policy, and best estimates of arithmetic and geometric real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Annual Arithmetic Return	Compound Annual (Geometric) Return	Standard Deviation
Cash	1.0 %	3.2 %	3.2 %	1.1 %
Fixed Income	29.0	5.5	5.4	4.0
Global Equity	45.0	8.5	6.9	18.3
Real Estate	12.0	8.4	7.1	16.8
Private Equity	11.0	12.4	8.8	28.4
Strategic Investments	2.0	6.5	6.1	8.7
Total	100.0 %			
Assumed Inflation - Mean			2.4 %	1.5 %

NOTE 9 DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)

Florida Retirement System Pension Plan (Continued)

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 6.70% for the FRS Plan, which was no change from the 6.70% rate as of June 30, 2024. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that employee and employer contributions will be made at the rate specified in statute. Based on that assumption, each of 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 long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

Pension Liability Sensitivity

The following presents the County's proportionate share of the net pension liability for the FRS Plan, calculated using the discount rate disclosed in the preceding paragraph, as well as what the County's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate 1-percentage-point lower or 1-percentage-point higher than the current discount rate:

Description	1% Decrease in Discount Rate	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase in Discount Rate
FRS Plan Discount Rate	5.70%	6.70%	7.70%
County's Proportionate Share of the FRS Plan Net Pension Liability	$ 37,319,750	$ 19,016,583	$ 3,671,472

Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position

Detailed information about the FRS Plan's fiduciary's net position is available in a separately issued FRS Pension Plan and Other State-Administered Systems Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. That report may be obtained through the Florida Department of Management Services website at http://www.dms.myflorida.com.

Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy Program

Plan Description

The Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy Program (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.

NOTE 9 DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)

Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy Program (Continued)

Benefits Provided

Eligible retirees and beneficiaries received a monthly HIS payment of $7.50 for each year of creditable service completed at the time of retirement, with a minimum HIS payment of $45 and a maximum HIS payment of $225 per month, pursuant to Section 112.363, Florida Statutes. To be eligible to receive a HIS Plan benefit, 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 plan fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, the contribution rate was 1.66% of payroll pursuant to section 112.363, Florida Statutes. The County contributed 100% of its statutorily required contributions for the current and preceding three years. HIS Plan contributions 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 the legislative appropriation or available funds fail to provide full subsidy benefits to all participants, benefits may be reduced or canceled. The County's contributions to the HIS Plan were $392,761 for the year ended September 30, 2025.

Pension Costs

At September 30, 2025, the County reported a liability of $5,530,428 for its proportionate share of the HIS Plan's net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2025, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2024. The County's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the County's contributions received by HIS during the measurement period for employer payroll paid dates from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, relative to the total employer contributions received from all participating employers. At June 30, 2025, the County's proportion was 0.043147663%, which was an increase of 0.001893460% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2024.

NOTE 9 DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)

Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy Program (Continued)

Pension Costs (Continued)

For the year ended September 30, 2025, the County recognized pension expense of $83,553 for its proportionate share of HIS's pension expense. In addition, the County reported its proportionate share of HIS's deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources from the following sources:

Description	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences Between Expected and Actual Economic Experience	$ 33,013	$ 8,773
Changes in Actuarial Assumptions	48,950	1,337,669
Net Difference Between Projected and Actual Earnings on Pension Plan Investments	-	4,603
Changes in Proportion and Differences Between County Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	526,809	599,585
County Contributions Subsequent to the Measurement Date	91,552	-
Total	$ 700,324	$ 1,950,630

$91,552 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions 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, 2026. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized as an increase (decrease) in pension expense as follows:

Year Ending September 30,	Amount
2026	$ (304,254)
2027	(364,933)
2028	(289,525)
2029	(252,233)
2030	(130,913)
Thereafter	-

NOTE 9 DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)

Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy Program (Continued)

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:

HIS Actuarial Assumptions:	
Inflation	2.40% Per Year
Salary Increases	3.50%, Average, Including Inflation
Municipal Bond Rate	5.20%

Mortality rates were based on the Generational PUB-2010 with Projection Scale MP-2018. The actuarial assumptions used in the July 1, 2024 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2018.

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 5.20% for the HIS Plan, which was a 1.27 percentage point increase from the 3.93% rate as of June 30, 2024. 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.

Pension Liability Sensitivity

The following presents the County's proportionate share of the net pension liability for the HIS Plan, calculated using the discount rate disclosed in the preceding paragraph, as well as what the County's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate 1-percentage-point lower or 1-percentage-point higher than the current discount rate:

Description	1% Decrease in Discount Rate	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase in Discount Rate
HIS Plan Discount Rate	4.20%	5.20%	6.20%
County's Proportionate Share of the HIS Plan Net Pension Liability	$ 6,236,447	$ 5,530,428	$ 4,938,301

Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position

Detailed information about the HIS Plan's fiduciary's net position is available in a separately issued FRS Pension Plan and Other State-Administered Systems Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. That report may be obtained through the Florida Department of Management Services website at http://www.dms.myflorida.com.

NOTE 9 DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)

Summary

The aggregate amount of net pension liability, related deferred inflows of resources, and deferred outflows of resources, and pension expense for the County's defined benefit pension plans are summarized below. These liabilities are typically liquidated by the individual funds in which the employee's costs are associated.

	FRS Plan	HIS Plan	Total
Net Pension Liability	$ 19,016,583	$ 5,530,428	$ 24,547,011
Deferred Outflows of Resources	6,391,728	700,324	7,092,052
Deferred Inflows of Resources	4,411,705	1,950,630	6,362,335
Pension Expense	1,722,638	83,553	1,806,191

NOTE 10 DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN

FRS Investment Plan

The Florida State Board of Administration (SBA) administers the defined contribution plan officially titled the FRS Investment Plan (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 FRS defined benefit 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 plan, including the FRS Financial Guidance Program, are funded through an employer contribution of 0.06% of payroll and by forfeited benefits of Plan members.

NOTE 10 DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN (CONTINUED)

FRS Investment Plan (Continued)

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 FRS Pension Plan is transferred to the Investment Plan, the member must have the years of service required for FRS 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 plan fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, 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 FRS Pension Plan when approved for disability retirement to receive guaranteed lifetime monthly benefits under the FRS Pension Plan or remain in the Investment Plan and rely upon that account balance for retirement income.

The County's Investment Plan pension expense totaled $1,134,883 for the year ended September 30, 2025. Employee contributions to the Investment Plan totaled $159,200 for the year ended September 30, 2025.

NOTE 11 OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Plan Description

The County administers a single employer defined benefit healthcare plan entitled County Group Health Plan. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 112.0801, Florida Statutes, former employees and eligible dependents who retire from the County may continue to participate in the County Group Health Plan on the same basis (i.e., single or family coverage) that they were covered immediately before their retirement provided they make a satisfactory agreement for payment and pay 100% of the premium before the beginning of each month of coverage. The County subsidizes the premium rates paid by retirees by allowing them to participate in the plan at a reduced or blended group (implicitly subsidized) premium rate for both active and retired employees. These rates provide an implicit subsidy for retirees because, on an actuarial basis, their current and future claims are expected to result in higher costs to the plan on average than those of active employees. The plan does not issue a publicly available report.

The County's total OPEB liability was $2,986,901, OPEB related deferred outflows of resources was $717,775, deferred inflows of resources was $560,148 and OPEB expense was $244,388.

NOTE 11 OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

Funding Policy

Contribution requirements of the County are established and may be amended through the County. The plan is currently being funded on a pay-as-you-go basis. No trust fund has been established for the plan.

Employees Covered by Benefit Terms

At September 30, 2025, the following employees were covered by the benefit terms:

Inactive Employees or Beneficiaries Currently Receiving Benefits	8
Active Plan Members	326
Total	334

Total OPEB Liability

The County's Total OPEB liability was measured as of September 30, 2025 and was determined by an actuarial valuation as of September 30,2024. The following table shows the County's total OPEB liability for the year ended September 30, 2025.

	Total OPEB Liability
Balances - October 1, 2024	$ 3,008,794
Changes for the Year:	
Service Cost	211,910
Interest	120,718
Changes in Assumptions	(250,008)
Benefit Payments	(104,513)
Net Changes	(21,893)
Balances - September 30, 2025	$ 2,986,901

Discount Rate Sensitivity

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

Description	1% Decrease in Discount Rate	Discount Rate	1% Increase in Discount Rate
OPEB Plan Discount Rate	3.90 %	4.90 %	5.90 %
Total OPEB Liability	$ 3,216,253	$ 2,986,901	$ 2,766,061

NOTE 11 OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

Healthcare Trend Rate Sensitivity

The following presents the total OPEB liability of the County, as well as what the County's total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using healthcare cost trend rates that are 1-percentage-point lower or 1-percentage-point higher than the current healthcare cost trend rates:

Description	1% Decrease in Healthcare Cost Trend Rate	Healthcare Cost Trend Rate	1% Increase in Healthcare Cost Trend Rate
Total OPEB Liability	$ 2,602,784	$ 2,986,901	$ 3,455,354

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

For the year ended September 30, 2025, the County recognized OPEB expense of $244,388. In addition, the County reported deferred outflows and inflows of resources from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences Between Expected and Actual Experience	$ 68,732	$ 106,684
Changes of Assumptions	649,043	453,464
Total	$ 717,775	$ 560,148

Amounts reported as deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to OPEB will be amortized over future fiscal years as follows:

Year Ending September 30,	Amount
2026	$ (88,245)
2027	(82,035)
2028	40,867
2029	35,091
2030	35,091
Thereafter	216,858

Actuarial Assumptions

The total OPEB liability as of September 30, 2025 was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement, unless otherwise specified:

Inflation rate used was 2.50%.

The current health care trend rate starts at an initial rate of 6.50%, decreasing to an ultimate rate of 4.00%.

NOTE 11 OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

Actuarial Assumptions (Continued)

The actuarial cost method used was Entry Age Normal Level % of Salary.

Mortality rates were based on the SOA Pub-2010 Public Safety Headcount Weighted Mortality Table fully generational using Scale MP-2021 for special risk employees and SOA Pub-2010 General Headcount Weighted Mortality Table fully generational using Scale MP-2021 for all other employees.

The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 4.90%, based on the yield for 20-year tax-exempt general obligation municipal bonds with an average rating of AA/Aa or higher as of September 30, 2024 (measurement date). The prior measurement date used 4.87%.

For Sheriff's office retirees that are receiving an explicit subsidy, retiree contributions are assumed to increase by 1.00% per year. For all other retirees, retiree contributions are assumed to increase according to health care trend rates.

Since the most recent GASB 75 valuation, the following changes have been made:

- The discount rate as of the measurement date is 4.90%. The prior measurement used 3.81%.
- Health care trend rates were updated to an initial rate of 6.50% decreasing by 1.5% annually to an ultimate rate of 4.00%.

NOTE 12 RISK MANAGEMENT

The County is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts: theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters.

The County, with the exception of the Sheriff, is a member of Public Risk Management of Florida (PRM), a local government risk management pool. The PRM program is structured under a self-insured retention insurance program, whereby PRM pays claims up to a specified amount annually for property and general liability, public officials' liability, automobile liability and workers' compensation. PRM purchases excess insurance or stop loss insurance from commercial carriers to cover losses above the self-insured retention amounts.

PRM assesses each member it's pro rata share of the estimated amount required to meet current year losses and operating expenses. If total member assessments (premiums) do not produce sufficient funds to meet its obligations, PRM can make additional limited assessments. Losses, if any, in excess of PRM's ability to assess its members would revert back to the member that incurred the loss. PRM requires a one-year advance notice for nonrenewal.

NOTE 12 RISK MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

The Sheriff participates in the Florida Sheriffs Risk Management Fund (FSRMF) which is a public entity risk pool that permits the Sheriff to cover the following types of risk:

- Law Enforcement Liability
- Public Officials' Liability
- Automobile Physical Damage and Liability
- And others

The funding agreements provide that the self-insurance funds will be self-sustaining through member premiums and that the Sheriff's liability fund will reinsure through commercial companies. Those funds and 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 operating 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 also participates in FSRMF for workers' compensation coverage.

There is no significant reduction in insurance coverage from the prior year. The insurance settlements have not exceeded the County's insurance coverage in any of the prior three fiscal years.

NOTE 13 COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Contracts

The County has entered into various contracts for design, construction, and other services as of September 30, 2025.

Project	Project Authorization	Expended to Date	Commitment
Center Hill Bridge	$ 329,040	$ 241,959	$ 87,080
Investigation of Crewsvill Culvert Crossing	19,633	17,323	2,310
MLK Resurfacing	325,011	191,981	133,030
Hardee CR 663 Road	6,053,393	5,339,377	714,016
Ten Mile Grade Road & Bridge Projects	574,200	296,152	278,048
Fish Branch Crewsville Road South	445,221	184,303	260,918
Work Order No. 6	98,500	63,600	34,900
Roadway Pavement Management Program	57,000	11,353	45,647
EDA Highway 17	240,000	110,150	129,850
Project Planning	16,107	9,430	6,677
Two Communication Towers	6,609,861	5,221,790	1,388,071
FDEP VA Deliverable 1	190,000	40,000	150,000
Hardee County Comprehensive Plan	45,000	20,000	25,000
New EOC Building Plans: Phase 1: Design	654,803	519,768	135,035
HMGP - Building Dept Generator	99,226	8,310	90,916
Admin & Public Works Building	100,290	19,230	81,060
Work Order No. 5	389,000	163,536	225,464
Pioneer Park Expansion	235,000	153,373	81,627
Hardee Park Infrastructure Project Work Order No. 1	68,640	57,670	10,970
Hardee County Annex 1 Building	280,500	53,528	226,972
Wi-Fi Infrastructure at Hardee Lakes & Pioneer Park	155,000	111,429	43,571
Wauchula Hills Phase 7: Design/ Engineering	429,087	215,203	213,885
Wauchula Hills Water Engineering Services	526,087	220,962	305,125
Vandolah WWTF100KW Generator	94,100	56,100	38,000
Wauchula Hills Phase 8: WTP Pumping Improvement	1,631,213	1,509,933	121,280
Wauchula Hills Water Treatment Facility	151,303	108,803	42,500
Wauchula Hills Lift Station	83,506	-	83,506
SFSC Lift Station	77,139	11,495	65,644
Total	19,977,860	14,956,758	5,021,102

Landfill Closure Commitments

Hardee County has completed two approximate 6-acre expansions (Phase II) of their original 12.3 acre Class I Landfill (Phase I). This brings the total footprint up to 24.8 acres. Phase I was at capacity in 2010 and received a partial final closure in January of 2012. Phase II is separated into two sections (Sections I and II). Section I became operational in May 2008 and last received waste in November 2019. Section II became operational in May 2019 and has an expected life of 25 years.

NOTE 13 COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (CONTINUED)

Landfill Closure Commitments (Continued)

To minimize the threat to public health and the environment, Solid Waste Financial Assurance requirement were adopted by the state in 1984 to secure the proper closing of solid waste management facilities operating in the state of Florida. When demonstrating proof of financial assurance, Hardee County uses a secured escrow account to deposit annual prorated amounts for the total cost of final closure. These estimates are tied directly to a set of approved cost closure and long-term care estimates that are prepared by professional engineers every two years and updated with an inflation factor every two years. These estimates are approved by the State of Florida's Department of Environmental Protections and audited annually by independent auditors. Long-term care is for the post-closure care cost for the landfill site for 30 years after closure and the County is not required to escrow those estimated amounts.

Although closure and post-closure care costs are paid only near or after the date the landfill stops accepting waste, the County reports as a liability a portion of closure and post-closure care costs based on landfill capacity used as of the balance sheet date. At September 30, 2025, the County estimates that the cost of permanently closing and caring for the landfill in accordance with current regulations will be $8,017,541. The landfill closure and post-closure care liability was $5,870,162 at September 30, 2025; and represents the cumulative amount reported to date based on an average use of 73% of the total estimated capacity available as of September 30, 2025. The County will recognize the remaining $2,147,379 as the remaining estimated capacity is filled. There was an increase in the liability due to the decrease in available capacity and current year inflation. The increase in the liability caused the general and administrative expenses to be increased by $746,401 as of September 30, 2025. Actual costs may be higher due to inflation, changes in technology, or changes in regulations.

The County is required by State and Federal laws and regulation to make annual contributions to a landfill management escrow account to finance only the closure portion of the estimates. That portion was $100,000 at September 30, 2025. The County is in compliance with these requirements at September 30, 2025. At September 30, 2025, $1,442,854 is held in a separate cash account to fund the estimated closure costs of the regional landfill, materials recovery facility, and waste tire facility. The County expects that future inflation costs will be paid from future contributions and interest earnings on these contributions. In the event closure escrow and interest earnings prove inadequate due to higher than expected inflation changes in technology or changes in laws and regulations, these costs may need to be financed by future landfill uses or future tax revenue. The County intends to fund these costs annually through its solid waste special assessment.

NOTE 13 COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (CONTINUED)

Contingencies

The County is contingently liable with respect to lawsuits and other claims incidental to the ordinary course of its operations. It is the opinion of management that resolution of these matters will not have a material adverse effect on the financial condition of Hardee County, Florida.

The County participates in a number of federal and state grant programs. These programs are subject to program compliance audits by the grantors or their representatives. The audits of these programs for or including the year ended September 30, 2025, have not yet been accepted/approved by the grantors. Accordingly, the final determination of the County's compliance with applicable grant requirements will be established at a future date. The amount, if any, of expenditures which may be disallowed by the granting agencies cannot be determined, although the County expects such amounts, if any, to be immaterial.

NOTE 14 TRANSFERS

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

Transfers during the year ended September 30, 2025 consisted of the following:

Transfers to the General Fund from:		
Fire Control Fund	$	142,500
Grants Fund		17,241
Nonmajor Governmental Funds		50,000
Solid Waste Fund		57,000
Wauchula Hills Water/Wastewater Treatment Fund		150,000
Nonmajor Enterprise Fund		19,000
Total	$	435,741
Transfers to the Transportation Trust Fund from:		
General Fund	$	291,836
Emergency Disaster Fund		-
Solid Waste Fund		10,000
Wauchula Hills Water/Wastewater Treatment Fund		1,600
Nonmajor Enterprise Fund		100
Total	$	303,536
Transfers to the Fire Control Fund from:		
General Fund	$	231,518
Transfers to the Grants Fund from:		
General Fund	$	72,834
Wauchula Hills Water/Wastewater Treatment Fund		1,150
Nonmajor Enterprise Fund		5,610
Total	$	79,594
Transfers to the Nonmajor Governmental Funds from:		
General Fund	$	558,077
Nonmajor Governmental Funds		631,130
Total	$	1,189,207
Transfers to the Wauchula Hills Water/Wastewater Treatment Fund from:		
Nonmajor Enterprise Fund	$	4,400
Total	$	4,400

NOTE 15 STATE HOUSING INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (SHIP)

The State Housing Initiative Program Trust Fund (SHIP) is included in the Grants fund. Separate financial information for this program is reported below

Balance Sheet
September 30, 2025

Assets:		
Cash	$	1,327,754
Total Assets	$	1,327,754
Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	$	1,708
Fund Balance		1,326,046
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	$	1,327,754

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance
Year Ended September 30, 2025

Revenues:		
Intergovernmental	$	541,865
Interest		36,351
Miscellaneous		117,910
Total Revenues		696,126
Expenditures:		
Economic Environment		787,611
Net Change in Fund Balance		(91,485)
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year		1,417,531
Fund Balance - End of Year	$	1,326,046

NOTE 16 SUBSEQUENT EVENT

On June 4, 2026, subsequent to the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025, the County reached a settlement agreement in the amount of $699,000 in relation to the Wauchula Sun, LLC v. County Case which was ongoing as of fiscal year-end.

NOTE 17 RESTATEMENT OF BEGINNING BALANCES

Change in Accounting Principle

Effective October 1, 2024, the County implemented GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*. This statement updated the recognition and measurement guidance for compensated absences and associated salary-related payments and amended certain previously required disclosures. As a result of the implementation of this standard the compensated absences liability as of October 1, 2024 was restated. The effect of the implementation of this standard is shown in the table below.

	September 30, 2024 as Previously Reported	Change in Accounting Principle	September 30, 2024 as Restated
Government-Wide:			
Governmental Activities	$ 65,320,210	$ 265,422	$ 65,585,632
Business-Type Activities	15,362,720	(46,464)	15,316,256
Total Primary Government	$ 80,682,930	$ 218,958	$ 80,901,888
Proprietary Funds			
Major Funds:			
Solid Waste Fund	$ 1,014,637	$ (23,150)	$ 991,487
Wauchula Hills Water/Wastewater Treatment Fund	13,407,350	(23,314)	13,384,036
Total Proprietary Funds	$ 14,421,987	$ (46,464)	$ 14,375,523

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN THE COUNTY'S TOTAL OPEB LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS — COUNTY GROUP HEALTH PLAN
LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS*

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Total OPEB Liability:								
Service Cost	$ 211,910	$ 87,791	$ 84,011	$ 138,220	$ 134,279	$ 191,082	$ 161,402	$ 167,907
Interest	120,718	108,100	99,944	53,758	49,740	101,430	100,833	85,298
Changes of Assumptions	(250,008)	730,751	(14,610)	(234,664)	(2,029)	(543,367)	112,359	-
Differences Between Expected and Actual Experience[1]	-	-	49,256	62,547	26,776	(385,394)	84,588	(92,982)
Benefit Payments	(104,513)	(99,530)	(95,243)	(70,758)	(58,020)	(94,016)	(76,725)	(71,042)
Net Change in Total OPEB Liability	(21,893)	827,112	123,358	(50,897)	150,746	(730,265)	382,457	89,181
Total OPEB Liability - Beginning	3,008,794	2,181,682	2,058,324	2,109,221	1,958,475	2,688,740	2,306,283	2,217,102
Total OPEB Liability - Ending	$ 2,986,901	$ 3,008,794	$ 2,181,682	$ 2,058,324	$ 2,109,221	$ 1,958,475	$ 2,688,740	$ 2,306,283
Covered Employee Payroll[2]	$ 16,530,624	$ 16,761,132	$ 16,761,132	$ 14,602,325	$ 15,426,167	$ 14,940,598	$ 14,915,824	$ 14,094,511
Total OPEB Liability as a Percentage of the Covered Employee Payroll	18.07%	17.95%	13.02%	14.10%	13.67%	13.11%	18.03%	16.36%

Notes to Schedule:

The OPEB plan is not administered through a trust.
For fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, a September 30, 2025 measurement date was used.

Change of Assumptions:
The discount rate was changed from 3.81% as of the beginning of the measurement period to 4.90% as of September 30, 2025.
The expected claims costs and premiums were updated to reflect recent information provided for this valuation.
Participation rates were reduced from 30% to 20% for the County and Sheriff's Office with less than 20 years of service at retirement.
Retirement rates used in the July 1, 2023 actuarial valuation of the Florida Retirement System.
Health care trend rates was updated to reflect the Getzen forecasting Model, with trend starting at 6.50% and gradually decreasing to an ultimate trend rate of 4.00%.

[1] Due to a change in actuary, isolation of the difference between the expected and actual experience of the Total OPEB Liability for Measurement Year 2024 was not practical.
[2] Covered-Employee Payroll presented for Measurement Year 2025 is an estimate based on the data submitted for the valuation. GASB Statement No. 75 defined Covered-employee as the payroll of employees that are provided with OPEB through the OPEB plan, including employees terminating during the measurement period.

* Information is required to be presented for 10 years. However, until a full 10-year trend is compiled, the County will present information for only those years for which information is available.

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF THE COUNTY’S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY — FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM PENSION PLAN
LAST TEN MEASUREMENT PERIODS

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
County's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	0.061274374%	0.059952268%	0.062413482%	0.057460855%	0.059909115%	0.066685442%	0.065592527%	0.066277420%	0.068142507%	0.067373223%
County's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	$ 19,016,583	$ 23,192,326	$ 24,869,760	$ 21,380,056	$ 4,525,452	$ 28,902,453	$ 22,589,162	$ 19,963,112	$ 20,156,103	$ 17,011,793
County's Covered Payroll	$ 19,964,513	$ 17,295,602	$ 17,470,433	$ 15,595,174	$ 15,598,669	$ 15,351,492	$ 14,621,730	$ 14,194,202	$ 14,224,013	$ 13,473,315
County's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	95.25 %	134.09 %	142.35 %	137.09 %	29.01 %	188.27 %	154.49 %	140.64 %	141.70 %	126.26 %
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	87.26 %	83.70 %	82.38 %	82.89 %	96.40 %	78.85 %	82.61 %	84.26 %	83.89 %	84.88 %

Note to Schedule:

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

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF THE COUNTY CONTRIBUTIONS — FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM PENSION PLAN
LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Contractually Required Contribution	$ 3,741,707	$ 3,447,969	$ 3,063,548	$ 2,530,645	$ 2,294,475	$ 2,223,991	$ 2,097,771	$ 1,914,809	$ 1,790,358	$ 1,764,185
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	(3,741,707)	(3,447,969)	(3,063,548)	(2,530,645)	(2,294,475)	(2,223,991)	(2,097,771)	(1,914,809)	(1,790,358)	(1,764,185)
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
County's Covered Payroll	$ 20,057,333	$ 17,606,116	$ 17,280,041	$ 15,657,874	$ 15,479,688	$ 15,423,083	$ 14,915,824	$ 14,097,511	$ 14,288,767	$ 14,029,458
Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	18.66 %	19.58 %	17.73 %	16.16 %	14.82 %	14.42 %	14.06 %	13.58 %	12.53 %	12.57 %

Note to Schedule:

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

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF THE COUNTY PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY — HEALTH INSURANCE SUBSIDY PENSION PLAN
LAST TEN MEASUREMENT PERIODS

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
County's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	0.043147663%	0.041254203%	0.044808654%	0.042169504%	0.044203363%	0.044663786%	0.043825156%	0.043720469%	0.044410650%	0.043992580%
County's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	$ 5,530,428	$ 6,188,533	$ 7,116,212	$ 4,466,424	$ 5,422,207	$ 5,453,376	$ 4,903,596	$ 4,627,423	$ 4,748,636	$ 5,127,153
County's Covered Payroll	$ 19,964,513	$ 17,295,602	$ 17,470,433	$ 15,595,175	$ 15,598,669	$ 15,351,492	$ 14,621,730	$ 14,194,202	$ 14,224,013	$ 13,473,315
County's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	27.70 %	35.78 %	40.73 %	28.64 %	34.76 %	35.52 %	33.54 %	32.60 %	33.38 %	38.05 %
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	6.36 %	4.80 %	4.12 %	4.81 %	3.56 %	3.00 %	2.63 %	2.15 %	1.64 %	0.97 %

Note to Schedule:

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

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF THE COUNTY CONTRIBUTIONS — HEALTH INSURANCE SUBSIDY PENSION PLAN
LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Contractually Required Contribution	$ 392,761	$ 356,133	$ 304,244	$ 256,201	$ 257,314	$ 257,563	$ 248,696	$ 235,677	$ 238,909	$ 234,651
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	(392,761)	(356,133)	(304,244)	(256,201)	(257,314)	(257,563)	(248,696)	(235,677)	(238,909)	(234,651)
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
County's Covered Payroll	$ 20,057,333	$ 17,606,116	$ 17,280,041	$ 15,657,874	$ 15,479,688	$ 15,423,083	$ 14,915,824	$ 14,097,511	$ 14,288,767	$ 14,029,458
Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	1.96%	2.02%	1.76%	1.64%	1.66%	1.67%	1.67%	1.67%	1.67%	1.67%

Note to Schedule:

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

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

Special Revenue Funds are used to account for proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally restricted to expenditures for specific purposes. Following are descriptions of each special revenue fund.

Fines and Forfeitures Fund – Pursuant to Florida Statute 142.01, the Fines and Forfeiture Fund accounts for all fines and forfeitures collected in the County under the penal laws of the state. The fund is used to pay for criminal expenses, fees, and costs where the crime was committed in the County and to support the administrative operations of the Clerk and the Sheriff.

Law Enforcement Trust Fund – The Law Enforcement Trust Fund accounts for proceeds received pursuant to Florida Statute 932.7055 and are used for law enforcement related purposes as defined in the statute.

Clerk's Fine and Forfeiture Fund – The Clerk's Fine and Forfeiture Fund is established in accordance with Sections 28.35 and 28.37, Florida Statutes. It is used to account for court fines, fees, service charges, liabilities, and costs.

E-911 Fund – The E-911 Fund accounts for proceeds received from 911 fees and grants related to providing E-911 services within the County.

Mining Fund – The Mining Fund accounts for mining fees and mining reimbursements related to mining activities within the County.

Tourist Development Fund – The Tourist Development Fund is a special revenue fund that accounts for the restricted dollars generated from the tourist development tax to be used for items listed and approved by the tourist development board and in accordance with Florida Statute 125.0104.

Clerk's Public Records Modernization Trust Fund – The Clerk's Records Modernization Fund is established in accordance with Florida Statutes. It is used to account for court technology and public records modernization pursuant to Section 28.24, Florida Statutes.

Clerk's Child Support IV-D Fund – The Clerk's Child Support IV-D Fund is used to account for the child support enforcement grant and related expenditures. In addition, amounts that exceed operating costs of running the child support depository program are to be used for Clerk related functions as directed by the Board.

Sheriff's Commissary Fund – The Sheriff's Commissary fund accounts for commissions earned by providing goods and services to the inmates. These resources are restricted by Section 951.23, Florida Statutes.

Sheriff's Education Fund – The Sheriff's Education Fund accounts for an assessment added to certain fines under Section 938.15, Florida Statutes. These monies are restricted for criminal justice education degree programs and training courses.

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Sheriff's E-911 Fund – The Sheriff's E-911 Fund accounts for E-911 fees under Sections 365.171 and 365.172, Florida Statutes, and E-911 grants related to providing E-911 services within the County. These monies are restricted for maintenance and upgrade of the E-911 system.

Sheriff's Youth Fund – The Sheriff's Youth Fund accounts for donations received from individuals which are restricted for youth programs.

Sheriff's Flower Fund – The Sheriff's Flower Fund accounts for contributions received from employees which are restricted for employee events.

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
COMBINING BALANCE SHEET — NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Special Revenue Funds						
	Fines and Forfeitures	Law Enforcement Trust	Clerk's Fine and Forfeiture	E-911	Mining	Tourist Development	Clerk's Public Records Modernization Trust
ASSETS							
Cash and Cash Equivalents	$ 742,129	$ 190,560	$ 407,154	$ 400,615	$ 230,561	$ 430,957	$ 162,749
Accounts Receivable, Net	73	-	-	-	291,116	-	-
Due from Other Funds	-	2,259	-	-	-	-	51,491
Due from Other Governments	15,309	-	8,568	72,320	-	11,782	-
Prepaid Items	14,182	-	5,493	-	-	-	20,449
Total Assets	$ 771,693	$ 192,819	$ 421,215	$ 472,935	$ 521,677	$ 442,739	$ 234,689
LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES, AND FUND BALANCES							
LIABILITIES							
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	$ 64,913	$ -	$ 19,354	$ -	$ 26,526	$ 2,928	$ 3,582
Due to Other Funds	2,276	-	3,128	-	1,138	-	5
Due to Other Governments	9,560	-	398,733	-	417	-	-
Unearned Revenue	-	-	-	59,776	-	-	-
Total Liabilities	76,749	-	421,215	59,776	28,081	2,928	3,587
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES							
Unavailable Revenue - Intergovernmental	-	-	-	30,519	82,563	-	-
FUND BALANCES							
Nonspendable	14,182	-	5,493	-	-	-	20,449
Restricted	530,724	192,819	-	382,640	-	439,811	210,653
Committed	-	-	-	-	411,033	-	-
Assigned	150,038	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unassigned (Deficit)	-	-	(5,493)	-	-	-	-
Total Fund Balances	694,944	192,819	-	382,640	411,033	439,811	231,102
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances	$ 771,693	$ 192,819	$ 421,215	$ 472,935	$ 521,677	$ 442,739	$ 234,689

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
COMBINING BALANCE SHEET — NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS (CONTINUED)
SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Special Revenue Funds						
	Clerk's Child Support IV-D	Sheriff's Commissary	Sheriff's Education	Sheriff's E-911	Sheriff's Youth	Sheriff's Flower	Total Other Nonmajor Governmental Funds
ASSETS							
Cash and Cash Equivalents	$ 133,753	$ 167,899	$ 33,293	$ 11,754	$ 2,280	$ 3,310	$ 2,917,014
Accounts Receivable, Net	-	-	-	-	-	-	291,189
Due from Other Funds	946	-	-	-	-	-	54,696
Due from Other Governments	21,803	-	-	-	-	-	129,782
Prepaid Items	-	-	-	-	-	-	40,124
Total Assets	$ 156,502	$ 167,899	$ 33,293	$ 11,754	$ 2,280	$ 3,310	$ 3,432,805
LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES, AND FUND BALANCES							
LIABILITIES							
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	$ 1,037	$ 858	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 338	$ 119,536
Due to Other Funds	-	3,855	-	-	-	-	10,402
Due to Other Governments	-	-	-	-	-	-	408,710
Unearned Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	59,776
Total Liabilities	1,037	4,713	-	-	-	338	598,424
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES							
Unavailable Revenue - Intergovernmental	6,465	-	-	-	-	-	119,547
FUND BALANCES							
Nonspendable	-	-	-	-	-	-	40,124
Restricted	-	163,186	33,293	11,754	2,280	2,972	1,970,132
Committed	149,000	-	-	-	-	-	560,033
Assigned	-	-	-	-	-	-	150,038
Unassigned (Deficit)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(5,493)
Total Fund Balances	149,000	163,186	33,293	11,754	2,280	2,972	2,714,834
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances	$ 156,502	$ 167,899	$ 33,293	$ 11,754	$ 2,280	$ 3,310	$ 3,432,805

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES — NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Special Revenue Funds						
	Fines and Forfeitures	Law Enforcement Trust	Clerk's Fine and Forfeiture	E-911	Mining	Tourist Development	Clerk's Public Records Modernization Trust
REVENUES							
Intergovernmental	$ -	$ -	$ 508,520	$ 299,513	$ -	$ -	$ -
Charges for Services	28,916	-	689,939	-	431,949	-	64,258
Fines and Forfeitures	235,073	-	-	-	-	-	-
Taxes	-	-	-	-	-	84,619	-
Interest	20,582	4,950	-	13,990	9,404	11,982	18,416
Miscellaneous	-	85,852	-	-	-	-	-
Total Revenues	284,571	90,802	1,198,459	313,503	441,353	96,601	82,674
EXPENDITURES							
Current:							
General Government	874,124	-	1,198,459	-	-	57,760	50,787
Public Safety	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Physical Environment	-	-	-	-	444,257	-	-
Capital Outlay	95,898	-	-	-	14,720	-	1,726
Debt Service:							
Principal Retirement	1,559	-	-	-	1,448	-	-
Interest	202	-	-	-	139	-	-
Total Expenditures	971,783	-	1,198,459	-	460,564	57,760	52,513
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(687,212)	90,802	-	313,503	(19,211)	38,841	30,161
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)							
Transfers In	613,077	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers Out	-	(55,000)	-	(576,130)	(50,000)	-	-
Lease Issuance	8,636	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	621,713	(55,000)	-	(576,130)	(50,000)	-	-
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	(65,499)	35,802	-	(262,627)	(69,211)	38,841	30,161
Fund Balances - Beginning of Year	760,443	157,017	-	645,267	480,244	400,970	200,941
FUND BALANCES - END OF YEAR	$ 694,944	$ 192,819	$ -	$ 382,640	$ 411,033	$ 439,811	$ 231,102

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES — NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Special Revenue Funds						
	Clerk's Child Support IV-D	Sheriff's Commissary	Sheriff's Education	Sheriff's E-911	Sheriff's Youth	Sheriff's Flower	Total Other Nonmajor Governmental Funds
REVENUES							
Intergovernmental	$ 77,683	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 885,716
Charges for Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,215,062
Fines and Forfeitures	-	-	4,432	-	-	-	239,505
Taxes	-	-	-	-	-	-	84,619
Interest	2,545	-	-	-	-	-	81,869
Miscellaneous	517	35,823	-	-	630	2,936	125,758
Total Revenues	80,745	35,823	4,432	-	630	2,936	2,632,529
EXPENDITURES							
Current:							
General Government	72,015	-	-	-	-	-	2,253,145
Public Safety	-	21,220	4,371	576,130	4,554	1,113	607,388
Physical Environment	-	-	-	-	-	-	444,257
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-	-	-	112,344
Debt Service:							
Principal Retirement	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,007
Interest	-	-	-	-	-	-	341
Total Expenditures	72,015	21,220	4,371	576,130	4,554	1,113	3,420,482
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	8,730	14,603	61	(576,130)	(3,924)	1,823	(787,953)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)							
Transfers In	-	-	-	576,130	-	-	1,189,207
Transfers Out	-	-	-	-	-	-	(681,130)
Lease Issuance	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,636
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	-	-	-	576,130	-	-	516,713
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	8,730	14,603	61	-	(3,924)	1,823	(271,240)
Fund Balances - Beginning of Year	140,270	148,583	33,232	11,754	6,204	1,149	2,986,074
FUND BALANCES - END OF YEAR	$ 149,000	$ 163,186	$ 33,293	$ 11,754	$ 2,280	$ 2,972	$ 2,714,834

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES — BUDGET AND ACTUAL — FINES AND FORFEITURES FUND
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget - Positive
	Original	Final	Actual	(Negative)
REVENUES				
Charges for Services	$ 30,000	$ 30,000	$ 28,916	$ (1,084)
Fines and Forfeitures	235,000	235,000	235,073	73
Interest	2,000	2,000	20,582	18,582
Total Revenues	267,000	267,000	284,571	17,571
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
General Government	1,635,476	1,635,476	874,124	761,352
Public Safety	10,000	10,000	-	10,000
Capital Outlay	328,335	328,335	95,898	232,437
Debt Services:				
Principal Retirement	-	-	1,559	(1,559)
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	-	202	(202)
Other Expenditures	25,000	25,000	-	25,000
Total Expenditures	1,998,811	1,998,811	971,783	1,027,028
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(1,731,811)	(1,731,811)	(687,212)	1,044,599
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES				
Leases	-	-	8,636	8,636
Transfers In	1,026,613	1,026,613	613,077	(413,536)
Total Other Financing Sources	1,026,613	1,026,613	621,713	(404,900)
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	(705,198)	(705,198)	(65,499)	639,699
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	705,198	705,198	760,443	55,245
FUND BALANCE - END OF YEAR	$ -	$ -	$ 694,944	$ 694,944

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES — BUDGET AND ACTUAL — LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget - Positive
	Original	Final	Actual	(Negative)
REVENUES				
Interest	$ 1,000	$ 1,000	$ 4,950	$ 3,950
Miscellaneous	25,000	25,000	85,852	60,852
Total Revenues	26,000	26,000	90,802	64,802
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Public Safety	104,806	104,806	-	104,806
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(78,806)	(78,806)	90,802	169,608
OTHER FINANCING USES				
Transfers Out	-	-	(55,000)	55,000
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	(78,806)	(78,806)	35,802	114,608
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	78,806	78,806	157,017	78,211
FUND BALANCE - END OF YEAR	$ -	$ -	$ 192,819	$ 192,819

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES — BUDGET AND ACTUAL — CLERK'S FINE AND FORFEITURE FUND
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget - Positive
	Original	Final	Actual	(Negative)
REVENUES				
Intergovernmental	$ 479,923	$ 508,520	$ 508,520	$ -
Charges for Services	587,636	689,939	689,939	-
Interest Income	6,500	-	-	-
Total Revenues	1,074,059	1,198,459	1,198,459	-
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
General Government	1,074,059	1,198,459	1,198,459	-
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	-	-	-	-
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	-	-	-	-
FUND BALANCE - END OF YEAR	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES — BUDGET AND ACTUAL — E-911 FUND
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget - Positive
	Original	Final	Actual	(Negative)
REVENUES				
Intergovernmental	$ 723,455	$ 723,455	$ 299,513	$ (423,942)
Interest	2,500	2,500	13,990	11,490
Total Revenues	725,955	725,955	313,503	(412,452)
EXPENDITURES				
Other Expenditures	792,202	792,202	-	792,202
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(66,247)	(66,247)	313,503	379,750
OTHER FINANCING USES				
Transfers Out	(275,828)	(275,828)	(576,130)	300,302
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	(342,075)	(342,075)	(262,627)	79,448
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	342,075	342,075	645,267	303,192
FUND BALANCE - END OF YEAR	$ -	$ -	$ 382,640	$ 382,640

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES — BUDGET AND ACTUAL — MINING FUND
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget - Positive
	Original	Final	Actual	(Negative)
REVENUES				
Charges for Services	$ 510,000	$ 510,000	$ 431,949	$ (78,051)
Interest	2,500	2,500	9,404	6,904
Total Revenues	512,500	512,500	441,353	(71,147)
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Physical Environment	663,834	663,834	444,257	219,577
Capital Outlay	-	-	14,720	(14,720)
Debt Services:				
Principal Retirement	-	-	1,448	(1,448)
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	-	139	(139)
Total Expenditures	663,834	663,834	460,564	203,270
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(151,334)	(151,334)	(19,211)	132,123
OTHER FINANCING USES				
Transfers Out	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	-
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	(201,334)	(201,334)	(69,211)	132,123
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	201,334	201,334	480,244	278,910
FUND BALANCE - END OF YEAR	$ -	$ -	$ 411,033	$ 411,033

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES — BUDGET AND ACTUAL — TOURIST DEVELOPMENT FUND
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget - Positive
	Original	Final	Actual	(Negative)
REVENUES				
Taxes	$ 85,000	$ 85,000	$ 84,619	$ (381)
Interest	11,500	11,500	11,982	482
Total Revenues	96,500	96,500	96,601	101
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
General Government	168,095	168,095	57,760	110,335
Other Expenditures	319,405	319,405	-	319,405
Total Expenditures	487,500	487,500	57,760	429,740
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	(391,000)	(391,000)	38,841	429,841
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	391,000	391,000	400,970	9,970
FUND BALANCE - END OF YEAR	$ -	$ -	$ 439,811	$ 439,811

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES — BUDGET AND ACTUAL — CLERK'S PUBLIC RECORDS MODERNIZATION TRUST
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget - Positive
	Original	Final	Actual	(Negative)
REVENUES				
Charges for Services	$ 37,250	$ 64,258	$ 64,258	$ -
Interest Income	26	18,416	18,416	-
Total Revenues	37,276	82,674	82,674	-
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
General Government:	204,752	271,888	50,787	221,101
Capital Outlay	10,000	11,725	1,726	9,999
Total Expenditures	214,752	283,613	52,513	231,100
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	(177,476)	(200,939)	30,161	231,100
Fund Balances - Beginning of Year	177,476	200,939	200,941	2
FUND BALANCES - END OF YEAR	$ -	$ -	$ 231,102	$ 231,102

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES — BUDGET AND ACTUAL — CLERK'S CHILD SUPPORT IV-D FUND
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget - Positive
	Original	Final	Actual	(Negative)
REVENUES				
Intergovernmental	$ 83,650	$ 84,148	$ 77,683	$ (6,465)
Interest	1,300	2,545	2,545	-
Miscellaneous	1,500	517	517	-
Total Revenues	86,450	87,210	80,745	(6,465)
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
General Government:	186,150	227,477	72,015	155,462
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	(99,700)	(140,267)	8,730	148,997
Fund Balances - Beginning of Year	99,700	140,267	140,270	3
FUND BALANCES - END OF YEAR	$ -	$ -	$ 149,000	$ 149,000

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
COMBINING STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION — FIDUCIARY FUNDS – CUSTODIAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Custodial Funds					
	Clerk's Special Trust	Clerk's Support	Clerk's Court Registry	Clerk's County Witness	Clerk's Cash Bond	Tax Collector Fund
ASSETS						
Cash	$ 554,123	$ 1,042	$ 62,293	$ 1,024	$ 93,331	$ 394,359
LIABILITIES						
Due to Individuals	30,954	-	-	13	8,920	24,619
Due to Other Governments	271,574	1,042	-	-	-	3,216
Deposit - Installment Taxes	-	-	-	-	-	366,524
Total Liabilities	302,528	1,042	-	13	8,920	394,359
NET POSITION						
Restricted for Individuals, Organizations, and Other Governments	251,595	-	62,293	1,011	84,411	-
Total Net Position	$ 251,595	$ -	$ 62,293	$ 1,011	$ 84,411	$ -

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
COMBINING STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION — FIDUCIARY FUNDS — CUSTODIAL FUNDS (CONTINUED)
SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Custodial Funds					
	Tax Collector Motor Vehicle Fund	Sheriff's Suspense Fund	Sheriff's Collections Fund	Sheriff's Evidence Fund	Sheriff's Inmate Fund	Total
ASSETS						
Cash	$ 129,610	$ 16,826	$ 140	$ 24,792	$ 16,996	$ 1,294,536
LIABILITIES						
Due to Individuals	-	16,826	140	-	-	81,472
Due to Other Governments	129,610	-	-	-	-	405,442
Deposit - Installment Taxes	-	-	-	-	-	366,524
Total Liabilities	129,610	16,826	140	-	-	853,438
NET POSITION						
Restricted for Individuals, Organizations, and Other Governments	-	-	-	24,792	16,996	441,098
Total Net Position	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 24,792	$ 16,996	$ 441,098

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
COMBINING STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION — FIDUCIARY FUNDS – CUSTODIAL FUNDS
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Custodial Funds					
	Clerk's Special Trust	Clerk's Support	Clerk's Court Registry	Clerk's County Witness	Clerk's Cash Bond	Tax Collector Fund
ADDITIONS						
Collections from Individuals	$ 208,479	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Property Tax Collections for Other Governments	-	-	-	-	-	20,155,728
Evidence Collected	-	-	-	-	-	-
Collections for Court Related Activities	898,569	10,621	479,772	1,000	151,501	-
Licenses, Taxes, and Fees Collected for Other Governments	2,525,620	-	-	-	-	-
Total Additions	3,632,668	10,621	479,772	1,000	151,501	20,155,728
DEDUCTIONS						
Medical, Dental, and Life Insurance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments to Individuals	439,307	-	-	-	-	-
Payments of Court Related Funds	958,477	10,621	558,443	426	117,101	-
Payments to Other Entities	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments to Other Governments	2,527,159	-	-	-	-	20,155,728
Total Deductions	3,924,943	10,621	558,443	426	117,101	20,155,728
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION	(292,275)	-	(78,671)	574	34,400	-
Fiduciary Net Position - Beginning of Year	543,870	-	140,964	437	50,011	-
FIDUCIARY NET POSITION - END OF YEAR	$ 251,595	$ -	$ 62,293	$ 1,011	$ 84,411	$ -

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
COMBINING STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION — FIDUCIARY FUNDS – CUSTODIAL FUNDS (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Custodial Funds					
	Tax Collector Motor Vehicle Fund	Sheriff's Suspense Fund	Sheriff's Collections Fund	Sheriff's Evidence Fund	Sheriff's Inmate Fund	Total
ADDITIONS						
Collections from Individuals	$ -	$ 43,879	$ -	$ -	$ 154,036	$ 406,394
Property Tax Collections for Other Governments	-	-	-	-	-	20,155,728
Evidence Collected	-	-	-	9,743	-	9,743
Collections for Court Related Activities	-	-	-	-	-	1,541,463
Licenses, Taxes, and Fees Collected for Other Governments	3,898,297	33,715	-	-	-	6,457,632
Total Additions	3,898,297	77,594	-	9,743	154,036	28,570,960
DEDUCTIONS						
Medical, Dental, and Life Insurance	-	43,879	-	-	-	43,879
Payments to Individuals	-	-	-	-	34,278	473,585
Payments of Court Related Funds	-	-	-	-	-	1,645,068
Payments to Other Entities	-	-	-	-	117,202	117,202
Payments to Other Governments	3,898,297	33,715	-	2,039	-	26,616,938
Total Deductions	3,898,297	77,594	-	2,039	151,480	28,896,672
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION	-	-	-	7,704	2,556	(325,712)
Fiduciary Net Position - Beginning of Year	-	-	-	17,088	14,440	766,810
FIDUCIARY NET POSITION - END OF YEAR	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 24,792	$ 16,996	$ 441,098

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS AND STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

Federal Grantor/Pass through Grantor/ Program or Cluster Title	Federal ALN Number	Pass-Through Entity Identifying Number	Federal Expenditures	Passed Through to Subrecipients
FEDERAL AWARDS				
U.S. Department of the Treasury				
Pass-through Florida Department of Transportation:				
COVID-19 Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery	21.027	G2L00	$ 2,413,134	$ -
Pass-through Florida Department of Commerce:				
COVID-19 Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery	21.027	D0248	190,500	-
Total U.S. Department of the Treasury			2,603,634	-
U.S. Election Assistance Commission				
Pass-through from the Department of State:				
HAVA Election Security Grants (Post-2018 Funding Rounds)	90.404	24.e.an.000.024	11,160	-
U.S. Department of Transportation				
Highway Safety Cluster:				
Pass-through Florida Department of Transportation:				
State and Community Highway Safety Grant Program	20.600	TSP-2024-00358	3,714	-
State and Community Highway Safety Grant Program	20.600	G3438	15,513	-
State and Community Highway Safety Grant Program	20.600	G3423	24,980	-
Total State and Community Highway Safety Grant Program			44,207	-
Total Highway Cluster			44,207	-
Direct Program :				
Alcohol Traffic Safety and Drunk Driving Prevention Incentive Grants	20.601		10,263	-
Total U.S. Department of Transportation			54,470	-
U.S. Department of Commerce				
Economic Development Cluster:				
Direct Program:				
Economic Adjustment Assistance	11.307		62,150	-
Total Economic Development Cluster			62,150	-
U.S. Department of Homeland Security				
Pass-through from Florida Division of Emergency Management:				
Public Assistance Grants	97.036	Z3101	109,740	-
Public Assistance Grants	97.036	Z4763	51,860	-
Public Assistance Grants	97.036	Z4323	1,231,276	-
Total Public Assistance Grants			1,392,876	-
Direct Programs:				
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	97.039		8,310	-
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	97.039		602,756	-
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	97.039		11,495	-
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	97.039		56,100	-
Total Hazard Mitigation Grant Program			678,661	-
Pass-through from Florida Division of Emergency Management:				
Emergency Management Performance Grants	97.042	G0537	48,727	-
Pass-through from Florida Division of Emergency Management:				
Emergency Operations Center	97.052	R0857	269,646	-
Total U.S. Department of Homeland Security			2,389,910	-

See accompanying Notes to Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and State Financial Assistance.

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS AND STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

Federal Grantor/Pass through Grantor/ Program or Cluster Title	Federal ALN Number	Pass-Through Entity Identifying Number	Federal Expenditures	Passed Through to Subrecipients
U.S. Department of Justice				
Direct Programs:				
State Criminal Alien Assistance Program	16.606		$ 16,923	$ -
Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Program	16.607		5,624	-
Department of Justice's Public Safety Partnership and Community Policing Grants	16.710		2,867	-
Pass-through from Florida Department of Law Enforcement:				
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program	16.738	6N185	29,892	-
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program	16.738	R7228	29,819	-
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program	16.738	6N058	2,165	-
Total Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program			61,876	-
Total U.S. Department of Justice			87,290	-
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services				
Pass-through U.S. Agency for Children and Families and Office of Child Support Enforcement, Florida Department of Revenue:				
Child Support Services	93.563	CDC25	84,501	-
Pass-through Florida Department of Health:				
Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Diseases	93.323	31856	4,089	-
Total U.S. Department of Health and Human Services			88,590	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS			$ 5,297,204	$ -

See accompanying Notes to Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and State Financial Assistance.

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS AND STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

State Grantor/Pass through Grantor/ Project Title	State CSFA Number	Grant Contract Number/ Pass-Through Entity Identifying Number	State Expenditures	Passed Through to Subrecipients
STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE				
Florida Executive Office of the Governor				
Division of Emergency Management:				
Emergency Management Preparedness Assistance Grant	31.063	A0431	$ 87,215	$ -
Emergency Management Preparedness Assistance Grant	31.063	A0551	26,452	-
Total Emergency Management Preparedness Assistance Grant			113,667	-
State Hurricane Recovery Grant Program	31.081	D1493	2,249,686	-
State Hurricane Recovery Grant Program	31.081	D1521	85,448	-
Total State Hurricane Recovery Grant Program			2,335,134	-
Local Emergency Management and Mitigation Initiatives	31.064	F0117	99,071	-
Total Florida Executive Office of the Governor			2,547,872	-
Florida Department of Environmental Protection				
Small County Consolidated Grants	37.012	SC513	93,750	-
Cooperative Collection Center Grant	37.007	HW502	14,487	-
Statewide Surface Water Restoration and Wastewater Projects	37.039	LPA0170	19,065	-
Statewide Surface Water Restoration and Wastewater Projects	37.039	QG038	1,500	-
Statewide Surface Water Restoration and Wastewater Projects	37.039	LPA0300	878,325	
Statewide Surface Water Restoration and Wastewater Projects	37.039	WG096	1,447,960	-
Total Statewide Surface Water Restoration and Wastewater Projects			2,346,850	-
Total Florida Department of Environmental Protection			2,455,087	-
Florida Department of State and Secretary of State				
State Aid to Libraries Grant	45.030	24-ST-15	48,231	-
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services				
Agriculture Education and Promotional Facility	42.047	27938	20,557	-
Mosquito Control	42.003	31809	67,479	-
Total Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services			88,036	-
Florida Department of Commerce				
Growth Management Implementation	40.024	P0523	35,000	-
RIF-Archeological Survey for EOC	40.042	D0318	8,700	-
Total Department of Commerce			43,700	-
Florida Department of Financial Services				
Fire Station No. 1	43.009	FM986	227,136	-
Fire Station No. 1	43.009	FM1012	548,685	-
Total Department of Financial Services			775,821	-
Florida Housing Finance Corporation				
State Housing Initiative Partnership Program (SHIP) - HHRP	40.901	N/A	222,598	-
State Housing Initiative Partnership Program (SHIP)	40.901	N/A	163,669	-
Total State Housing Initiative Partnership Program (SHIP)			386,267	-
Hurricane Housing Recovery Program	40.902	N/A	401,328	-
Total Florida Housing Finance Corporation			787,595	-

See accompanying Notes to Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and State Financial Assistance.

HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS AND STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

State Grantor/Pass through Grantor/ Project Title	State CSFA Number	Grant Contract Number/ Pass-Through Entity Identifying Number	State Expenditures	Passed Through to Subrecipients
Florida Department of Transportation				
Local Transportation Projects	55.039	G1601	$ 38,817	$ -
Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP)	55.016	G2L03	359,508	-
Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP)	55.016	G2L06	1,553,152	-
Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP)	55.016	G3922	191,981	-
Total Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP)			2,104,641	-
Small County Outreach Program (SCOP)	55.009	G2L03	1,127,905	-
Small County Outreach Program (SCOP)	55.009	G2K97	69,039	-
Small County Outreach Program (SCOP)	55.009	G2K96	77,723	-
Small County Outreach Program (SCOP)	55.009	G2W56	184,303	-
Small County Outreach Program (SCOP)	55.009	G2W55	117,110	-
Total Small County Outreach Program (SCOP)			1,576,080	-
Total Florida Department of Transportation			3,719,538	-
Florida State Court System				
Courthouse Annex 1 Renovation	22.004	SC00DIN	21,131	-
Florida Department of Children and Families				
Opioid Settlement (Local Funds)	60.350	GC111	62,596	-
Opioid Settlement (Regional Funds)	60.350	PK300	168,143	-
Total Florida Department of Children and Families			230,739	-
Department of Management Services				
Wireless 911 Emergency Telephone System Rural County Grant Program	72.001	24-10-28	45,619	-
Wireless 911 Emergency Telephone System Rural County Grant Program	72.001	6/16/2025	1,200	-
Wireless 911 Emergency Telephone System Rural County Grant Program	72.001	DMS-P1-24-07-04	14,882	-
Total Wireless 911 Emergency Telephone System Rural County			61,701	-
Prepaid Next Generation 911 (NG911) State Grant Program	72.003	S22-23-01-28	37,257	-
Prepaid Next Generation 911 (NG911) State Grant Program	72.003	S24-23-08-07	9,552	-
Total Prepaid Next Generation 911 (NG911) State Grant Program			46,809	-
Total Florida Department of Management Services			108,510	-
Florida Department of Law Enforcement				
Law Enforcement Salary Assistance For Fiscally Constrained Counties	71.067	ME013	236,384	-
Law Enforcement Salary Assistance For Fiscally Constrained Counties	71.067	LG013	128,436	-
Total Law Enforcement Salary Assistance for Fiscally Constrained Counties			364,820	-
Office of Criminal Justice Grants	71.096	3W014	1,346,291	-
Florida Incident-Based Reporting System (FIBRS)	71.043	2021-FBSFA-F2-011	1,737	-
CJDT Implementation Assistance Program	71.044	2022-DTSFA-D2-018	4,783	-
Firearms Safety Training Grant	71.103	FL016	18,641	-
State Assistance for Fentanyl Eradication	71.122	2023-SAFE-SF-040	36,731	-
Total Florida Department of Law Enforcement			1,773,003	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES OF STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE			$ 12,599,263	$ -

See accompanying Notes to Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and State Financial Assistance.

NOTE 1 BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards and state financial assistance (the Schedule) includes the federal award and state financial assistance activity of Hardee County, Florida (the County) under programs of the federal government and projects of the state of Florida for the year ended September 30, 2025. The information in this Schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of 2 CFR Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance) and Chapter 69I-5, Rules of the Florida Department of Financial Services. Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operation of the County, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net position, or cash flows of the County.

NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the modified accrual basis of accounting for awards and financial assistance received in governmental funds and the accrual basis of accounting for financial assistance received in the proprietary funds, which are described in Note 1 to the County's basic financial statements. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in the Uniform Guidance and Chapter 69I-5, Rules of the Florida Department of Financial Services, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement. Under these principles, certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement.

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

The County had not elected to use the 10% de minimis indirect cost rate as allowed under Uniform Guidance.

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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*

Honorable Board of County Commissioners
Hardee 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, the discretely presented component unit, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Hardee County, Florida (the County), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated June 30, 2026.

Our report includes a reference to other auditors who audited the financial statements of the Hardee County Industrial Development Authority as described in our report on County's financial statements. This report does not include the results of the other auditors' testing of internal control over financial reporting or compliance and other matters that are reported on separately by those auditors.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, 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.

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

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

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

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the 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.

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Lakeland, Florida
June 30, 2026

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP
CLAconnect.com

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

Honorable Board of County Commissioners
Hardee 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 Hardee County, Florida's (the County) compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the OMB *Compliance Supplement* and the requirements identified as subject to audit in the Florida Department of Financial Services' *State Projects Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of the County's major federal programs and state projects for the year ended September 30, 2025. The County's major federal programs and state projects are identified in the summary of auditors' results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

In our opinion, the County complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs and state projects for the year ended September 30, 2025.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program and State Project

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS); the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; 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 for Local Governmental Entity Audits. Our responsibilities under those standards, the Uniform Guidance, and Chapter 10.550 are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

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

Auditors' 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 the County's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, the Uniform Guidance, and Chapter 10.550 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 the County's compliance with the requirements of each major federal program and state project as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, the Uniform Guidance, and Chapter 10.550 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 the County'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 the County's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance and Chapter 10.550, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the County'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

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, as discussed below, we did identify certain deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be significant deficiencies.

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. We consider the deficiencies in internal control over compliance described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs as item 2025-001 to be a significant deficiency.

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

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the County's response to the internal control over compliance findings identified in our audit described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs. The County's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance and Chapter 10.550. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Lakeland, Florida
June 30, 2026

Section I – Summary of Auditors' Results

Financial Statements

1. Type of auditors' report issued: Unmodified

2. Internal control over financial reporting:

   - Material weakness(es) identified? ____________ yes ____X____ no
   - Significant deficiency(ies) identified? ____________ yes ____X____ none reported

3. Noncompliance material to financial statements noted? ____________ yes ____X____ no

Federal Awards

1. Internal control over major federal programs:

   - Material weakness(es) identified? ____________ yes ____X____ no
   - Significant deficiency(ies) identified? ____________ yes ____X____ none reported

2. Type of auditors' report issued on compliance for major federal programs: Unmodified

3. Any audit findings disclosed that are required To be reported in accordance with
   - 2 CFR 200.516(a) ____________ yes ____X____ no

Identification of Major Federal Programs:

Assistance Listing Number	Name of Federal Program or Cluster
21.027	Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
97.036	Disaster Grant-Public Assistance (Presidentially Declared Disasters)

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between Type A and Type B programs: $ 1,000,000

Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee? ____________ yes ____X____ no

Section I – Summary of Auditors' Results (Continued)

State Financial Assistance

1. Internal control over state projects:

   - Material weakness(es) identified? _______ yes ___X___ no
   - Significant deficiency(ies) identified? ___X___ yes _______ none reported

2. Type of auditors' report issued on compliance for major state projects: Unmodified

3. Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with Chapter 10.557, Rules of the Auditor General? ___X___ yes _______ no

Identification of Major State Projects:

CFSA Numbers	Name of State Project
37.039	Statewide Water Quality Restoration Projects
43.009	Local Government Fire Service Grants
55.009	Small County Outreach Program (SCOP)
71.067	Law Enforcement Salary Assistance (LESA) for Fiscally Constrained Counties
71.096	Office of Criminal Justice Grants

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between Type A and Type B state projects $ 750,000

Section II – Financial Statement Findings

Our audit did not disclose any matters required to be reported in accordance with Government Auditing Standards

Section III – Findings and Questioned Costs – Major Federal Programs

Our audit did not disclose any matters required to be reported in accordance with 2 CFR 200.516(a)

Section IV – Findings and Questioned Costs – Major State Projects

2025-001 Reporting

State Agency: Florida Department of Law Enforcement

State Program Name: Law Enforcement Salary Assistance (LESA)

CSFA Number: 71.067

Grant Award Number: ME013 – 2024 and LG013 - 2025

Award Period: July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, and July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

Type of Finding: Significant Deficiency in Internal Control over Compliance

Criteria: The grant agreement requires that quarterly payroll certification reports be submitted to the Department upon completion of each quarterly reporting period. Additionally, an annual year-end reconciliation must be performed, and any unobligated funds must be refunded to the Department no later than July 31 or within 31 days of notification by the Department, whichever is later. As part of the entity's system of internal control over compliance, these reports and reconciliations should be reviewed and approved by appropriate personnel prior to submission to ensure accuracy and completeness.

Condition: Quarterly and annual reports were not reviewed and approved prior to submission.

Questioned costs: None

Context: Two of four quarterly reports and the annual report were not reviewed and approved prior to submission.

Cause: Review and approval procedures were not consistently followed, resulting in reports being submitted without documented review.

Repeat finding: No

Section IV – Findings and Questioned Costs – Major State Projects (Continued)

Effect: Without documented review and approval, errors may go undetected, increasing the risk of noncompliance and inaccurate reporting to the Department.

Recommendation: We recommend the County implement procedures to ensure all required reports are reviewed and approved by appropriate personnel prior to submission, with evidence of such review retained.

View responsible official and planned corrective actions There is no disagreement with the audit finding. Going forward, the County will maintain the email documentation evidencing the internal review and approval process as support of compliance with the updated internal control procedures.

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP
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MANAGEMENT LETTER

Honorable Board of County Commissioners
Hardee County, Florida

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the financial statements of Hardee County, Florida (County), as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025, and have issued our report thereon dated June 30, 2026.

Auditors' 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 Florida Auditor General.

Other Reporting Requirements

We have issued our 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*; Independent Auditors' 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 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 and schedule, which are dated June 30, 2026, should be considered in conjunction with this management letter.

Prior Audit Findings

Section 10.554(1)(i)1., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that we determine whether or not corrective actions have been taken to address findings and recommendations made in the preceding annual financial audit report. See the accompanying schedule of findings and responses for the current status of prior year audit findings.

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. See Note 1 to the financial statements.

Financial Condition and Management

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

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

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

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Programs

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

Special District Component Units

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

As required by Section 218.39(3)(c), Florida Statutes, and Section 10.554(1)(i)(7), Rules of the Auditor General, the Hardee County Economic Development Authority and Hardee County Industrial Development Authority reported their required information in their respective audit reports.

Additional Matters

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

Purpose of this Letter

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

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Lakeland, Florida
June 30, 2026

Prior Year

Prior Year Findings		Current Year Status		Current Year Finding #	2023-2024 Year Finding #	2022-2023 Year Finding #
		Not Reported	Reported			
2024-001 Financial Statement Adjustments	Material Weakness in Internal Control over Financial Reporting	X		N/A	2024-001	2023-001
2024-002 Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and State Financial Assistance	Material Weakness in Internal Control over Financial Reporting	X		N/A	2024-002	2023-003
2024-003 Earmarking	Material Weakness in Internal Control over Compliance and Other Matters	X		N/A	2024-003	N/A
2024-004 Reporting	Significant Deficiency in Internal Control over Compliance and Other Matters	X		N/A	2024-004	N/A

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Honorable Board of County Commissioners and the Florida Auditor General
Hardee County, Florida

We have examined Hardee County, Florida's (the County) compliance with Section 218.415, Florida Statutes, regarding the investment of public funds; and Sections 365.172(10) and 365.173(2)(d), Florida Statutes, regarding emergency communications number E-911 system fund, during the year ended September 30, 2025. Management of the County is responsible for the County's compliance with the specified requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the County's compliance with the specified requirements based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the County complied, in all material respects, with the specified requirements referenced above. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about whether the County complied with the specified requirements. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

We are required to be independent and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to the engagement.

Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the County's compliance with specified requirements.

In our opinion, the County complied, in all material respects, with Section 218.415, Florida Statutes, regarding the investment of public funds, and Sections 365.172(10) and 365.173(2)(d), Florida Statutes, regarding emergency communications number E-911 system fund, during the year ended September 30, 2025.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the County 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.

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Lakeland, Florida
June 30, 2026

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HARDEE COUNTY CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS

YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

HARDEE COUNTY CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
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YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

The Honorable Victoria L. Rogers
Hardee County Clerk of the Circuit Court
Hardee County, Florida

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Hardee County Clerk of the Circuit Court (the Clerk) as of and for the year ended September 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Clerk's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Clerk, as of September 30, 2025, and the respective changes in financial position and the respective budgetary comparisons for the General Fund, Fine and Forfeiture Fund, Public Records Modernization Trust Fund, and Child Support IV-D Fund for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Clerk and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 1, the financial statements of the Clerk referred to above were prepared solely for the purpose of complying with the Rules of the Auditor General of the state of Florida. In conformity with the Rules, the financial statements are intended to present the financial position and changes in financial position of only that portion of each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of Hardee County, Florida that is attributable to the transactions of the Clerk. They do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of Hardee County, Florida as of September 30, 2025, and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinions are not modified with respect to this matter.

Emphasis of Matter – Change in Accounting Principle

As discussed in Note 10 to the financial statements, the Clerk implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*, effective for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025. GASB 101 requires liabilities to be recognized for leave attributable to services already rendered, that accumulates and is more likely than not to be used or otherwise paid or settled. Our opinions are not modified with respect to this matter.

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.

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

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

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Clerk's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.

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

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

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Clerk's basic financial statements. The combining 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 GAAS. In our opinion, the combining 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 June 24, 2026 , on our consideration of the Clerk's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Clerk'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 the Clerk's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Lakeland, Florida
June 24, 2026

HARDEE COUNTY CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
BALANCE SHEET
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Major Funds				
	General	Fine and Forfeiture	Public Records Modernization Trust	Child Support IV-D	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS					
Cash	$ 145,556	$ 407,154	$ 162,749	$ 133,753	$ 849,212
Due from Other Funds	5	-	51,491	946	52,442
Due from Other Governments	3,703	8,568	-	21,803	34,074
Prepaid Items	3,436	5,493	20,449	-	29,378
Total Assets	$ 152,700	$ 421,215	$ 234,689	$ 156,502	$ 965,106
LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES, AND FUND BALANCES					
LIABILITIES					
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	$ 23,979	$ 19,354	$ 3,582	$ 1,037	$ 47,952
Due to Board of County Commissioners	79,412	-	-	-	79,412
Due to Other Funds	49,309	3,128	5	-	52,442
Due to Other Governments	-	398,733	-	-	398,733
Total Liabilities	152,700	421,215	3,587	1,037	578,539
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES					
Unavailable Revenue:					
Intergovernmental	-	-	-	6,465	6,465
FUND BALANCES					
Nonspendable	3,436	5,493	20,449	-	29,378
Restricted - Official Records	-	-	188,830	-	188,830
Restricted - Court Technology	-	-	21,823	-	21,823
Committed - Clerk Related Functions	-	-	-	149,000	149,000
Unassigned	(3,436)	(5,493)	-	-	(8,929)
Total Fund Balances	-	-	231,102	149,000	380,102
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances	$ 152,700	$ 421,215	$ 234,689	$ 156,502	$ 965,106

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

HARDEE COUNTY CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Major Funds				
	General	Fine and Forfeiture	Public Records Modernization Trust	Child Support IV-D	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES					
Appropriations from Board of County Commissioners	$ 859,375	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 859,375
Intergovernmental	-	508,520	-	77,683	586,203
Charges for Services	113,232	689,939	64,258	-	867,429
Interest Income	21,098	-	18,416	2,545	42,059
Miscellaneous	1,031	-	-	517	1,548
Total Revenues	994,736	1,198,459	82,674	80,745	2,356,614
EXPENDITURES					
Current:					
General Government:					
Salaries and Benefits	715,507	868,108	4,438	71,828	1,659,881
Operating Expenditures	174,807	39,464	46,349	187	260,807
Capital Outlay	19,010	-	1,726	-	20,736
Debt Service:					
Principal	5,715	-	-	-	5,715
Interest	285	-	-	-	285
Total Expenditures	915,324	907,572	52,513	72,015	1,947,424
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	79,412	290,887	30,161	8,730	409,190
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
Distribution of Excess Revenues:					
Board of County Commissioners	(79,412)	-	-	-	(79,412)
State of Florida	-	(290,887)	-	-	(290,887)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(79,412)	(290,887)	-	-	(370,299)
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	-	-	30,161	8,730	38,891
Fund Balances - Beginning of Year	-	-	200,941	140,270	341,211
FUND BALANCES - END OF YEAR	$ -	$ -	$ 231,102	$ 149,000	$ 380,102

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

HARDEE COUNTY CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES,
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE – BUDGET AND ACTUAL
GENERAL FUND
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget - Positive
	Original	Final	Actual	(Negative)
REVENUES				
Appropriations from Board of County Commissioners	$ 859,375	$ 859,375	$ 859,375	$ -
Charges for Services	109,125	113,226	113,232	6
Interest Income	4,900	21,098	21,098	-
Miscellaneous	-	1,031	1,031	-
Total Revenues	973,400	994,730	994,736	6
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
General Government:				
Salaries and Benefits	885,457	705,528	715,507	(9,979)
Operating Expenditures	87,943	180,807	174,807	6,000
Capital Outlay	-	19,010	19,010	-
Debt Service:				
Principal	-	-	5,715	(5,715)
Interest	-	-	285	(285)
Total Expenditures	973,400	905,345	915,324	(9,979)
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	-	89,385	79,412	(9,973)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Distribution of Excess Revenues:				
Board of County Commissioners	-	(89,385)	(79,412)	9,973
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	-	(89,385)	(79,412)	9,973
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	-	-	-	-
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	-	-	-	-
FUND BALANCE - END OF YEAR	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

HARDEE COUNTY CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE – BUDGET AND ACTUAL
FINE AND FORFEITURE FUND
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget - Positive
	Original	Final	Actual	(Negative)
REVENUES				
Intergovernmental	$ 479,923	$ 508,520	$ 508,520	$ -
Charges for Services	587,636	689,939	689,939	-
Interest Income	6,500	-	-	-
Total Revenues	1,074,059	1,198,459	1,198,459	-
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
General Government:				
Salaries and Benefits	1,016,294	850,439	868,108	(17,669)
Operating Expenditures	57,765	39,464	39,464	-
Total Expenditures	1,074,059	889,903	907,572	(17,669)
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	-	308,556	290,887	(17,669)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Distribution of Excess Revenues:				
State of Florida	-	(308,556)	(290,887)	17,669
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	-	(308,556)	(290,887)	17,669
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	-	-	-	-
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	-	-	-	-
FUND BALANCE - END OF YEAR	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

HARDEE COUNTY CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES,
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE – BUDGET AND ACTUAL
PUBLIC RECORDS MODERNIZATION TRUST FUND
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget - Positive
	Original	Final	Actual	(Negative)
REVENUES				
Charges for Services	$ 37,250	$ 64,258	$ 64,258	$ -
Interest Income	26	18,416	18,416	-
Total Revenues	37,276	82,674	82,674	-
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
General Government:				
Salaries and Benefits	4,340	4,386	4,438	(52)
Operating Expenditures	200,412	267,502	46,349	221,153
Capital Outlay	10,000	11,725	1,726	9,999
Total Expenditures	214,752	283,613	52,513	231,100
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	(177,476)	(200,939)	30,161	231,100
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	177,476	200,939	200,941	2
FUND BALANCE - END OF YEAR	$ -	$ -	$ 231,102	$ 231,102

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

HARDEE COUNTY CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES,
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE – BUDGET AND ACTUAL
CHILD SUPPORT IV–D FUND
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget - Positive
	Original	Final	Actual	(Negative)
REVENUES				
Intergovernmental	$ 83,650	$ 84,148	$ 77,683	$ (6,465)
Interest Income	1,300	2,545	2,545	-
Miscellaneous	1,500	517	517	-
Total Revenues	86,450	87,210	80,745	(6,465)
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
General Government:				
Salaries and Benefits	88,320	71,143	71,828	(685)
Operating Expenditures	97,830	156,334	187	156,147
Total Expenditures	186,150	227,477	72,015	155,462
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	(99,700)	(140,267)	8,730	148,997
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	99,700	140,267	140,270	3
FUND BALANCE - END OF YEAR	$ -	$ -	$ 149,000	$ 149,000

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

HARDEE COUNTY CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
FIDUCIARY FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Custodial Funds
ASSETS	
Cash	$ 711,813
LIABILITIES	
Due to Individuals	39,887
Due to Other Governments	272,616
Total Liabilities	312,503
NET POSITION	
Restricted for Individuals, Organizations, and Other Governments	$ 399,310

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

HARDEE COUNTY CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
FIDUCIARY FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Custodial Funds
ADDITIONS	
Collections for Court Related Activities	$ 1,541,463
Taxes and Fees Collected for Other Governments	2,525,620
Collections from Individuals	208,479
Total Additions	4,275,562
DEDUCTIONS	
Payment of Court Related Funds	1,645,068
Payments to Other Governments	2,527,159
Payments to Individuals	439,307
Total Deductions	4,611,534
NET DECREASE IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION	(335,972)
Fiduciary Net Position - Beginning of Year	735,282
FIDUCIARY NET POSITION - END OF YEAR	$ 399,310

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting policies of the Hardee County Clerk of the Circuit Court (Clerk) conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as applicable to governments. The following is a summary of the significant accounting principles and policies used in the preparation of these financial statements.

Reporting Entity

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

The Clerk is an elected official of Hardee County, Florida pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Florida, Article VIII, Section 1(d). The Clerk is part of the primary government of Hardee County, Florida. The Clerk is responsible for the administration and operation of the Clerk's office. The Clerk's financial statements include only the funds of the Clerk's office. There are no separate legal entities (component units) for which the Clerk is considered to be financially accountable.

The Clerk funds operations as a fee officer and a Budget Officer pursuant to Florida Statutes Chapters 28, 218, and 129, respectively. As a fee officer, the Clerk collects fees and commissions from court related matters. As a budget officer, the operations as Clerk to the Board are approved and funded by the Board. The budgeted receipts from the Board are recorded as revenue on the Clerk's financial statements and as other financing uses on the Board's financial statements. Any excess of revenues and other financing sources received over expenditures as Clerk to the Board are remitted to the Board at year-end.

Court related fees collected by the Clerk in carrying out duties are used to fund the court functions of the Clerk.

Basis of Presentation, Basis of Accounting, and Measurement Focus

These financial statements have been prepared for the purpose of complying with Section 218.39(2), Florida Statutes, and Chapter 10.550, *Rules of the Auditor General – Local Governmental Entity Audits*, which requires the Clerk to present only fund financial statements. These financial statements present only the portion of the funds of the Hardee County, Florida that are attributable to the Clerk. They are not intended to present fairly the financial position and results of operations of the Hardee County, Florida in conformity with GAAP.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Basis of Presentation, Basis of Accounting, and Measurement Focus (Continued)

All governmental funds use the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when they become measurable and available as net current assets. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collected within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the Clerk considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures are generally recognized when a liability is incurred as under accrual accounting. However, expenditures related to accumulated compensated absences, and claims and judgments are recorded only when payments are due.

The custodial funds use the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting.

Budgetary Requirement – Expenditures are controlled by appropriations in accordance with the budget requirements set forth in the Florida Statutes.

General governmental revenues and expenditures accounted for in budgetary funds are controlled by a formal integrated budgetary accounting system in accordance with the Florida Statutes. An annual budget is adopted for the General Fund, Fine and Forfeiture Fund, Public Records Modernization Trust Fund, and Child Support IV-D Fund. All budget amounts presented in the accompanying financial statements have been adjusted for legally authorized amendments of the annual budget for the year. The General Fund, Fine and Forfeiture Fund, Public Records Modernization Trust Fund, and Child Support IV-D Fund budgets are prepared on a basis consistent with GAAP.

The Clerk's annual budget is monitored at varying levels of classification detail. However, for purposes of budgetary control, expenditures cannot legally exceed the total annual budget appropriations at the individual fund level. All appropriations lapse at year-end.

Fund Accounting

The accounts of the Clerk are organized on the basis of funds, each of which is considered a separate accounting entity.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Fund Accounting (Continued)

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 operations of each fund are accounted for with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, fund equity, revenues, and expenditures, as appropriate.

The purposes of the Clerk's funds are as follows:

Governmental Funds

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

Fine and Forfeiture Fund – The Fine and Forfeiture Fund is established in accordance with Sections 28.35 and 28.37, Florida Statutes. It is used to account for court fines, fees, service charges, liabilities, and costs.

Public Records Modernization Trust Fund – The Public Records Modernization Trust Fund is established in accordance with Florida Statutes. It is used to account for fees restricted to court technology and public records modernization pursuant to Section 28.24, Florida Statutes.

Child Support IV-D Fund – The Child Support IV-D fund is used to account for the child support enforcement grant and related expenditures. In addition, amounts that exceed operating costs of running the child support depository program are to be used for Clerk related functions as directed by the Board.

Fiduciary Funds

Custodial Funds – Custodial funds are fiduciary in nature and used to account for assets associated with court-related, official records, and other activities, which benefit other governments, entities, and individuals.

Fund Balance and Spending Policies

In accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*, governments are required to classify fund balance in governmental funds as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned. As of September 30, 2025, there was no total fund balance in the General Fund or Fine and Forfeitures Fund, the remaining fund balances in the Public Records Modernization Trust Fund and Child Support IV-D Fund are appropriately classified as restricted and committed, respectively.

As the Clerk is an elected official responsible for the activities of the Clerk's office, the Clerk is the highest level of decision-making authority and any official order from the Clerk would be required to authorize commitment of fund balance. Also, the accounting manager has been given the authority to assign fund balance for a specific purpose, when identified.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Fund Balance and Spending Policies (Continued)

The Clerk has implemented fund balance and spending policies to clearly define the process for tracking the various classifications of fund balance. The policy states when an expenditure is incurred in which restricted, committed, assigned, or unassigned amounts are available to be used, the Clerk will first use restricted amounts, then committed amounts, then assigned amounts, and finally unassigned amounts.

Net Position

Restricted net position in the custodial funds as of September 30, 2025 consists of amounts held awaiting outcomes of court proceedings and tax deed process. There are no unrestricted amounts.

Capital Assets

Capital assets are recorded as expenditures in the governmental funds at the time an asset is acquired. Assets acquired by the Clerk are capitalized at cost. Donated assets are recorded at acquisition value at the time received. All capital assets are reported in the government-wide financial statements of the County. The Clerk maintains custodial responsibility for these capital assets.

Capital assets are defined by the Clerk as assets with an initial, individual cost of $1,500 or more and an estimated useful of life in excess of one year. Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the related assets.

Compensated Absences

The liability for compensated absences is reported in the government-wide statements of the County. Compensated absences consists of leave that has not been used that is attributable to services already rendered, accumulates and is more likely than not to be used for time off or otherwise paid in cash or settled through noncash means. The liability also includes amounts for leave that has been used for time off but has not yet been paid in cash or settled through noncash means and certain other types of leave.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of the financial statements is in conformity with accounting principles prescribed by the Auditor General, State of Florida, and requires management to make use of estimates that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements. Actual results could differ from estimates.

Other Postemployment Benefit Obligation

In accordance with Section 112.0801, Florida Statutes, the Clerk participates with the County in offering retiring employees the opportunity to continue in the County's health insurance plan. The participating retirees pay 100% of the premium cost applicable to an active employee. The liability and expense for other postemployment benefits, calculated in accordance with GASB Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions*, are reported in the financial statements of the County.

NOTE 2 CASH

At September 30, 2025, the Clerk's bank balance was $1,838,472. The entire amount of the demand deposits is deposited in a state of Florida qualified depository and, therefore, is fully collateralized.

Custodial Credit Risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure the government's deposits may not be returned to it. The Clerk's monies must be deposited in banks designated as qualified public depositories by the Chief Financial Officer, Florida Department of Financial Services. Therefore, the Clerk's total deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation and collateralized by the Bureau of Collateral Management, Division of Treasury, and Florida Department of Financial Services. The law requires the Chief Financial Officer to ensure that funds are entirely collateralized throughout the fiscal year. Other than the preceding, the Clerk has no policy on custodial credit risk.

Collateral is provided for demand deposits through the Florida Security for Public Deposits Act. This law establishes guidelines for qualification and participation by banks and savings associations, procedures for the administration of the collateral requirements, and characteristics of eligible collateral. Under this law, the qualified public depository must pledge at least 25% of the average daily balance for each month of all public deposits in excess of any applicable deposit insurance.

Additional collateral, up to a maximum of 150%, may be required if deemed necessary under the conditions set forth in this law. Eligible collateral consists of obligations of the United States and its agencies and obligations of states and their local political subdivisions and unaffiliated corporations.

Obligations pledged to secure deposits must be delivered to the Department of Financial Services or, with the approval of the Chief Financial Officer, to a bank, savings association, or trust company provided a power of attorney is delivered to the Chief Financial Officer. On a monthly basis, the Chief Financial Officer determines that the collateral has a market value adequate to cover the deposits under the provisions of this law.

A reconciliation to amount shown on the balance sheet and statement of fiduciary net position is as follows:

Demand Deposits	$ 1,560,500
Petty Cash and Change Funds	525
Total	$ 1,561,025
Balance Sheet:	
Cash	$ 849,212
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position:	
Cash	711,813
Total Cash	$ 1,561,025

NOTE 3 CAPITAL ASSETS

The following is a summary of changes in capital assets for which the Clerk is custodian for the year ended September 30, 2025.

	Balance October 1, 2024	Additions	Disposals	Balance September 30, 2025
Capital Assets, Being Depreciated:				
Machinery and Equipment	$ 682,074	$ 31,602	$ -	$ 713,676
Less: Accumulated Depreciation:				
Machinery and Equipment	(566,374)	(41,079)	-	(607,453)
Total Capital Assets, Being Depreciated, Net	115,700	(9,477)	-	106,223
Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangement Assets:				
Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangements	32,167	-	-	32,167
Less Accumulated Amortization:				
Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangements	(8,589)	(10,722)	-	(19,311)
Total Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangement Assets, Net	23,578	(10,722)	-	12,856
Total Capital Assets, Net	$ 139,278	$ (20,199)	$ -	$ 119,079

NOTE 4 PENSION PLANS

Background

The Florida Retirement System (FRS) was created by Chapter 121, Florida Statutes, to provide a defined benefit pension plan for participating public employees. The FRS was amended in 1998 to add the Deferred Retirement Option Program under the defined benefit plan and amended in 2000 to provide a defined contribution plan alternative to the defined benefit plan for FRS members effective July 1, 2002. This integrated defined contribution pension plan is the FRS Investment Plan. Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, established the Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy (HIS) Program, a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan, to assist retired members of any state-administered retirement system in paying the costs of health insurance.

Essentially all regular employees of the Clerk are eligible to enroll as members of the State-administered FRS. Provisions relating to the FRS are established by Chapters 121 and 122, Florida Statutes; Chapter 112, Part IV, Florida Statutes; Chapter 238, Florida Statutes; and FRS Rules, Chapter 60S, Florida Administrative Code; wherein eligibility, contributions, and benefits are defined and described in detail. Such provisions may be amended at any time by further action from the Florida Legislature. The FRS is a single retirement system administered by the Florida Department of Management Services, Division of Retirement, and consists of the two cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit plans and other nonintegrated programs. An annual comprehensive financial report of the FRS, which includes its financial statements, required supplementary information, actuarial report, and other relevant information, is available from the Florida Department of Management Services' Web site (www.dms.myflorida.com).

Florida Retirement System Pension Plan

Plan Description

The Florida Retirement System Pension Plan (FRS Plan) is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan, with a Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) for eligible employees. The general classes of membership are as follows:

Regular Class – Members of the FRS who do not qualify for membership in the other classes.

Elected County Officers Class – Members who hold specified elective offices in local government.

Senior Management Service Class (SMSC) – Members in senior management level positions.

Special Risk Class – Members who are special risk employees, such as law enforcement officers, meet the criteria to qualify for this class.

NOTE 4 PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)

Florida Retirement System Pension Plan (Continued)

Plan Description (Continued)

Employees enrolled in the FRS Plan prior to July 1, 2011, vest at six years of creditable service and employees enrolled in the FRS Plan on or after July 1, 2011, vest at eight years of creditable service. All vested members, enrolled prior to July 1, 2011, are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 62, or at any age after 30 years of service, except for members classified as special risk who are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 55, if vested, or at any age after 25 years of service. All members enrolled in the FRS Plan on or after July 1, 2011, once vested, are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 65 or any time after 33 years of creditable service, except for members classified as special risk who are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 60 or at any age after 30 years of service. Employees enrolled in the FRS Plan may include up to four years of credit for military service toward creditable service. The FRS Plan also includes an early retirement provision; however, there is a benefit reduction for each year a member retires before his or her normal retirement date. The FRS Plan provides retirement, disability, death benefits, and annual cost-of-living adjustments to eligible participants.

DROP, subject to provisions of Section 121.091, Florida Statutes, permits employees eligible for normal retirement under the FRS Plan to defer receipt of monthly benefit payments while continuing employment with an FRS participating employer. An employee may participate in DROP for a period not to exceed 8 years after electing to participate, except that certain instructional personnel may participate for up to 10 years. During the period of DROP participation, deferred monthly benefits are held in the FRS Trust Fund and accrue interest. The net pension liability does not include amounts for DROP participants, as these members are considered retired and are not accruing additional pension benefits.

Benefits Provided

Benefits under the FRS Plan are computed on the basis of age and/or years of service, average final compensation, and service credit. Credit for each year of service is expressed as a percentage of the average final compensation. For members initially enrolled before July 1, 2011, the average final compensation is the average of the five highest fiscal years' earnings; for members initially enrolled on or after July 1, 2011, the average final compensation is the average of the eight highest fiscal years' earnings. The total percentage value of the benefit received is determined by calculating the total value of all service, which is based on the retirement class to which the member belonged when the service credit was earned. Members are eligible for in-line-of-duty or regular disability and survivors' benefits.

As provided in Section 121.101, Florida Statutes, if the member is initially enrolled in the FRS before July 1, 2011, and all service credit was accrued before July 1, 2011, the annual cost-of-living adjustment is 3% 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 3% determined by dividing the sum of the pre-July 2011 service credit by the total service credit at retirement multiplied by 3%. FRS Plan members initially enrolled on or after July 1, 2011, will not have a cost-of-living adjustment after retirement.

NOTE 4 PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)

Florida Retirement System Pension Plan (Continued)

Benefits Provided (Continued)

Detailed information about the County's proportionate share of FRS's net pension liability, deferred outflows/inflows of resources, and pension expense are reported in the government-wide statements of the County.

Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy Program

Plan Description

The Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy Program (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

Eligible retirees and beneficiaries received a monthly HIS payment of $7.50 for each year of creditable service completed at the time of retirement, with a minimum HIS payment of $45 and a maximum HIS payment of $225 per month, pursuant to Section 112.363, Florida Statutes. To be eligible to receive a HIS Plan benefit, a retiree under a state-administered retirement system must provide proof of health insurance coverage, which may include Medicare.

Detailed information about the County's proportionate share of HIS's net pension liability, deferred outflows/inflows of resources, and pension expense are reported in the government-wide statements of the County.

FRS Investment Plan

The Florida State Board of Administration (SBA) administers the defined contribution plan officially titled the FRS Investment Plan (Investment Plan). The Investment Plan is reported in the SBA's annual financial statements and in the State of Florida Annual Comprehensive 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. Clerk 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 FRS defined benefit plan. Contributions are directed to individual member accounts, and the individual members allocate contributions and account balances among various approved investment choices.

NOTE 4 PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)

FRS Investment Plan (Continued)

Costs of administering the plan, including the FRS Financial Guidance Program, are funded through an employer contribution of 0.06% of payroll and by forfeited benefits of plan members.

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 FRS Pension Plan is transferred to the Investment Plan, the member must have the years of service required for FRS 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 June 30, 2025, 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 Clerk.

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 FRS Pension Plan when approved for disability retirement to receive guaranteed lifetime monthly benefits under the FRS Pension Plan, or remain in the Investment Plan and rely upon that account balance for retirement income.

Contributions

Participating employer contributions are based upon statewide rates established by the state of Florida. The Clerk’s contributions made to the plans during the years ended September 30, 2025, 2024, and 2023 were $204,736, $188,972, and $171,395, respectively, equal to the actuarially determined contribution requirements for each year.

Additional information about pension plans can be found in the County-wide financial statements.

NOTE 5 DUE FROM AND DUE TO OTHER FUNDS

The balances of due from and due to other funds were as follows at September 30, 2025:

	Due from Other Funds	Due to Other Funds
General Fund	$ 5	$ 49,309
Fine and Forfeiture Fund	-	3,128
Public Records Modernization Trust Fund	51,491	5
Child Support IV-D Fund	946	-
Total	$ 52,442	$ 52,442

Amounts due to and from other funds arise from timing differences as a result of transactions.

NOTE 6 COMPENSATED ABSENCES

The following is a summary of the changes in compensated absences for the year ended September 30, 2025:

	Balance October 1, 2024 As Restated*	Net Change	Balance September 30, 2025	Due Within One Year
Accrued Compensated Absences	$ 84,396	$ 8,937	$ 93,333	$ 58,332

The Change in compensated absence liability is presented as a net change. See Note 1 for a summary of the Clerk's compensated absences policy. The long-term liabilities are not reported in the financial statements of the Clerk since they are not payable from spendable resources. They are reported in the financial statements of Hardee County.

NOTE 7 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Transactions with the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners for the year ended September 30, 2025 were as follows:

Budget Appropriation – The General Fund of the Clerk received payments from the Board of County Commissioners for non-court related and accounting services in the amount of $859,375 for the year ended September 30, 2025. Excess revenues payable to the Board at September 30, 2025 were $79,412.

Health Insurance – The Board of County Commissioners provides health insurance to the Clerk employees. The reimbursement for these benefits for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025 amounted to $316,417.

NOTE 8 RISK MANAGEMENT

The Clerk participates in the risk management program through the Board under a local government risk management pool. The following types of risk are provided for under the risk management pool:

- Property and General Liability
- Automobile Liability
- Public Officials' Liability
- Workers' Compensation

The risk pool assesses each member its pro rata share of the estimated amount required to meet current year losses and operating expenses. If total member assessments (premiums) do not produce sufficient funds to meet its obligations, the pool can make additional limited assessments. Losses, if any, in excess of the pool's ability to assess its members would revert back to the member that incurred the loss.

NOTE 9 COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

The Clerk is currently receiving, and has received in the past, a grant which is subject to special compliance audits by the grantor agency and which may result in disallowed expenditure amounts. These amounts, if any, constitute a contingent liability of the Clerk. Accordingly, such liabilities are not reflected within the financial statements. Management does not believe the effects of contingent liabilities, if any, will be material to the financial statements.

NOTE 10 CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLE

Effective October 1, 2024, the Clerk implemented GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences.* This statement updated the recognition and measurement guidance for compensated absences and associated salary-related payments and amended certain previously required disclosures. The Clerk's liability for compensated absences is included in the government-wide financial statements of the County.

HARDEE COUNTY CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
COMBINING STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY
NET POSITION – FIDUCIARY FUNDS – CUSTODIAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Custodial Funds					
	Special Trust	Support	Court Registry	County Witness	Cash Bond	Total
ASSETS						
Cash	$ 554,123	$ 1,042	$ 62,293	$ 1,024	$ 93,331	$ 711,813
Total Assets	554,123	1,042	62,293	1,024	93,331	711,813
LIABILITIES						
Due to Individuals	30,954	-	-	13	8,920	39,887
Due to Other Governments	271,574	1,042	-	-	-	272,616
Total Liabilities	302,528	1,042	-	13	8,920	312,503
NET POSITION						
Restricted for Individuals, Organizations, and Other Governments	$ 251,595	$ -	$ 62,293	$ 1,011	$ 84,411	$ 399,310

HARDEE COUNTY CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
COMBINING STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION – FIDUCIARY FUNDS – CUSTODIAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Custodial Funds					
	Special Trust	Support	Court Registry	County Witness	Cash Bond	Total
ADDITIONS						
Collections for Court Related Activities	$ 898,569	$ 10,621	$ 479,772	$ 1,000	$ 151,501	$ 1,541,463
Taxes and Fees Collected for Other Governments	2,525,620	-	-	-	-	2,525,620
Collections from Individuals	208,479	-	-	-	-	208,479
Total Additions	3,632,668	10,621	479,772	1,000	151,501	4,275,562
DEDUCTIONS						
Payment of Court Related Funds	958,477	10,621	558,443	426	117,101	1,645,068
Payments to Other Governments	2,527,159	-	-	-	-	2,527,159
Payments to Individuals	439,307	-	-	-	-	439,307
Total Deductions	3,924,943	10,621	558,443	426	117,101	4,611,534
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION	(292,275)	-	(78,671)	574	34,400	(335,972)
Fiduciary Net Position - Beginning of Year	543,870	-	140,964	437	50,011	735,282
FIDUCIARY NET POSITION - END OF YEAR	$ 251,595	$ -	$ 62,293	$ 1,011	$ 84,411	$ 399,310

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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*

The Honorable Victoria L. Rogers
Hardee County Clerk of the Circuit Court
Hardee County, Florida

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Hardee County Clerk of the Circuit Court (the Clerk), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Clerk's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated June 24, 2026.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Clerk's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our 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 did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

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

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the 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.

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Lakeland, Florida
June 24, 2026

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MANAGEMENT LETTER

The Honorable Victoria L. Rogers
Hardee County Clerk of the Circuit Court
Hardee County, Florida

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the financial statements of the Hardee County Clerk of the Circuit Court (Clerk) as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025 and have issued our report thereon dated June 24, 2026.

Auditors' Responsibility

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

Other Reporting Requirements

We have issued our Independent 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,* and the 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, which are dated June 24, 2026, 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. There were no recommendations made in the preceding financial audit report.

Official Title and Legal Authority

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

Financial Management

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

Additional Matters

Section 10.554(1)(i)3., Rules of the Auditor General, requires us to communicate noncompliance with provisions of contracts or grant agreements, or fraud, waste, or abuse, that has occurred, or is likely to have occurred, that has an effect on the financial statements that is less than material but warrants the attention of those charged with governance. See item 2025-001 in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses.

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 Clerk of the Circuit Court, and applicable management, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Lakeland, Florida
June 24, 2026

CURRENT YEAR FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

2025-001 – Budgets

Type of Finding: State Compliance

Condition: The Clerk reported total expenditures in the General Fund and the Fine and Forfeiture Fund that exceeded the final budget.

Criteria or Specific Requirement: Section 129.06, Florida Statutes, sets forth requirements related to the Clerk's budget, including adherence to the adopted/final budget and appropriate monitoring and amendment practices. Additionally, Section 28.36, Florida Statutes, establishes budgetary requirements for court-related activities funded through the Fine and Forfeiture Fund.

Effect: The Clerk is not in compliance with the budgetary requirements of Section 129.06, Florida Statutes, for the General Fund and Section 28.36, Florida Statutes, for the Fine and Forfeiture Fund.

Cause: Certain health insurance expenditures were not properly recorded at the time the Clerk amended the budget, resulting in the final amended budget being set lower than necessary to cover actual expenditures. As a result, total expenditures exceeded the final budgeted amounts.

Repeat Finding: No

Recommendation: We recommend management actively monitor actual-to-budget activity throughout the fiscal year and amend budgets timely when needed (within the period allowed by statute), particularly when new expenditures arise, to help ensure expenditures do not exceed budgeted amounts.

Views of Responsible Officials and Planned Corrective Actions: The Clerk acknowledges the finding that expenditures in both the General Fund and the Fine and Forfeiture Fund exceeded the final budget as reported. The Clerk’s Office will implement additional controls that will enhance budget monitoring before expenditures are processed. These corrective actions will be implemented for the current fiscal year, with ongoing monitoring thereafter.

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

The Honorable Victoria L. Rogers
Hardee County Clerk of the Circuit Court
Hardee County, Florida

We have examined the Hardee County Clerk of the Circuit Court's (Clerk) compliance with Section 218.415, Florida Statutes, regarding the investment of public funds; Section 61.181, Florida Statutes, regarding clerks of the courts alimony and child support payments; and Sections 28.35 and 28.36, Florida Statutes, regarding clerks of the courts performance standards and budgets, during the year ended September 30, 2025. Management of the Clerk is responsible for the Clerk's compliance with the specified requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Clerk's compliance with the specified requirements based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Clerk complied, in all material respects, with the specified requirements referenced above. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about whether the Clerk complied with the specified requirements. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgement, including an assessment of the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

We are required to be independent and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to the engagement.

Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the Clerk's compliance with specified requirements.

In our opinion, the Clerk complied, in all material respects, with Section 218.415, Florida Statutes, regarding the investment of public funds; Section 61.181, Florida Statutes, regarding clerks of the courts alimony and child support payments; and Sections 28.35 and 28.36, Florida Statutes, regarding clerks of the courts performance standards and budgets during year ended September 30, 2025.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of 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.

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Lakeland, Florida
June 24, 2026

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HARDEE COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS

YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

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HARDEE COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER
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YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

The Honorable Kathy Crawford
Property Appraiser
Hardee County, Florida

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the General Fund of the Property Appraiser of Hardee County, Florida (Property Appraiser), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2025, 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 financial position of the General Fund of the Property Appraiser, as of September 30, 2025, and the changes in financial position and the budgetary comparison for the General Fund for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Property Appraiser of Hardee County and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 1, the financial statements of the Property Appraiser of Hardee County referred to above were prepared solely for the purpose of complying with the Rules of the Auditor General of the State of Florida. In conformity with the Rules, the financial statements are intended to present the financial position and the changes in financial position of only that portion of the General Fund of Hardee County that is attributable to the transactions of the Property Appraiser. They do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of Hardee County as of September 30, 2025, or the changes in its financial position, or, where applicable, its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

The Honorable Kathy Crawford
Property Appraiser
Hardee County, Florida

Emphasis of Matter – Change in Accounting Principle

As discussed in Note 9 to the financial statements, the Property Appraiser implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*, effective for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025. GASB 101 requires liabilities to be recognized for leave attributable to services already rendered, that accumulates and is more likely than not to be used or otherwise paid or settled. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

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.

Auditors' 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 auditors' 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 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 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.

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.

The Honorable Kathy Crawford
Property Appraiser
Hardee County, Florida

Required Supplementary Information

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

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated January 15, 2026, 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 considering the Property Appraiser's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Lakeland, Florida
January 15, 2026

HARDEE COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER
BALANCE SHEET
GENERAL FUND
SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

ASSETS		
Cash	$	248,447
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE		
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	$	12,045
Due to Board of County Commissioners		233,234
Due to Other Governments		3,168
Total Liabilities		248,447
FUND BALANCE		-
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	$	248,447

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

HARDEE COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES – BUDGET AND ACTUAL
GENERAL FUND
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget - Positive
	Original	Final	Actual	(Negative)
REVENUES				
Charges for Services:				
Board of County Commissioners	$ 1,274,371	$ 1,280,578	$ 1,280,578	$ -
Other Governments	17,308	17,393	17,393	-
Interest Income	-	-	679	679
Miscellaneous	-	-	1,145	1,145
Total Revenues	1,291,679	1,297,971	1,299,795	1,824
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
General Government:				
Salaries and Benefits	991,766	998,058	851,629	146,429
Operating Expenditures	249,913	249,913	210,248	39,665
Capital Outlay	50,000	50,000	1,516	48,484
Total Expenditures	1,291,679	1,297,971	1,063,393	234,578
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	-	-	236,402	236,402
OTHER FINANCING USES				
Distribution of Excess Revenues:				
Board of County Commissioners	-	-	(233,234)	(233,234)
Other Governments	-	-	(3,168)	(3,168)
Total Other Financing Uses	-	-	(236,402)	(236,402)
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	-	-	-	-
Fund Balances - Beginning of Year	-	-	-	-
FUND BALANCES - END OF YEAR	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting policies of the Hardee County Property Appraiser (Property Appraiser) conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as applicable to governments. The following is a summary of significant accounting principles and policies used in the preparation of these financial statements.

Reporting Entity

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

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

Basis of Presentation, Basis of Accounting, and Measurement Focus

These financial statements have been prepared for the purpose of complying with Section 218.39(2), Florida Statutes, and Chapter 10.550, *Rules of the Auditor General – Local Governmental Entity Audits*, which allows the Property Appraiser to only present fund financial statements. These financial statements present only the portion of the funds of Hardee County, Florida that are attributable to the Property Appraiser. They are not intended to present fairly the financial position and results of operations of Hardee County, Florida in conformity with GAAP.

The General Fund is used to account for all revenues and expenditures applicable to the general operations of the Property Appraiser. It is presented as a major governmental fund, which uses the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when 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. However, expenditures related to accumulated compensated absences, and claims and judgments are recorded only when payments are due.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Basis of Presentation, Basis of Accounting, and Measurement Focus (Continued)

Fees earned by the Property Appraiser (equal to the amount of the amended budget) are billed quarterly to the Board and other governmental agencies in proportion to prior year taxes levied. By statute, municipalities and school boards are exempt. These fees are recorded as charges for services revenue.

Budgetary Requirement – Expenditures are controlled by appropriations in accordance with the budget requirements set forth in the Florida statutes.

A budget is legally adopted for the General Fund and is on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Budgetary control is at the expenditure classification level (salaries and benefits, operating expenditures, capital outlay). Budgetary changes within expenditure classification are made at the discretion of the Property Appraiser. Amendments between expenditure classifications must be submitted to the State of Florida Department of Revenue for approval. The budgeted revenues and expenditures in the accompanying financial statements reflect all approved amendments.

Refund of "Excess Fees" – Florida Statutes provide that the excess of the Property Appraiser's fee revenue over expenditures is to be distributed to each governmental agency in the same proportion as the fees paid by the governmental agency bear to total fee income of the office. The amount of undistributed excess fees at the end of the fiscal year is reported as amounts due to the Board of County Commissioners and other special taxing districts.

Fund Accounting

The accounts of the Property Appraiser 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 as appropriate. 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 purpose of the Property Appraiser's fund is as follows:

Governmental Fund

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

Fund Balance and Spending Policies

In accordance with GASB Statement No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*, governments are required to classify fund balance in governmental funds as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned. As of September 30, 2025, there was no fund balance in the General Fund and no classification for fund balance is necessary.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Fund Balance and Spending Policies (Continued)

As the Property Appraiser is an elected official responsible for the activities of the Property Appraiser's office, the Property Appraiser is the highest level of decision-making authority and any official order from the Property Appraiser would be required to authorize commitment of fund balance.

The Property Appraiser has implemented fund balance and spending policies to clearly define the process for tracking the various classifications of fund balance. The policy states when an expenditure is incurred in which restricted, committed, assigned, or unassigned amounts are available to be used, the Property Appraiser will first use restricted amounts, then committed amounts, then assigned amounts, and finally unassigned amounts.

Capital Assets

Capital assets are recorded as expenditures in the governmental funds at the time an asset is acquired. Assets acquired by the Property Appraiser are capitalized at cost. Donated assets are recorded at acquisition value at the time received. All capital assets are reported in the government-wide financial statements of the County. The Property Appraiser maintains custodial responsibility for these capital assets.

Capital assets are defined by the Property Appraiser as assets with an initial, individual cost of $1,500 or more and an estimated useful of life in excess of one year. Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the related assets.

Compensated Absences

The liability for compensated absences is reported in the government-wide statements of the County. Compensated absences consists of leave that has not been used that is attributable to services already rendered, accumulates and is more likely than not to be used for time off or otherwise paid in cash or settled through noncash means. The liability also includes amounts for leave that has been used for time off but has not yet been paid in cash or settled through noncash means and certain other types of leave.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of the fund financial statements is in conformity with GAAP, as applicable to government entities, requires management to make use of estimates that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements. Actual results could differ from estimates.

Other Postemployment Benefit Obligations

In accordance with Section 112.0801, Florida Statutes, the Property Appraiser participates with the County in offering retiring employees the opportunity to continue in the County's health insurance plan. The participating retirees pay a portion of the premium cost applicable to an active employee based on years of service and other factors. The liability and expense for other postemployment benefits, calculated in accordance with GASB Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions,* are reported in the financial statements of the County.

NOTE 2 CASH

At September 30, 2025, the Property Appraiser's bank balance was $272,662 consisting entirely of demand deposits. Cash per the balance sheet consisted of $248,407 in demand deposits and $40 in petty cash. The entire amount of the demand deposits is deposited in a state of Florida qualified depository and, therefore, is fully collateralized.

Custodial Credit Risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure the government's deposits may not be returned to it. The Property Appraiser's monies must be deposited in banks designated as qualified public depositories by the Chief Financial Officer, Florida Department of Financial Services. Therefore, the Property Appraiser's total deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation and collateralized by the Bureau of Collateral Management, Division of Treasury, Florida Department of Financial Services. The law requires the Chief Financial Officer to ensure that funds are entirely collateralized throughout the fiscal year. Other than the preceding, the Property Appraiser has no policy on custodial credit risk.

Collateral is provided for demand deposits through the Florida Security for Public Deposits Act. This law establishes guidelines for qualification and participation by banks and savings associations, procedures for the administration of the collateral requirements, and characteristics of eligible collateral. Under this law, the qualified public depository must pledge at least 25% of the average daily balance for each month of all public deposits in excess of any applicable deposit insurance.

Additional collateral, up to a maximum of 150%, may be required if deemed necessary under the conditions set forth in this law. Eligible collateral consists of obligations of the United States and its agencies and obligations of states and their local political subdivisions and unaffiliated corporations.

Obligations pledged to secure deposits must be delivered to the Department of Financial Services or, with the approval of the Chief Financial Officer, to a bank, savings association or trust company provided a power of attorney is delivered to the Chief Financial Officer. On a monthly basis, the Chief Financial Officer determines that the collateral has a market value adequate to cover the deposits under the provisions of this law.

NOTE 3 CAPITAL ASSETS

Tangible personal property used in the Property Appraiser's operations is recorded as an expenditure in the General Fund of the Property Appraiser at the time of acquisition. Assets are capitalized at historical cost in the government-wide financial statements of the County. The Property Appraiser maintains custodial responsibility for these capital assets.

NOTE 3 CAPITAL ASSETS (CONTINUED)

Capital asset activity for the fiscal year is as follows:

	Balance October 1, 2024	Additions	Disposals	Balance September 30, 2025
Machinery and Equipment	$ 410,155	$ 1,516	$ (9,244)	$ 402,427
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(266,816)	(58,907)	9,244	(316,479)
Total Capital Assets, Net	$ 143,339	$ (57,391)	$ -	$ 85,948

NOTE 4 PENSION PLANS

Background

The Florida Retirement System (FRS) was created by Chapter 121, Florida Statutes, to provide a defined benefit pension plan for participating public employees. The FRS was amended in 1998 to add the Deferred Retirement Option Program under the defined benefit plan and amended in 2000 to provide a defined contribution plan alternative to the defined benefit plan for FRS members effective July 1, 2002. This integrated defined contribution pension plan is the FRS Investment Plan. Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, established the Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy (HIS) Program, a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan, to assist retired members of any state-administered retirement system in paying the costs of health insurance.

Essentially all regular employees of the Property Appraiser are eligible to enroll as members of the state-administered FRS. Provisions relating to the FRS are established by Chapters 121 and 122, Florida Statutes; Chapter 112, Part IV, Florida Statutes; Chapter 238, Florida Statutes; and FRS Rules, Chapter 60S, Florida Administrative Code; wherein eligibility, contributions, and benefits are defined and described in detail. Such provisions may be amended at any time by further action from the Florida Legislature. The FRS is a single retirement system administered by the Florida Department of Management Services, Division of Retirement, and consists of the two cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit plans and other nonintegrated programs. An annual comprehensive financial report of the FRS, which includes its financial statements, required supplementary information, actuarial report, and other relevant information, is available from the Florida Department of Management Services' Web site (www.dms.myflorida.com).

Florida Retirement System Pension Plan

Plan Description

The Florida Retirement System Pension Plan (FRS Plan) is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan, with a Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) for eligible employees. The general classes of membership are as follows:

- *Regular Class* – Members of the FRS who do not qualify for membership in the other classes.
- *Elected County Officers Class* – Members who hold specified elective offices in local government.

NOTE 4 PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)

Background (Continued)

Florida Retirement System Pension Plan (Continued)

Plan Description (Continued)

- *Senior Management Service Class (SMSC)* – Members in senior management level positions.
- *Special Risk Class* – Members who are special risk employees, such as law enforcement officers, meet the criteria to qualify for this class.

Employees enrolled in the FRS Plan prior to July 1, 2011, vest at six years of creditable service and employees enrolled in the FRS Plan on or after July 1, 2011, vest at eight years of creditable service. All vested members, enrolled prior to July 1, 2011, are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 62 or at any age after 30 years of service, except for members classified as special risk who are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 55, if vested, or at any age after 25 years of service. All members enrolled in the FRS Plan on or after July 1, 2011, once vested, are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 65 or any time after 33 years of creditable service, except for members classified as special risk who are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 55, if vested, or at any age after 25 years of service. Employees enrolled in the FRS Plan may include up to four years of credit for military service toward creditable service. The FRS Plan also includes an early retirement provision; however, there is a benefit reduction for each year a member retires before his or her normal retirement date. The FRS Plan provides retirement, disability, death benefits, and annual cost-of-living adjustments to eligible participants.

DROP, subject to provisions of Section 121.091, Florida Statutes, permits employees eligible for normal retirement under the FRS Plan to defer receipt of monthly benefit payments while continuing employment with an FRS participating employer. An employee may participate in DROP for a period not to exceed 8 years after electing to participate, except that certain instructional personnel may participate for up to 10 years. During the period of DROP participation, deferred monthly benefits are held in the FRS Trust Fund and accrue interest. The net pension liability does not include amounts for DROP participants, as these members are considered retired and are not accruing additional pension benefits.

Benefits Provided

Benefits under the FRS Plan are computed on the basis of age and/or years of service, average final compensation, and service credit. Credit for each year of service is expressed as a percentage of the average final compensation. For members initially enrolled before July 1, 2011, the average final compensation is the average of the five highest fiscal years' earnings; for members initially enrolled on or after July 1, 2011, the average final compensation is the average of the eight highest fiscal years' earnings. The total percentage value of the benefit received is determined by calculating the total value of all service, which is based on the retirement class to which the member belonged when the service credit was earned. Members are eligible for in-line-of-duty or regular disability and survivors' benefits.

NOTE 4 PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)

Background (Continued)

Florida Retirement System Pension Plan (Continued)

Benefits Provided (Continued)

As provided in Section 121.101, Florida Statutes, if the member is initially enrolled in the FRS before July 1, 2011, and all service credit was accrued before July 1, 2011, the annual cost-of-living adjustment is 3% 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 3% determined by dividing the sum of the pre-July 2011 service credit by the total service credit at retirement multiplied by 3%. FRS Plan members initially enrolled on or after July 1, 2011, will not have a cost-of-living adjustment after retirement.

Detailed information about the County's proportionate share of FRS's net pension liability, deferred outflows/inflows of resources, and pension expense are reported in the government-wide statements of the County.

Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy Program

Plan Description

The Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy Program (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 June 30, 2025, eligible retirees and beneficiaries received a monthly HIS payment of $7.50 for each year of creditable service completed at the time of retirement, with a minimum HIS payment of $45 and a maximum HIS payment of $225 per month, pursuant to Section 112.363, Florida Statutes. To be eligible to receive a HIS Plan benefit, a retiree under a state-administered retirement system must provide proof of health insurance coverage, which may include Medicare.

Detailed information about the County's proportionate share of HIS's net pension liability, deferred outflows/inflows of resources, and pension expense are reported in the government-wide statements of the County.

FRS Investment Plan

Plan Description

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

NOTE 4 PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)

Background (Continued)

FRS Investment Plan (Continued)

Plan Description (Continued)

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. Property Appraiser 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 FRS defined benefit 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 plan, including the FRS Financial Guidance Program, are funded through an employer contribution of 0.06% of payroll and by forfeited benefits of plan members.

Benefits Provided

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 FRS Pension Plan is transferred to the Investment Plan, the member must have the years of service required for FRS 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 June 30, 2025, 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 Property Appraiser.

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 FRS Pension Plan when approved for disability retirement to receive guaranteed lifetime monthly benefits under the FRS Pension Plan, or remain in the Investment Plan and rely upon that account balance for retirement income.

NOTE 4 PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)

Background (Continued)

FRS Investment Plan (Continued)

Contributions

Participating employer contributions are based upon statewide rates established by the state of Florida. The Property Appraiser's contributions made to the plans during the years ended September 30, 2025, 2024, and 2023 were $147,452, $138,063, and $115,414, respectively, equal to the actuarially determined contribution requirements for each year.

Additional information about pension plans can be found in the County-wide financial statements.

NOTE 5 COMPENSATED ABSENCES

The following is a summary of the changes in compensated absences for the year ended September 30, 2025:

	Balance October 1, 2024 As Restated*	Net Change	Balance September 30, 2025	Due Within One Year
Accrued Compensated Absences	$ 42,692	$ 11,468	$ 54,160	$ 16,868

* Restated for implementation of GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*

The change in compensated absence liability is presented as a net change. See Note 1 for a summary of the Property Appraiser's compensated absences policy. The long-term liabilities are not reported in the financial statements of the Property Appraiser since they are not payable from spendable resources. They are reported in the financial statements of Hardee County.

NOTE 6 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Transactions with the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners for the year ended September 30, 2025 were as follows:

Budget Appropriation – The General Fund of the Property Appraiser received revenue from the Board of County Commissioners in the amount of $1,280,578 for the year ended September 30, 2025. At September 30, 2025, $233,234 was due to the Board of County Commissioners.

Various Services – The Board of County Commissioners provides various services to the Property Appraiser. The charges for these services for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025 amounted to $118,791.

NOTE 7 RISK MANAGEMENT

The Property Appraiser is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The Property Appraiser participates in the risk management program through the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners under a local government risk management pool. The following types of risk are provided for under the risk management pool:

- Property and General Liability
- Automobile Liability
- Public Officials' Liability
- Workers' Compensation

There have been no decreases in coverage nor have there been any settlements in excess of coverage in any of the three prior years.

NOTE 8 COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

The Property Appraiser is named as a defendant in a lawsuit concerning the assessment of real and personal property in Hardee County, Florida. The outcome of these matters turns upon disputed question of property classifications. As of September 30, 2025, based on management's opinion, it does not appear the Property Appraiser's assets will be affected and, consequently, no provision has been made for any liability that might arise from this claim.

NOTE 9 CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLE

Effective October 1, 2024, the Property Appraiser implemented GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*. This statement updated the recognition and measurement guidance for compensated absences and associated salary-related payments and amended certain previously required disclosures. The Property Appraiser's liability for compensated absences is included in the government-wide financial statements of the County.

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*

The Honorable Kathy Crawford
Property Appraiser
Hardee County, Florida

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the General Fund of the Property Appraiser of Hardee County, Florida (Property Appraiser), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2025, 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 January 15, 2026.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

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

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

The Honorable Kathy Crawford
Property Appraiser

Report on 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 with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards.*

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the 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.

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Lakeland, Florida
January 15, 2026

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP
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MANAGEMENT LETTER

The Honorable Kathy Crawford
Property Appraiser
Hardee County, Florida

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the financial statements of the Property Appraiser of Hardee County, Florida (Property Appraiser), as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025, and have issued our report thereon dated January 15, 2026.

Auditors' Responsibility

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

Other Reporting Requirements

We have issued our Independent 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* 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, which are dated January 15, 2026, should be considered in conjunction with this management letter.

Prior Audit Findings

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

Official Title and Legal Authority

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

Financial Management

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

Additional Matters

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

Purpose of this Letter

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

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Lakeland, Florida
January 15, 2026

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

The Honorable Kathy Crawford Property Appraiser
and the Florida Auditor General
Hardee County, Florida

We have examined the Property Appraiser of Hardee County, Florida's (Property Appraiser) compliance with Section 218.415, Florida Statutes, regarding the investment of public funds during the year ended September 30, 2025. Management of the Property Appraiser is responsible for the Property Appraiser's compliance with the specified requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Property Appraiser's compliance with the specified requirements based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Property Appraiser complied, in all material respects, with the specified requirements referenced above. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about whether the Property Appraiser complied with the specified requirements. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

We are required to be independent and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to the engagement.

Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the Property Appraiser's compliance with specified requirements.

In our opinion, the Property Appraiser complied, in all material respects, with Section 218.415, Florida Statutes, regarding the investment of public funds during the year ended September 30, 2025.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the 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.

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Lakeland, Florida
January 15, 2026

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HARDEE COUNTY SHERIFF

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS

YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

HARDEE COUNTY SHERIFF
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YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

The Honorable Vincent Crawford
Sheriff
Hardee County, Florida

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Sheriff of Hardee County, Florida (Sheriff) as of and for the year ended September 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the 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 each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Sheriff of Hardee County, as of September 30, 2025, and the respective changes in financial position and the budgetary comparison for the General Fund for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Sheriff of Hardee 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.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 1, the financial statements of the Sheriff of Hardee County, Florida referred to above were prepared solely for the purpose of complying with the Rules of the Auditor General of the state of Florida. In conformity with the Rules, the financial statements are intended to present the financial position and changes in financial position of only that portion of each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of Hardee County, Florida that is attributable to the transactions of the Sheriff. They do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of Hardee County, Florida as of September 30, 2025, the changes in its financial position, or, where applicable, its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinions are not modified with respect to this matter.

Emphasis of Matter – Change in Accounting Principle

As discussed in Note 11 to the financial statements, the Sheriff implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*, effective for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025. GASB 101 requires liabilities to be recognized for leave attributable to services already rendered, that accumulates and is more likely than not to be used or otherwise paid or settled. Our opinions are not modified with respect to this matter.

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.

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

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

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the 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.

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.

The Honorable Vincent Crawford
Sheriff
Hardee County, Florida

Required Supplementary Information

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

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Sheriff's basic financial statements. The combining statements, as listed in the table of contents, 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 GAAS. In our opinion, the combining 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 February 10, 2026, on our consideration of the Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the 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 the Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Lakeland, Florida
February 10, 2026

HARDEE COUNTY SHERIFF
BALANCE SHEET
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	General Fund	E-911 Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS				
Cash	$ 2,604,844	$ 11,754	$ 206,782	$ 2,823,380
Due from Other Governments	7,036	-	-	7,036
Due from Other Funds	3,855	-	-	3,855
Total Assets	$ 2,615,735	$ 11,754	$ 206,782	$ 2,834,271
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES				
LIABILITIES				
Accounts Payable	$ 145,165	$ -	$ 1,196	$ 146,361
Accrued Liabilities	609,221	-	-	609,221
Due to Other Funds	-	-	3,855	3,855
Due to the Board of County Commissioners	1,861,349	-	-	1,861,349
Total Liabilities	2,615,735	-	5,051	2,620,786
FUND BALANCES				
Restricted	-	11,754	201,731	213,485
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	$ 2,615,735	$ 11,754	$ 206,782	$ 2,834,271

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

HARDEE COUNTY SHERIFF
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES – GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	General Fund	E-911 Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES				
Appropriations from Board of County Commissioners	$ 15,161,107	$ 576,130	$ -	$ 15,737,237
Intergovernmental	598,029	-	-	598,029
Charges for Services	1,034,996	-	-	1,034,996
Fines and Forfeitures	-	-	4,432	4,432
Interest	77,474	-	-	77,474
Miscellaneous	358,119	-	39,389	397,508
Total Revenues	17,229,725	576,130	43,821	17,849,676
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Public Safety:				
Salaries and Benefits	11,434,266	342,489	-	11,776,755
Operating Expenditures	3,558,234	233,641	31,258	3,823,133
Capital Outlay	1,461,819	-	-	1,461,819
Debt Service:				
Principal	163,223	-	-	163,223
Interest	23,523	-	-	23,523
Total Expenditures	16,641,065	576,130	31,258	17,248,453
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	588,660	-	12,563	601,223
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Leases	693,861	-	-	693,861
Insurance Recoveries	38,284	-	-	38,284
Transfer to the Board of County Commissioners	(1,320,805)	-	-	(1,320,805)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(588,660)	-	-	(588,660)
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	-	-	12,563	12,563
Fund Balances - Beginning of Year	-	11,754	189,168	200,922
FUND BALANCES - END OF YEAR	$ -	$ 11,754	$ 201,731	$ 213,485

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

HARDEE COUNTY SHERIFF
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE – BUDGET AND ACTUAL
GENERAL FUND
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget - Positive
	Original	Final	Actual	(Negative)
REVENUES				
Appropriations from Board of County Commissioners	$ 15,161,107	$ 15,159,099	$ 15,161,107	$ 2,008
Intergovernmental	-	598,029	598,029	-
Charges for Services	-	1,034,996	1,034,996	-
Interest	-	77,474	77,474	-
Miscellaneous	-	358,119	358,119	-
Total Revenues	15,161,107	17,227,717	17,229,725	2,008
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Public Safety:				
Salaries and Benefits	11,759,015	13,229,735	11,434,266	1,795,469
Operating Expenditures	2,926,550	3,177,843	3,558,234	(380,391)
Capital Outlay	475,542	699,903	1,461,819	(761,916)
Debt Service:				
Principal	-	-	163,223	(163,223)
Interest	-	-	23,523	(23,523)
Total Expenditures	15,161,107	17,107,481	16,641,065	466,416
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	-	120,236	588,660	468,424
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Leases	-	-	693,861	693,861
Insurance Recoveries	-	38,284	38,284	-
Transfer to the Board of County Commissioners	-	(158,520)	(1,320,805)	(1,162,285)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	-	(120,236)	(588,660)	(468,424)
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	-	-	-	-
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	-	-	-	-
FUND BALANCE - END OF YEAR	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

HARDEE COUNTY SHERIFF
STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION –
FIDUCIARY FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Custodial Funds
ASSETS	
Cash	$ 58,754
LIABILITIES	
Due to Others	16,966
NET POSITION	
Restricted for Individuals, Organizations, and Other Governments	41,788
Total Net Position	$ 41,788

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

HARDEE COUNTY SHERIFF
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION –
FIDUCIARY FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Custodial Funds
ADDITIONS	
Collections from Individuals	$ 197,915
Evidence Collected	9,743
Fees Collected for Other Governments	33,715
Total Additions	241,373
DEDUCTIONS	
Medical, Dental, and Life Insurance	43,879
Payments to Individuals	34,278
Payments to Other Entities	117,202
Payments to Other Governments	35,754
Total Deductions	231,113
NET INCREASE IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION	10,260
Fiduciary Net Position - Beginning of Year	31,528
FIDUCIARY NET POSITION - END OF YEAR	$ 41,788

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting policies of the Hardee County Sheriff (Sheriff) conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as applicable to governments. The following is a summary of significant accounting principles and policies used in the preparation of these statements.

Reporting Entity

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

The Sheriff is an elected official of Hardee County, Florida pursuant to the Constitution of the state of Florida, Article VIII, Section 1(d). The Sheriff is part of the primary government of Hardee County, Florida. The Sheriff is responsible for the administration and operation of the Sheriff’s office. The Sheriff’s financial statements include only the funds of the Sheriff’s office. There are no separate legal entities (component units) for which the Sheriff is considered to be financially accountable.

Basis of Presentation, Basis of Accounting, and Measurement Focus

These financial statements have been prepared for the purpose of complying with Section 218.39(2), Florida Statutes, and Chapter 10.550, *Rules of the Auditor General – Local Governmental Entity Audits*, which allows the Sheriff to only present fund financial statements. These financial statements present only the portion of the funds of Hardee County, Florida that are attributable to the Sheriff. They are not intended to present fairly the financial position and results of operations of Hardee County, Florida in conformity with GAAP.

All governmental funds are accounted for using the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenue is recognized when it becomes 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 Sheriff considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures are generally recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related fund liability is incurred.

The custodial funds use the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Basis of Presentation, Basis of Accounting, and Measurement Focus (Continued)

The County funds the majority of the operating budget of the Sheriff. The payments by the County to fund the operations of the Sheriff are recorded as expenditures for salaries and benefits, operating expenditures, capital outlay, and debt service in governmental type funds in the financial statements of the County, and as appropriations revenues in the basic financial statements of the Sheriff.

Budgetary Requirement – Expenditures are controlled by appropriations in accordance with the budget requirements set forth in the Florida Statutes.

A budget is legally adopted for the General Fund and is on the modified accrual basis of accounting. The Sheriff is not legally required to adopt a budget for the E-911 Fund, Commissary Fund, Education Fund, Youth Fund, or Flower Fund. Therefore, budget comparison information is not included in the Sheriff's financial statements. For purposes of budgetary control, expenditures cannot legally exceed the total annual budget appropriations at the individual fund level.. The budgeted revenues and expenditures in the accompanying financial statements reflect all approved amendments.

Fund Accounting

The accounts of the Sheriff 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 balances, revenues, and expenditures, as appropriate. 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 purposes of the Sheriff's funds are as follows:

Major Governmental Funds

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

E911 Fund – The E911 Fund is a special revenue fund that accounts for E911 fees under Sections 365.171 and 365.172, Florida Statutes, and E911 grants related to providing E911 services within the County. These monies are restricted for maintenance and upgrade of the E911 system.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Fund Accounting (Continued)

Nonmajor Governmental Funds

Commissary Fund – The Commissary Fund is a special revenue fund used to account for commissions earned by providing goods and services to the inmates. These resources are restricted by Section 951.23, Florida Statutes, for inmate welfare.

Education Fund – The Education Fund is a special revenue fund which accounts for an assessment added to certain fines under Section 938.15, Florida Statutes. These monies are restricted for criminal justice education degree programs and training courses.

Youth Fund – The Youth Fund is a special revenue fund used to account for donations received from individuals which are restricted for youth programs.

Flower Fund – The Flower Fund is a special revenue fund used to account for contributions received from employees which are restricted for employee events.

Fiduciary Funds

Custodial Funds – Custodial funds are fiduciary in nature and used to account for assets associated with law enforcement and detention activities, which benefit other governments, entities, and individuals.

Fund Balance and Spending Policies

In accordance with GASB Statement No. 54 *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*, governments are required to classify fund balance in governmental funds as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned.

The classifications of fund balances are described as follows:

Nonspendable Fund Balance – Amounts that cannot be spent because they are either not in spendable form (such as inventories and prepaid amounts) or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

Restricted Fund Balance – Amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes because of constraints imposed by external providers (such as grantors, bondholders, and higher levels of government), or imposed by constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. The Sheriff is reporting restricted fund balances in the E911 Fund, Commissary Fund, Education Fund, Youth Fund, and Flower Fund.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Fund Balance and Spending Policies (Continued)

Committed Fund Balance – Amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes determined by a formal action of the Sheriff's highest level of decision-making authority.

Assigned Fund Balance – Amounts the Sheriff intends to use for specific purposes that do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed.

Unassigned Fund Balance – Amounts that are available for any purpose; these amounts can be reported only in the Sheriff's General Fund. Unassigned fund balance may also include a negative balance for any governmental fund if expenditures exceed amounts restricted, committed, or assigned for those purposes.

As the Sheriff is an elected official responsible for the activities of the Sheriff's office, he is the highest level of decision-making authority and any official order from the Sheriff would be required to authorize commitment of fund balance.

The Sheriff has implemented fund balance and spending policies to clearly define the process for tracking the various classifications of fund balance. The policy states when an expenditure is incurred in which restricted, committed, assigned, or unassigned amounts are available to be used, the Sheriff will first use restricted amounts, then committed amounts, then assigned amounts, and finally unassigned amounts.

Net Position

Restricted net position as of September 30, 2025 consists of amounts held as cash evidence, awaiting a court disposition, and inmate account balances. There are no unrestricted amounts.

Capital Assets

Capital assets are recorded as expenditures in the governmental funds at the time an asset is acquired. Assets acquired by the Sheriff are capitalized at cost. Donated and confiscated assets are recorded at acquisition value at the time received. All capital assets are reported in the government-wide financial statements of the County. The Sheriff maintains custodial responsibility for these capital assets.

Capital assets are defined by the Sheriff as assets with an initial, individual cost of $1,500 or more and an estimated useful life in excess of one year. Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the related assets.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Compensated Absences

The liability for compensated absences is reported in the government-wide statements of the County. Compensated absences consists of leave that has not been used that is attributable to services already rendered, accumulates and is more likely than not to be used for time off or otherwise paid in cash or settled through noncash means. The liability also includes amounts for leave that has been used for time off but has not yet been paid in cash or settled through noncash means and certain other types of leave.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of the fund financial statements is in conformity with accounting principles generally prescribed by the Auditor General, state of Florida, and requires management to make use of estimates that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements. Actual results could differ from estimates.

Other Postemployment Benefit Obligations

In accordance with Section 112.0801, Florida Statutes, the Sheriff participates with the County in offering retiring employees the opportunity to continue in the County's health insurance plan. The participating retirees pay 100% of the premium cost applicable to an active employee. The liability and expense for other postemployment benefits, calculated in accordance with GASB Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions*, are reported in the financial statements of the County.

NOTE 2 CASH

At September 30, 2025, the Sheriff's total bank balance was $2,911,119. The entire amount of the demand deposits is deposited in a state of Florida qualified depository and, therefore, is fully collateralized.

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure the government's deposits may not be returned to it. The Sheriff's monies must be deposited in banks designated as qualified public depositories by the Chief Financial Officer, Florida Department of Financial Services. Therefore, the Sheriff's total deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation and collateralized by the Bureau of Collateral Management, Division of Treasury, Florida Department of Financial Services. The law requires the chief financial officer to ensure that funds are entirely collateralized throughout the fiscal year. Other than the preceding, the Sheriff has no policy on custodial credit risk.

Collateral is provided for demand deposits through the Florida Security for Public Deposits Act. This law establishes guidelines for qualification and participation by banks and savings associations, procedures for the administration of the collateral requirements, and characteristics of eligible collateral. Under this law, the qualified public depository must pledge at least 25% of the average daily balance for each month of all public deposits in excess of any applicable deposit insurance.

NOTE 2 CASH (CONTINUED)

Additional collateral, up to a maximum of 150%, may be required if deemed necessary under the conditions set forth in this law. Eligible collateral consists of obligations of the United States and its agencies and obligations of states and their local political subdivisions and unaffiliated corporations.

Obligations pledged to secure deposits must be delivered to the Department of Financial Services or, with the approval of the chief financial officer, to a bank, savings association or trust company provided a power of attorney is delivered to the Chief Financial Officer. On a monthly basis, the Chief Financial Officer determines that the collateral has a market value adequate to cover the deposits under the provisions of this law.

A reconciliation to the amount shown on the balance sheet and statement of fiduciary net position is as follows:

Demand Deposits	$ 2,882,134
Balance Sheet:	
Cash	$ 2,823,380
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position:	
Cash	58,754
Total Cash	$ 2,882,134

NOTE 3 CAPITAL ASSETS

The following is a summary of changes in capital assets for which the Sheriff is custodian for the year ended September 30, 2025:

	Balance October 1, 2024	Additions	Disposals	Balance September 30, 2025
Capital Assets, Being Depreciated:				
Machinery and Equipment	$ 6,554,060	$ 805,226	$ (1,144,480)	$ 6,214,806
Less: Accumulated Depreciation:				
Machinery and Equipment	(4,604,383)	(678,972)	1,119,281	(4,164,074)
Total Capital Assets, Being Depreciated, Net	1,949,677	126,254	(25,199)	2,050,732
Right-to-Use Lease Assets:				
Equipment	-	693,861	-	693,861
Less Accumulated Amortization:				
Equipment	-	(83,827)	-	(83,827)
Total Right-to-Use Lease Assets, Net	-	610,034	-	610,034
Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangement Assets:				
Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangements	600,456	-	-	600,456
Less Accumulated Amortization:				
Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangements	(35,515)	(155,349)	-	(190,864)
Total Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangement Assets, Net	564,941	(155,349)	-	409,592
Total Capital Assets, Net	$ 2,514,618	$ 580,939	$ (25,199)	$ 3,070,358

NOTE 4 PENSION PLANS

Background

The Florida Retirement System (FRS) was created by Chapter 121, Florida Statutes, to provide a defined benefit pension plan for participating public employees. The FRS was amended in 1998 to add the Deferred Retirement Option Program under the defined benefit plan and amended in 2000 to provide a defined contribution plan alternative to the defined benefit plan for FRS members effective July 1, 2002. This integrated defined contribution pension plan is the FRS Investment Plan. Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, established the Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy (HIS) Program, a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan, to assist retired members of any State-administered retirement system in paying the costs of health insurance.

NOTE 4 PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)

Background (Continued)

Essentially all regular employees of the Sheriff are eligible to enroll as members of the state-administered FRS. Provisions relating to the FRS are established by Chapters 121 and 122, Florida Statutes; Chapter 112, Part IV, Florida Statutes; Chapter 238, Florida Statutes; and FRS Rules, Chapter 60S, Florida Administrative Code; wherein eligibility, contributions, and benefits are defined and described in detail. Such provisions may be amended at any time by further action from the Florida Legislature. The FRS is a single retirement system administered by the Florida Department of Management Services, Division of Retirement, and consists of the two cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit plans and other nonintegrated programs. An annual comprehensive financial report of the FRS, which includes its financial statements, required supplementary information, actuarial report, and other relevant information, is available from the Florida Department of Management Services' Web site (www.dms.myflorida.com).

Florida Retirement System Pension Plan

Plan Description

The Florida Retirement System Pension Plan (FRS Plan) is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan, with a Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) for eligible employees. The general classes of membership are as follows:

- *Regular Class* – Members of the FRS who do not qualify for membership in the other classes.
- *Elected County Officers Class* – Members who hold specified elective offices in local government.
- *Senior Management Service Class (SMSC)* – Members in senior management level positions.
- *Special Risk Class* – Members who are special risk employees, such as law enforcement officers, meet the criteria to qualify for this class.

NOTE 4 PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)

Florida Retirement System Pension Plan (Continued)

Plan Description (Continued)

Employees enrolled in the FRS Plan prior to July 1, 2011, vest at six years of creditable service and employees enrolled in the FRS Plan on or after July 1, 2011, vest at eight years of creditable service. All vested members, enrolled prior to July 1, 2011, are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 62, or at any age after 30 years of service, except for members classified as special risk who are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 55, if vested, or at any age after 25 years of service. All members enrolled in the FRS Plan on or after July 1, 2011, once vested, are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 65 or any time after 33 years of creditable service, except for members classified as special risk who are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 60 or at any age after 30 years of service. Employees enrolled in the FRS Plan may include up to four years of credit for military service toward creditable service. The FRS Plan also includes an early retirement provision; however, there is a benefit reduction for each year a member retires before his or her normal retirement date. The FRS Plan provides retirement, disability, death benefits, and annual cost-of-living adjustments to eligible participants.

DROP, subject to provisions of Section 121.091, Florida Statutes, permits employees eligible for normal retirement under the FRS Plan to defer receipt of monthly benefit payments while continuing employment with an FRS participating employer. An employee may participate in DROP for a period not to exceed 8 years after electing to participate, except that certain instructional personnel may participate for up to 8 years. During the period of DROP participation, deferred monthly benefits are held in the FRS Trust Fund and accrue interest. The net pension liability does not include amounts for DROP participants, as these members are considered retired and are not accruing additional pension benefits.

Benefits Provided

Benefits under the FRS Plan are computed on the basis of age and/or years of service, average final compensation, and service credit. Credit for each year of service is expressed as a percentage of the average final compensation. For members initially enrolled before July 1, 2011, the average final compensation is the average of the five highest fiscal years' earnings; for members initially enrolled on or after July 1, 2011, the average final compensation is the average of the eight highest fiscal years' earnings. The total percentage value of the benefit received is determined by calculating the total value of all service, which is based on the retirement class to which the member belonged when the service credit was earned. Members are eligible for in-line-of-duty or regular disability and survivors' benefits.

NOTE 4 PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)

Florida Retirement System Pension Plan (Continued)

Benefits Provided (Continued)

As provided in Section 121.101, Florida Statutes, if the member is initially enrolled in the FRS before July 1, 2011, and all service credit was accrued before July 1, 2011, the annual cost-of-living adjustment is 3% 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 3% determined by dividing the sum of the pre-July 2011 service credit by the total service credit at retirement multiplied by 3%. FRS Plan members initially enrolled on or after July 1, 2011, will not have a cost-of-living adjustment after retirement.

Detailed information about the County's proportionate share of FRS's net pension liability, deferred outflows/inflows of resources, and pension expense are reported in the government-wide statements of the County.

Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy Program

Plan Description

The Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy Program (HIS Plan) is a cost-sharing multiemployer 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 June 30, 2025, eligible retirees and beneficiaries received a monthly HIS payment of $7.50 for each year of creditable service completed at the time of retirement, with a minimum HIS payment of $45 and a maximum HIS payment of $225 per month, pursuant to Section 112.363, Florida Statutes. To be eligible to receive a HIS Plan benefit, a retiree under a state-administered retirement system must provide proof of health insurance coverage, which may include Medicare.

Detailed information about the County's proportionate share of HIS's net pension liability, deferred outflows/inflows of resources, and pension expense are reported in the government-wide statements of the County.

FRS Investment Plan

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

NOTE 4 PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)

FRS Investment Plan (Continued)

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. Sheriff 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 FRS defined benefit 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 plan, including the FRS Financial Guidance Program, are funded through an employer contribution of 0.06% of payroll and by forfeited benefits of plan members.

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 FRS Pension Plan is transferred to the Investment Plan, the member must have the years of service required for FRS 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 June 30, 2025, 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 Sheriff.

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 FRS Pension Plan when approved for disability retirement to receive guaranteed lifetime monthly benefits under the FRS Pension Plan or remain in the Investment Plan and rely upon that account balance for retirement income.

Contributions

Participating employer contributions are based upon statewide rates established by the state of Florida. The Sheriff’s contributions made to the plans during the years ended September 30, 2025, 2024, and 2023 were $2,030,687, $1,877,404, and $1,559,507, respectively, equal to the actuarially determined contribution requirements for each year.

Additional information about pension plans can be found in the County-wide financial statements.

NOTE 5 COMPENSATED ABSENCES

The following is a summary of the changes in compensated absences for the year ended September 30, 2025:

	Balance October 1, 2024 As Restated*	Net Change	Balance September 30, 2025	Due Within One Year
Accrued Compensated Absences	$ 643,170	$ 52,034	$ 695,204	$ 378,098

*Restated for implementation of GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*

The change in compensated absences liability is presented as a net change. See Note 1 for a summary of the Sheriff's compensated absences policy. The long-term liabilities are not reported in the financial statements of the Sheriff since they are not payable from spendable resources. They are reported in the financial statements of the County.

NOTE 6 LEASES

The Sheriff leases assets for various terms under certain agreements that meet the definition of a lease under GASB Statement No. 87, *Leases*. Detailed information about the Sheriff's leases can be found in the Hardee County county-wide financial statements.

Leases entered into by the Sheriff are included as other financing sources and capital outlay expenditures in the statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance in the year of inception. Payments made in accordance with the lease terms are reported as debt service expenditures in the statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance as they are incurred.

During the year ended September 30, 2025, the Sheriff's payments of principal and interest on leases totaled $77,683 and $13,303, respectively.

NOTE 7 SUBSCRIPTION-BASED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ARRANGEMENTS

The Sheriff has entered into subscription based-information technology arrangements (SBITAs) for various terms under certain agreements that meet the definition under GASB Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements*. Detailed information about the Sheriff's SBITAs can be found in the Hardee County countywide financial statements.

SBITAs entered into by the Sheriff are included as other financing sources and capital outlay expenditures in the statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance in the year of inception. Payments made in accordance with the lease terms are reported as debt service expenditures in the statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance as they are incurred.

NOTE 7 SUBSCRIPTION-BASED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ARRANGEMENTS (CONTINUED)

During the year ended September 30, 2025, the Sheriff's payments of principal and interest totaled $85,540 and $10,220, respectively.

NOTE 8 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Transactions with the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners for the year ended September 30, 2025 were as follows:

Budget Appropriation – The General Fund received revenue from the Board of County Commissioners in the amount of $15,161,107 for the year ended September 30, 2025. At September 30, 2025, $1,861,349 was due to the Board from the General Fund. The E911 Fund received revenue from the Board of County Commissioners in the amount of $576,130. At September 30, 2025, $-0- was due to the Board from the E911 Fund.

NOTE 9 RISK MANAGEMENT

The Sheriff is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. There are no significant reductions in insurance coverage from the prior year.

The Sheriff participates in the Florida Sheriffs Risk Management Fund (FSRMF) which is a public entity risk pool that permits the Sheriff to cover the following types of risks:

- Law Enforcement Liability
- Public Officials' Liability
- Automobile Physical Damage and Liability
- And others

The funding agreements provide that the self-insurance funds will be self-sustaining through member premiums and that the Sheriff's liability fund will reinsure through commercial companies. Those funds and 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 operating 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 also participates in FSRMF for workers' compensation coverage.

There have been no claim settlements in excess of coverage during the past three years.

NOTE 10 COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

The Sheriff is currently receiving, and has received in the past, grants which are subject to special compliance audits by the grantor agency and which may result in disallowed expenditure amounts. These amounts, if any, constitute a contingent liability of the Sheriff. Accordingly, such liabilities are not reflected within the financial statements. Management does not believe the effects of contingent liabilities, if any, will be material to the financial statements.

The Sheriff is contingently liable with respect to lawsuits and other claims incidental to the ordinary course of its operations. In the opinion of management, the ultimate disposition of these lawsuits and claims should not have a material adverse effect on the financial position of the Sheriff.

NOTE 11 CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLE

Effective October 1, 2024, the Sheriff implemented GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*. This statement updated the recognition and measurement guidance for compensated absences and associated salary-related payments and amended certain previously required disclosures. The Sheriff's liability for compensated absences is included in the government-wide financial statements of the County.

HARDEE COUNTY SHERIFF
COMBINING BALANCE SHEET –
NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Commissary Fund	Education Fund	Youth Fund	Flower Fund	Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds
ASSETS					
Cash	$ 167,899	$ 33,293	$ 2,280	$ 3,310	$ 206,782
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES					
LIABILITIES					
Accounts Payable	$ 858	$ -	$ -	$ 338	$ 1,196
Due to Other Funds	3,855	-	-	-	3,855
Total Liabilities	4,713	-	-	338	5,051
FUND BALANCES					
Restricted for:					
Education	-	33,293	-	-	33,293
Inmate Welfare	163,186	-	-	-	163,186
Law Enforcement	-	-	-	2,972	2,972
Youth Programs	-	-	2,280	-	2,280
Total Fund Balances	163,186	33,293	2,280	2,972	201,731
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	$ 167,899	$ 33,293	$ 2,280	$ 3,310	$ 206,782

HARDEE COUNTY SHERIFF
COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES – NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Commissary Fund	Education Fund	Youth Fund	Flower Fund	Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds
REVENUES					
Fines and Forfeitures	$ -	$ 4,432	$ -	$ -	$ 4,432
Miscellaneous	35,823	-	630	2,936	39,389
Total Revenues	35,823	4,432	630	2,936	43,821
EXPENDITURES					
Current:					
Public Safety:					
Operating Expenditures	21,220	4,371	4,554	1,113	31,258
Total Expenditures	21,220	4,371	4,554	1,113	31,258
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	14,603	61	(3,924)	1,823	12,563
Fund Balances - Beginning of Year	148,583	33,232	6,204	1,149	189,168
FUND BALANCES - END OF YEAR	$ 163,186	$ 33,293	$ 2,280	$ 2,972	$ 201,731

HARDEE COUNTY SHERIFF
COMBINING STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION –
FIDUCIARY FUNDS – CUSTODIAL FUNDS
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Custodial Funds				
	Suspense Fund	Collections Fund	Evidence Fund	Inmate Fund	Total
ASSETS					
Cash	$ 16,826	$ 140	$ 24,792	$ 16,996	$ 58,754
LIABILITIES					
Due to Others	16,826	140	-	-	16,966
NET POSITION					
Restricted for Individuals, Organizations, and Other Governments	-	-	24,792	16,996	41,788
Total Net Position	$ -	$ -	$ 24,792	$ 16,996	$ 41,788

HARDEE COUNTY SHERIFF
COMBINING STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION –
FIDUCIARY FUNDS – CUSTODIAL FUNDS
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Custodial Funds				
	Suspense Fund	Collections Fund	Evidence Fund	Inmate Fund	Total
ADDITIONS					
Collections from Individuals	$ 43,879	$ -	$ -	$ 154,036	$ 197,915
Evidence Collected	-	-	9,743	-	9,743
Fees Collected for Other Governments	33,715	-	-	-	33,715
Total Additions	77,594	-	9,743	154,036	241,373
DEDUCTIONS					
Medical, Dental, and Life Insurance	43,879	-	-	-	43,879
Payments to Individuals	-	-	-	34,278	34,278
Payments to Other Entities	-	-	-	117,202	117,202
Payments to Other Governments	33,715	-	2,039	-	35,754
Total Deductions	77,594	-	2,039	151,480	231,113
NET INCREASE IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION	-	-	7,704	2,556	10,260
Fiduciary Net Position - Beginning of Year	-	-	17,088	14,440	31,528
FIDUCIARY NET POSITION - END OF YEAR	$ -	$ -	$ 24,792	$ 16,996	$ 41,788

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*

The Honorable Vincent Crawford
Sheriff
Hardee County, Florida

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Sheriff of Hardee County, Florida (Sheriff), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Sheriff's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated February 10, 2026.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

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

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

We identified a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses as item 2025-001 that we consider to be a material weakness.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

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

Hardee County Sheriff's Response to Finding

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Sheriff's response to the finding identified in our audit and described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses. The Sheriff's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of 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.

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Lakeland, Florida
February 10, 2026

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP
CLAconnect.com

MANAGEMENT LETTER

The Honorable Vincent Crawford
Sheriff
Hardee County, Florida

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the financial statements of the Sheriff of Hardee County, Florida (Sheriff) as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025, and have issued our report thereon dated February 10, 2026.

Auditor's Responsibility

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

Other Reporting Requirements

We have issued our Independent 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* 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, which are dated February 10, 2026, should be considered in conjunction with this management letter.

Prior Audit Findings

Section 10.554(1)(i)1., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that we determine whether or not corrective actions have been taken to address findings and recommendations made in the preceding annual financial audit report. See current year finding as noted in the schedule of findings and responses.

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. See Note 1 in the notes to the financial statements.

Financial Management

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

Additional Matters

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

Purpose of this Letter

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

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Lakeland, Florida
February 10, 2026

PRIOR YEAR

Prior Years Findings		Current Year Status			Current Year Finding #	2023-2024 Year Finding #	2022-2023 Year Finding #
		Cleared	Partially Cleared	Not Cleared			
2024-001 - Audit Adjustments and Account Reconciliations	Material Weakness			X	2025-001	2024-001	2023-001

CURRENT YEAR FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

2025-001 – Audit Adjustments and Account Reconciliations

Type of Finding:

- Material Weakness in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Condition: In prior years, material audit adjustments to correct the Sheriff’s financial statements were identified during the audit. These types of errors were identified again in the current year and resulted in material adjustments to the Sheriff’s financial statements.

Liability accounts did not reconcile to supporting documentation.

Criteria or Specific Requirement: The Sheriff’s management is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal controls to ensure that transactions are properly recorded and reported in the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

Context: Testing of account balances identified the deficiencies.

Effect: Financial statement balances were misstated.

Cause: There is unfamiliarity with how to account and report for certain transactions. Account reconciliations were either not performed or were not completed in a manner that identified and resolved issues with account balances.

Recommendation: Account reconciliations should be prepared monthly for all balance sheet accounts, including at fiscal year-end, by one person and reviewed by another. Review of certain expenditure accounts should be performed as well to assist in identifying errors. Any discrepancies should be investigated and resolved. Trial balances should be reviewed to ensure that all accounts are reconciled and any related adjustments from a prior or current year are posted.

CURRENT YEAR FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (CONTINUED)

2025-001 – Audit Adjustments and Account Reconciliations (Continued)

Views of Responsible Officials: Upon review of our accounting software system, American Data Group (ADG), we identified the expense general ledger line to properly record the return of excess fees was incorrect. Utilizing the Florida Uniform Accounting System Manual and with the suggestion of CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA), we have created the correct expense account to properly record excess fees going forward. We will maintain consultation with CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA) to ensure the funds are properly closed in compliance with GASB standards.

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

The Honorable Vincent Crawford, Sheriff
and the Florida Auditor General
Hardee County, Florida

We have examined the Hardee County Sheriff's (Sheriff) compliance with Section 218.415, Florida Statutes, regarding the investment of public funds during the year ended September 30, 2025. Management of the Sheriff is responsible for the Sheriff's compliance with the specified requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Sheriff's compliance with the specified requirements based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Sheriff complied, in all material respects, with the specified requirements referenced above. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about whether the Sheriff complied with the specified requirements. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

We are required to be independent and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to the engagement.

Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the Sheriff's compliance with specified requirements.

In our opinion, the Sheriff complied, in all material respects, with Section 218.415, Florida Statutes, regarding the investment of public funds during the year ended September 30, 2025.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the 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.

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Lakeland, Florida
February 10, 2026

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HARDEE COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS

YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

CPAs | CONSULTANTS | WEALTH ADVISORS

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HARDEE COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
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YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

The Honorable Diane Smith
Supervisor of Elections
Hardee County, Florida

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the General Fund of the Supervisor of Elections of Hardee County, Florida (Supervisor of Elections), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Supervisor of Elections' 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 financial position of the General Fund of the Supervisor of Elections of Hardee County, as of September 30, 2025, and the changes in financial position and the budgetary comparison for the General Fund for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Supervisor of Elections of Hardee County and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 1, the financial statements of the Supervisor of Elections of Hardee County referred to above were prepared solely for the purpose of complying with the Rules of the Auditor General of the State of Florida. In conformity with the Rules, the financial statements are intended to present the financial position and the changes in financial position of only that portion the General Fund of Hardee County that is attributable to the transactions of the Supervisor of Elections. They do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of Hardee County as of September 30, 2025, the changes in its financial position, or, where applicable, its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Emphasis of Matter – Change in Accounting Principle

As discussed in Note 10 to the financial statements, the Supervisor of Elections implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*, effective for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025. GASB 101 requires liabilities to be recognized for leave attributable to services already rendered, that accumulates and is more likely than not to be used or otherwise paid or settled. Our opinions are not modified with respect to this matter.

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.

Auditors' 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 auditors' 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 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 Supervisor of Elections' internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.

The Honorable Diane Smith
Supervisor of Elections
Hardee County, Florida

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

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

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated January 15, 2026, on our consideration of the Supervisor of Elections' internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Supervisor of Elections' internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Supervisor of Elections' internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Lakeland, Florida
January 15, 2026

HARDEE COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
BALANCE SHEET –
GENERAL FUND
SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

ASSETS		
Cash	$	89,620
Prepaid Items		23,491
Total Assets	$	113,111
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE		
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	$	7,688
Accrued Liabilities		7,187
Due to Board of County Commissioners		82,364
Due to Other Governments		15,872
Total Liabilities		113,111
FUND BALANCE		
Nonspendable		23,491
Unassigned		(23,491)
Total Fund Balance		-
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	$	113,111

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

HARDEE COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE – BUDGET AND ACTUAL – GENERAL FUND
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget - Positive
	Original	Final	Actual	(Negative)
REVENUES				
Appropriation from Board of County Commissioners	$ 669,751	$ 669,751	$ 669,751	$ -
Intergovernmental	-	-	11,160	11,160
Interest Income	-	-	19	19
Miscellaneous	-	-	189	189
Total Revenues	669,751	669,751	681,119	11,368
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
General Government:				
Salaries and Benefits	392,251	392,251	376,467	15,784
Operating Expenditures	240,500	240,500	210,236	30,264
Capital Outlay	37,000	37,000	20,261	16,739
Debt Service:				
Principal	-	-	3,945	(3,945)
Interest	-	-	419	(419)
Total Expenditures	669,751	669,751	611,328	58,423
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	-	-	69,791	69,791
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Leases	-	-	12,573	12,573
Transfer to the Board of County Commissioners	-	-	(82,364)	(82,364)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	-	-	(69,791)	(69,791)
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	-	-	-	-
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	-	-	-	-
FUND BALANCE - END OF YEAR	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting policies of the Supervisor of Elections of Hardee County, Florida (Supervisor of Elections) conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as applicable to governments. The following is a summary of significant accounting principles and policies used in the preparation of these financial statements.

Reporting Entity

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

The Supervisor of Elections is an elected official of the County pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Florida, Article VIII, Section 1(d). The Supervisor of Elections is part of the primary government of the County. The Board approves the Supervisor of Elections' total operating budget. The Supervisor of Elections is responsible for the administration and the operation of the Supervisor of Elections' office and the financial statements include only the funds of the Supervisor of Elections' office. There are no separate legal entities (component units) for which the Supervisor of Elections is considered to be financially accountable.

Basis of Presentation, Basis of Accounting, and Measurement Focus

These financial statements have been prepared for the purpose of complying with Section 218.39(2), Florida Statutes, and Chapter 10.550, *Rules of the Auditor General – Local Governmental Entity Audits*, which allows the Supervisor of Elections to only present fund financial statements. These financial statements present only the portion of the funds of Hardee County, Florida that are attributable to the Supervisor of Elections. They are not intended to present fairly the financial position and results of operations of Hardee County, Florida in conformity with GAAP.

The General Fund is used to account for all revenues and expenditures applicable to the general operations of the Supervisor of Elections. It is presented as a major governmental fund, which uses the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when 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, with the exception of appropriations, which are considered available in the period to which the expenditures relate. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred as under accrual accounting. However, expenditures related to accumulated compensated absences and claims and judgments are recorded only when payments are due.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Basis of Presentation, Basis of Accounting, and Measurement Focus (Continued)

The County funds the majority of the operating budget of the Supervisor of Elections. The payments by the County to fund the operations of the Supervisor of Elections are recorded as expenditures for salaries and benefits, operating expenditures, and capital outlay in governmental fund types in the financial statements of the County, and as appropriations revenues on the basic financial statements of the Supervisor of Elections. Any excess of revenues over expenditures are remitted to the Board and recorded as other financing uses.

Budgetary Requirement – Expenditures are controlled by appropriations in accordance with the budget requirements set forth in the Florida statutes.

A budget is legally adopted for the General Fund and is on a basis consistent with GAAP. Budgetary control is at the expenditure classification level (salaries and benefits, operating expenditures, capital outlay). Budgetary changes within expenditure classification are made at the discretion of the Supervisor of Elections. The budgeted revenues and expenditures in the accompanying financial statements reflect all approved amendments.

The Supervisor of Elections' annual budget is monitored at varying levels of classification detail. However, for purposes of budgetary control, expenditures cannot legally exceed the total annual budget appropriations at the individual fund level.

Refund of "Excess Fees" – Florida statutes provide that the excess of the Supervisor of Elections' fee revenue over expenditures is to be distributed to each governmental agency in the same proportion as the fees paid by the governmental agency bear to total fee income of the office. The amount of undistributed excess fees at the end of the fiscal year is reported as amounts due to the Board.

Fund Accounting

The accounts of the Supervisor of Elections 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, as appropriate. 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 purpose of the Supervisor of Elections' fund is as follows:

Governmental Fund

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

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Fund Balance and Spending Policies

In accordance with GASB Statement No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*, governments are required to classify fund balance in governmental funds as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned.

The classifications of fund balances are described as follows:

Nonspendable Fund Balance – Amounts that cannot be spent because they are either not in spendable form (such as inventories and prepaid amounts) or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

Restricted Fund Balance – Amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes because of constraints imposed by external providers (such as grantors, bondholders, and higher levels of government), or imposed by constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Committed Fund Balance – Amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes determined by a formal action of the Supervisor of Elections' highest level of decision-making authority.

Assigned Fund Balance – Amounts the Supervisor of Elections intends to use for specific purposes that do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed.

Unassigned Fund Balance – Amounts that are available for any purpose; these amounts can be reported only in the Supervisor of Elections' General Fund.

As the Supervisor of Elections is an elected official responsible for the activities of the Supervisor of Elections' office, the Supervisor of Elections is the highest level of decision-making authority and any official order from the Supervisor of Elections would be required to authorize commitment of fund balance.

The Supervisor of Elections has implemented fund balance and spending policies to clearly define the process for tracking the various classifications of fund balance. The policy states when an expenditure is incurred in which restricted, committed, assigned, or unassigned amounts are available to be used, the Supervisor of Elections will first use restricted amounts, then committed amounts, then assigned amounts, and finally unassigned amounts.

Capital Assets

Capital assets are recorded as expenditures in the governmental funds at the time an asset is acquired. Assets acquired by the Supervisor of Elections are capitalized at cost. Donated assets are recorded at acquisition value at the time received. All capital assets are reported in the government-wide financial statements of the County. The Supervisor of Elections maintains custodial responsibility for these capital assets.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Capital Assets (Continued)

Capital assets are defined by the Supervisor of Elections as assets with an initial, individual cost of $1,500 or more and an estimated useful of life in excess of one year. Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the related assets.

Compensated Absences

The liability for compensated absences is reported in the government-wide statements of the County. Compensated absences consists of leave that has not been used that is attributable to services already rendered, accumulates and is more likely than not to be used for time off or otherwise paid in cash or settled through noncash means. The liability also includes amounts for leave that has been used for time off but has not yet been paid in cash or settled through noncash means and certain other types of leave.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of the fund financial statements is in conformity with U.S. GAAP, as applicable to government entities requires management to make use of estimates that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements. Actual results could differ from estimates.

Other Postemployment Benefit Obligations

In accordance with Section 112.0801, Florida statutes, the Supervisor of Elections participates with the County in offering retiring employees the opportunity to continue in the County’s health insurance plan. The participating retirees pay a certain portion of the premium cost applicable to an active employee based on years of service and other factors. The liability and expense for other postemployment benefits, calculated in accordance with GASB Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other than Pension*, are reported in the financial statements of the County.

NOTE 2 CASH

At September 30, 2025, the bank balance of the Supervisor of Elections' deposits were $97,880 and the book balance was $89,620, consisting entirely of demand deposits. The entire amount of the demand deposits is deposited in a state of Florida qualified depository and, therefore, is fully collateralized.

Custodial Credit Risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure the government's deposits may not be returned to it. The Supervisor of Elections' monies must be deposited in banks designated as qualified public depositories by the Chief Financial Officer, Florida Department of Financial Services. Therefore, the Supervisor of Elections' total deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation and collateralized by the Bureau of Collateral Management, Division of Treasury, and Florida Department of Financial Services. The law requires the Chief Financial Officer to ensure that funds are entirely collateralized throughout the fiscal year. Other than the preceding, the Supervisor of Elections has no policy on custodial credit risk.

Collateral is provided for demand deposits through the Florida Security for Public Deposits Act. This law establishes guidelines for qualification and participation by banks and savings associations, procedures for the administration of the collateral requirements, and characteristics of eligible collateral. Under this law, the qualified public depository must pledge at least 25% of the average daily balance for each month of all public deposits in excess of any applicable deposit insurance.

Additional collateral, up to a maximum of 150%, may be required if deemed necessary under the conditions set forth in this law. Eligible collateral consists of obligations of the United States and its agencies and obligations of states and their local political subdivisions and unaffiliated corporations.

Obligations pledged to secure deposits must be delivered to the Department of Financial Services or, with the approval of the Chief Financial Officer, to a bank, savings association, or trust company provided a power of attorney is delivered to the Chief Financial Officer. On a monthly basis, the Chief Financial Officer determines that the collateral has a market value adequate to cover the deposits under the provisions of this law.

NOTE 3 CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the fiscal year is as follows:

	Balance October 1, 2024	Additions	Disposals	Balance September 30, 2025
Capital Assets, Being Depreciated				
Machinery and Equipment	$ 316,405	$ 8,737	$ -	$ 325,142
Less: Accumulated Depreciation				
Machinery and Equipment	(225,515)	(15,542)	-	(241,057)
Total Capital Assets, Being Depreciated, Net	90,890	(6,805)	-	84,085
Right-to-Use Lease Assets				
Equipment	10,028	12,573	-	22,601
Less: Accumulated Amortization				
Equipment	(6,051)	(3,942)	-	(9,993)
Total Right-to-Use Lease Assets, Net	3,977	8,631	-	12,608
Total Capital Assets, Net	$ 94,867	$ 1,826	$ -	$ 96,693

NOTE 4 PENSION PLANS

Background

The Florida Retirement System (FRS) was created by Chapter 121, Florida statutes, to provide a defined benefit pension plan for participating public employees. The FRS was amended in 1998 to add the Deferred Retirement Option Program under the defined benefit plan and amended in 2000 to provide a defined contribution plan alternative to the defined benefit plan for FRS members effective July 1, 2002. This integrated defined contribution pension plan is the FRS Investment Plan. Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, established the Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy (HIS) Program, a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan, to assist retired members of any state-administered retirement system in paying the costs of health insurance.

NOTE 4 PENSION PLAN (CONTINUED)

Background (Continued)

Essentially all regular employees of the Supervisor of Elections are eligible to enroll as members of the State-administered FRS. Provisions relating to the FRS are established by Chapters 121 and 122, Florida statutes; Chapter 112, Part IV, Florida statutes; Chapter 238, Florida statutes; and FRS Rules, Chapter 60S, Florida Administrative Code; wherein eligibility, contributions, and benefits are defined and described in detail. Such provisions may be amended at any time by further action from the Florida Legislature. The FRS is a single retirement system administered by the Florida Department of Management Services, Division of Retirement, and consists of the two cost-sharing, multiemployer, defined benefit plans, and other nonintegrated programs. An annual comprehensive financial report of the FRS, which includes its financial statements, required supplementary information, actuarial report, and other relevant information, is available from the Florida Department of Management Services' Web site (www.dms.myflorida.com).

Florida Retirement System Pension Plan

Plan Description

The Florida Retirement System Pension Plan (the FRS Plan) is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer, defined benefit pension plan, with a Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) for eligible employees. The general classes of membership are as follows:

- *Regular Class* – Members of the FRS who do not qualify for membership in the other classes.
- *Elected County Officers Class* – Members who hold specified elective offices in local government.
- *Senior Management Service Class (SMSC)* – Members in senior management level positions.
- *Special Risk Class* – Members who are special risk employees, such as law enforcement officers, meet the criteria to qualify for this class.

Employees enrolled in the FRS Plan prior to July 1, 2011 vest at six years of creditable service and employees enrolled in the FRS Plan on or after July 1, 2011 vest at eight years of creditable service. All vested members, enrolled prior to July 1, 2011, are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 62, or at any age after 30 years of service, except for members classified as special risk who are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 55, if vested, or at any age after 25 years of service. All members enrolled in the FRS Plan on or after July 1, 2011, once vested, are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 65 or any time after 33 years of creditable service, except for members classified as special risk who are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 55, if vested, or at any age after 25 years of service. Employees enrolled in the FRS Plan may include up to four years of credit for military service toward creditable service. The FRS Plan also includes an early retirement provision; however, there is a benefit reduction for each year a member retires before his or her normal retirement date. The FRS Plan provides retirement, disability, death benefits, and annual cost-of-living adjustments to eligible participants.

NOTE 4 PENSION PLAN (CONTINUED)

Florida Retirement System Pension Plan (Continued)

Plan Description (Continued)

DROP, subject to provisions of Section 121.091, Florida statutes, permits employees eligible for normal retirement under the FRS Plan to defer receipt of monthly benefit payments while continuing employment with an FRS participating employer. An employee may participate in DROP for a period not to exceed eight years after electing to participate, except that certain instructional personnel may participate for up to 10 years. During the period of DROP participation, deferred monthly benefits are held in the FRS Trust Fund and accrue interest. The net pension liability does not include amounts for DROP participants, as these members are considered retired and are not accruing additional pension benefits.

Benefits Provided

Benefits under the FRS Plan are computed on the basis of age and/or years of service, average final compensation, and service credit. Credit for each year of service is expressed as a percentage of the average final compensation. For members initially enrolled before July 1, 2011, the average final compensation is the average of the five highest fiscal years' earnings; for members initially enrolled on or after July 1, 2011, the average final compensation is the average of the eight highest fiscal years' earnings. The total percentage value of the benefit received is determined by calculating the total value of all service, which is based on the retirement class to which the member belonged when the service credit was earned. Members are eligible for in-line-of-duty or regular disability and survivors' benefits.

As provided in Section 121.101, Florida statutes, if the member is initially enrolled in the FRS before July 1, 2011, and all service credit was accrued before July 1, 2011, the annual cost-of-living adjustment is 3% 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 3% determined by dividing the sum of the pre-July 2011 service credit by the total service credit at retirement multiplied by 3%. FRS Plan members initially enrolled on or after July 1, 2011, will not have a cost-of-living adjustment after retirement.

NOTE 4 PENSION PLAN (CONTINUED)

Florida Retirement System Pension Plan (Continued)

Benefits Provided (Continued)

Detailed information about the County's proportionate share of FRS's net pension liability, deferred outflows/inflows of resources, and pension expense are reported in the government-wide statements of the County.

Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy Program

Plan Description

The Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy Program (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

Eligible retirees and beneficiaries receive a monthly HIS payment of $7.50 for each year of creditable service completed at the time of retirement, with a minimum HIS payment of $45 and a maximum HIS payment of $225 per month, pursuant to Section 112.363, Florida statutes. To be eligible to receive a HIS Plan benefit, a retiree under a state-administered retirement system must provide proof of health insurance coverage, which may include Medicare.

Detailed information about the County's proportionate share of HIS's net pension liability, deferred outflows/inflows of resources, and pension expense are reported in the government-wide statements of the County.

FRS Investment Plan

Plan Description

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

NOTE 4 PENSION PLAN (CONTINUED)

FRS Investment Plan (Continued)

Plan Description (Continued)

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. Supervisor of Elections 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 FRS defined benefit 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 plan, including the FRS Financial Guidance Program, are funded through an employer contribution of 0.06% of payroll and by forfeited benefits of plan members.

Benefits Provided

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 FRS Pension Plan is transferred to the Investment Plan, the member must have the years of service required for FRS 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 June 30, 2025, 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 Supervisor of Elections.

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 FRS Pension Plan when approved for disability retirement to receive guaranteed lifetime monthly benefits under the FRS Pension Plan or remain in the Investment Plan and rely upon that account balance for retirement income.

NOTE 4 PENSION PLAN (CONTINUED)

FRS Investment Plan (Continued)

Contributions

Participating employer contributions are based upon statewide rates established by the state of Florida. The Supervisor of Elections' contributions made during the years ended September 30, 2025, 2024, and 2023 were $84,037, $81,768, and $71,499, respectively, equal to the actuarially determined required contribution requirements for each year.

Additional information about pension plans can be found in the County-wide financial statements.

NOTE 5 COMPENSATED ABSENCES

The following is a summary of the changes in compensated absences obligations for the year ended September 30, 2025:

	Balance October 1, 2024	Net Change	Balance September 30, 2025	Due Within One Year
Accrued Compensated Absences	$ 3,098	$ 2,996	$ 6,094	$ 6,094

The change in compensated absence liability is presented as a net change. See Note 1 for a summary of the Supervisor of Elections' compensated absences policy. The long-term liabilities are not reported in the financial statements of the Supervisor of Elections since they are not payable from spendable resources. They are reported in the financial statements of Hardee County.

NOTE 6 LEASES

The Supervisor of Elections leases assets for various terms under certain agreements that meet the definition of a lease under GASB Statement No. 87 – *Leases*. Detailed information about the Supervisor of Elections' leases can be found in the Hardee County county-wide financial statements.

Leases entered into by the Supervisor of Elections are included as other financing sources and capital outlay expenditures in the statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance in the year of inception. Payments made in accordance with the lease terms are reported as debt service expenditures in the statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance as they are incurred.

During the year ended September 30, 2025, the Supervisor of Elections payments of principal and interest on leases totaled $3,945 and $419, respectively.

NOTE 7 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Transactions with the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners for the year ended September 30, 2025 were as follows:

The General Fund of the Supervisor of Elections received revenue from the Board of County Commissioners in the amount of $669,751 for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025. The General Fund of the Supervisor of Elections paid $36,472 to the Board of County Commissioners for health insurance. In addition, $82,364 was due to the Board of County Commissioners at September 30, 2025.

NOTE 8 RISK MANAGEMENT

The Supervisor of Elections participates in the risk management program through the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners under a local government risk pool. The following types of risk are provided for under the risk management pool:

- Property and General Liability
- Automobile Liability
- Public Officials' Liability
- Workers' Compensation

The risk pool assesses each member its pro rata share of the estimated amount required to meet current year losses and operating expenses. If total member assessments (premiums) do not produce sufficient funds to meet its obligations, the pool can make additional limited assessments. Losses, if any, in excess of the pool's ability to assess its members would revert back to the member that incurred the loss.

NOTE 9 CONTINGENCIES

The Supervisor of Elections has received grants which are subject to special compliance audits by the grantor agency and which may result in disallowed expenditure amounts. These amounts, if any, constitute a contingent liability of the Supervisor of Elections. Accordingly, such liabilities are not reflected within the financial statements. Management does not believe the effects of contingent liabilities, if any, will be material to the financial statements.

NOTE 10 CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLE

Effective October 1, 2024, the Supervisor of Elections implemented GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*. This statement updated the recognition and measurement guidance for compensated absences and associated salary-related payments and amended certain previously required disclosures. The Supervisor of Elections' liability for compensated absences is included in the government-wide financial statements of the County.

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*

The Honorable Diane Smith
Supervisor of Elections
Hardee County, Florida

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the General Fund of the Supervisor of Elections of Hardee County, Florida (Supervisor of Elections), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Supervisor of Elections' basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated January 15, 2026.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

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

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

The Honorable Diane Smith
Supervisor of Elections
Hardee County, Florida

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

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

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the 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.

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Lakeland, Florida
January 15, 2026

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP
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MANAGEMENT LETTER

The Honorable Diane Smith
Supervisor of Elections
Hardee County, Florida

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the financial statements of the Supervisor of Elections of Hardee County, Florida (Supervisor of Elections), Florida as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025, and have issued our report thereon dated January 15, 2026.

Auditors' Responsibility

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

Other Reporting Requirements

We have issued our Independent 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* 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, which are dated January 15, 2026, should be considered in conjunction with this management letter.

Prior Audit Findings

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

Official Title and Legal Authority

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

The Honorable Diane Smith
Supervisor of Elections
Hardee County, Florida

Financial Management

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

Additional Matters

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

Purpose of this Letter

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

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Lakeland, Florida
January 15, 2026

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

The Honorable Diane Smith, Supervisor of Elections
and the Florida Auditor General
Hardee County, Florida

We have examined the Supervisor of Elections of Hardee County, Florida (Supervisor of Elections), compliance with Section 218.415, Florida statutes, regarding the investment of public funds during the year ended September 30, 2025. Management of the Supervisor of Elections is responsible for the Supervisor of Elections' compliance with the specified requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Supervisor of Elections' compliance with the specified requirements based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Supervisor of Elections complied, in all material respects, with the specified requirements referenced above. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about whether the Supervisor of Elections complied with the specified requirements. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

We are required to be independent and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to the engagement.

Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the Supervisor of Elections' compliance with specified requirements.

In our opinion, the Supervisor of Elections complied, in all material respects, with Section 218.415, Florida Statutes, regarding the investment of public funds during the year ended September 30, 2025.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Supervisor of Elections 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.

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Lakeland, Florida
January 15, 2026

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HARDEE COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

HARDEE COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR
TABLE OF CONTENTS
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 2025

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

The Honorable Alisa Lee
Tax Collector
Hardee County, Florida

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the General Fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Tax Collector of Hardee County, Florida (Tax Collector), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the 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 General Fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Tax Collector of Hardee County as of September 30, 2025, and the respective changes in financial position and the budgetary comparison for the General Fund for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Tax Collector of Hardee County and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 1, the financial statements of the Tax Collector of Hardee County referred to above were prepared solely for the purpose of complying with the Rules of the Auditor General of the State of Florida. In conformity with the Rules, the financial statements are intended to present the financial position and the changes in financial position of only that portion of the General Fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of Hardee County, Florida that is attributable to the transactions of the Tax Collector. They do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of Hardee County, Florida, as of September 30, 2025, or the changes in its financial position, and, where applicable, its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinions are not modified with respect to this matter.

Emphasis of Matter – Change in Accounting Principle

As discussed in Note 10 to the financial statements, the Tax Collector implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*, effective for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025. GASB 101 requires liabilities to be recognized for leave attributable to services already rendered, that accumulates and is more likely than not to be used or otherwise paid or settled. Our opinions are not modified with respect to this matter.

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.

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

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

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the 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.

The Honorable Alisa Lee
Tax Collector
Hardee County, Florida

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

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

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Tax Collector's basic financial statements. The combining statements, as listed in the table of contents, 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 GAAS. In our opinion, the combining 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 December 5, 2025, on our consideration of the Tax Collector's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the 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 considering the Tax Collector's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Lakeland, Florida
December 5, 2025

HARDEE COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR
BALANCE SHEET
GENERAL FUND
SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

ASSETS		
Cash	$	216,729
Accounts Receivable		604
Total Assets	$	217,333
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE		
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	$	4,493
Due to the Board of County Commissioners		210,872
Due to Other Governments		1,968
Total Liabilities		217,333
FUND BALANCE		-
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	$	217,333

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

HARDEE COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES,
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES – BUDGET AND ACTUAL –
GENERAL FUND
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget - Positive
	Original	Final	Actual	(Negative)
REVENUES				
Charges for Services	$ 1,083,891	$ 1,090,530	$ 1,166,251	$ 75,721
Interest	5,000	5,000	5,781	781
Miscellaneous	-	991	46	(945)
Total Revenues	1,088,891	1,096,521	1,172,078	75,557
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
General Government:				
Salaries and Benefits	956,670	958,300	830,444	127,856
Operating Expenditures	131,721	137,721	130,494	7,227
Capital Outlay	500	500	-	500
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	-	-	3,913	(3,913)
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	-	56	(56)
Total Expenditures	1,088,891	1,096,521	964,907	131,614
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	-	-	207,171	207,171
OTHER FINANCING USES				
Distribution of Excess Revenues:				
Board of County Commissioners	-	-	(205,203)	(205,203)
Other Governments	-	-	(1,968)	(1,968)
Total Other Financing Uses	-	-	(207,171)	(207,171)
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	-	-	-	-
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	-	-	-	-
FUND BALANCE - END OF YEAR	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

HARDEE COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR
STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION –
FIDUCIARY FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Custodial Funds
ASSETS	
Cash	$ 523,969
LIABILITIES	
Due to Individuals	24,619
Due to Other Governments	132,826
Deposit - Installment Taxes	366,524
Total Liabilities	523,969
NET POSITION	$ -

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

HARDEE COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
FIDUCIARY FUNDS
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Custodial Funds
ADDITIONS	
Property Tax Collections for Other Governments	$ 20,155,728
License and Fees Collected for State Agencies	3,898,297
Total Additions	24,054,025
DEDUCTIONS	
Payments of Property Tax to Other Governments	20,151,395
Payments to State Agencies	3,902,630
Total Deductions	24,054,025
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION	-
Fiduciary Net Position - Beginning of Year	-
FIDUCIARY NET POSITION - END OF YEAR	$ -

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting policies of the Tax Collector of Hardee County, Florida (Tax Collector) conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as applicable to governments. The following is a summary of significant accounting principles and policies used in the preparation of these financial statements.

Reporting Entity

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

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

Basis of Presentation, Basis of Accounting, and Measurement Focus

These financial statements have been prepared for the purpose of complying with Section 218.39(2), Florida Statutes, and Chapter 10.550, *Rules of the Auditor General – Local Governmental Entity Audits*, which allows the Tax Collector to only present fund financial statements. These financial statements present only the portion of the funds of Hardee County, Florida that are attributable to the Tax Collector. They are not intended to present fairly the financial position and results of operations of Hardee County, Florida, in conformity with GAAP.

The General Fund is used to account for all revenues and expenditures applicable to the general operations of the Tax Collector. It is presented as a major governmental fund, which uses the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when 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. However, expenditures related to accumulated compensated absences, and claims and judgments are recorded only when payments are due.

The custodial funds use the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Basis of Presentation, Basis of Accounting, and Measurement Focus (Continued)

Charges for services on the collection of property taxes are recognized as revenue in the fiscal year for which taxes are levied, provided they are collected within 60 days after the end of the fiscal year. Those fees are earned pursuant to Florida Statute Chapter 192.091(2) as a Fee Officer. Certain other miscellaneous revenues are recorded as revenues when received because they are generally not measurable until actually received. Investment revenues are recorded as earned.

Any excess revenues received over expenditures made are remitted to the Board and the other taxing districts and recorded as other financing uses.

Budgetary Requirement – Expenditures are controlled by appropriations in accordance with the budget requirements set forth in the Florida statutes.

A budget is legally adopted for the General Fund and is on a basis consistent with GAAP. Budgetary control is at the expenditure classification level (personal services, operating expenditures, capital outlay). Budgetary changes within expenditure classification are made at the discretion of the Tax Collector. Amendments between expenditure classifications must be submitted to the State of Florida Department of Revenue for approval. The budgeted revenues and expenditures in the accompanying financial statements reflect all approved amendments.

Property Tax Collection – Chapter 197, Florida statutes, governs property tax collection.

Current Taxes – All property taxes become due and payable on November 1 and are delinquent on April 1 of the following year. Discounts of 4%, 3%, 2%, and 1% are allowed for early payment in November through February, respectively.

Unpaid Taxes – Sale of Tax Certificates – The Tax Collector advertises, as required by Florida statutes, and then sells tax certificates on all real property for unpaid taxes. Certificates not purchased are issued to the County. Any person owning real property upon which a tax certificate has been sold may reacquire the real property by paying the Tax Collector the face amount of the tax certificate plus interest and other costs.

Tax Deeds – The owner of a tax certificate may file an application for tax deed sale two years after the taxes have been delinquent (after April 1). The County, as a certificate owner, may exercise similar procedures two years after taxes have been delinquent (after April 1). Tax deeds are issued to the highest bidder of the property, which is sold at public auction. The Clerk of the Circuit Court administers these sales.

Refund of "Excess Fees" – Florida statutes provide that the excess of the Tax Collector's fee revenue over expenditures is to be distributed to each governmental agency in the same proportion as the fees paid by the governmental agency bear to total fee income of the office. The amount of the undistributed excess fees at the end of the fiscal year is reported as amounts due to the Board of County Commissioners and other taxing districts.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Fund Accounting

The accounts of the Tax Collector 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, as appropriate. 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 purposes of the Tax Collector's funds are as follows:

Governmental Fund

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

Fiduciary Funds

Custodial Funds – Custodial funds are fiduciary in nature and used to account for assets associated with property tax and motor vehicle activities, which benefit other governments.

Fund Balance and Spending Policies

In accordance with GASB Statement No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*, governments are required to classify fund balance in governmental funds as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned. As of September 30, 2025, there was no fund balance in the General Fund and no classification for fund balance is necessary.

As the Tax Collector is an elected official responsible for the activities of the Tax Collector's office, the Tax Collector is the highest level of decision-making authority and any official order from the Tax Collector would be required to authorize commitment of fund balance.

The Tax Collector has implemented fund balance and spending policies to clearly define the process for tracking the various classifications of fund balance. The policy states when an expenditure is incurred in which restricted, committed, assigned, or unassigned amounts are available to be used, the Tax Collector will first use restricted amounts, then committed amounts, then assigned amounts, and finally unassigned amounts.

Net Position

As of September 30, 2025, there was no net position in the Fiduciary Funds and no classification for net position is necessary.

Capital Assets

Capital assets are recorded as expenditures in the governmental funds at the time an asset is acquired. Assets acquired by the Tax Collector are capitalized at cost. Donated assets are recorded at acquisition value at the time received. All capital assets are reported in the government-wide financial statements of the County. The Tax Collector maintains custodial responsibility for these capital assets.

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Capital Assets (Continued)

Capital assets are defined by the Tax Collector as assets with an initial, individual cost of $1,500 or more and an estimated useful of life in excess of one year. Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the related assets.

Compensated Absences

The liability for compensated absences is reported in the government-wide statements of the County. Compensated absences consists of leave that has not been used that is attributable to services already rendered, accumulates and is more likely than not to be used for time off or otherwise paid in cash or settled through noncash means. The liability also includes amounts for leave that has been used for time off but has not yet been paid in cash or settled through noncash means and certain other types of leave.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of the fund financial statements is in conformity with GAAP, as applicable to government entities, requires management to make use of estimates that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements. Actual results could differ from estimates.

Other Postemployment Benefit Obligations

In accordance with Section 112.0801, Florida statutes, the Tax Collector participates with the County in offering retiring employees the opportunity to continue in the County's health insurance plan. The participating retirees pay a certain portion of the premium cost applicable to an active employee based on years of service and other factors. The liability and expense for other postemployment benefits, calculated in accordance with GASB Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other than Pension*, are reported in the financial statements of the County.

NOTE 2 CUSTODIAL CREDIT RISK

At September 30, 2025, the Tax Collector's bank balance was $798,816, consisting entirely of demand deposits. The entire amount of the demand deposits is deposited in a state of Florida qualified depository and, therefore, is fully collateralized.

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure the government's deposits may not be returned to it. The Tax Collector's monies must be deposited in banks designated as qualified public depositories by the chief financial officer, Florida Department of Financial Services. Therefore, the Tax Collector's total deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation and collateralized by the Bureau of Collateral Management, Division of Treasury, and Florida Department of Financial Services. The law requires the chief financial officer to ensure that funds are entirely collateralized throughout the fiscal year. Other than the preceding, the Tax Collector has no policy on custodial credit risk.

Collateral is provided for demand deposits through the Florida Security for Public Deposits Act. This law establishes guidelines for qualification and participation by banks and savings associations, procedures for the administration of the collateral requirements, and characteristics of eligible collateral. Under this law, the qualified public depository must pledge at least 25% of the average daily balance for each month of all public deposits in excess of any applicable deposit insurance.

Additional collateral, up to a maximum of 150%, may be required if deemed necessary under the conditions set forth in this law. Eligible collateral consists of obligations of the United States and its agencies and obligations of states and their local political subdivisions and unaffiliated corporations.

Obligations pledged to secure deposits must be delivered to the Department of Financial Services or, with the approval of the chief financial officer, to a bank, savings association, or trust company provided a power of attorney is delivered to the Chief Financial Officer. On a monthly basis, the chief financial officer determines that the collateral has a market value adequate to cover the deposits under the provisions of this law.

A reconciliation to amount shown on the balance sheet and statement of fiduciary net position is as follows:

Demand Deposits	$ 739,248
Petty Cash and Change Funds	1,450
Total	$ 740,698
Balance Sheet:	
Cash	$ 216,729
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position - Fiduciary Funds:	
Cash	523,969
Total Cash	$ 740,698

NOTE 3 CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the fiscal year is as follows:

	Balance October 1, 2024	Additions	Disposals	Balance September 30, 2025
Capital Assets, Being Depreciated:				
Machinery and Equipment	$ 147,018	$ -	$ -	$ 147,018
Less: Accumulated Depreciation:				
Machinery and Equipment	(124,484)	(5,593)	-	(130,077)
Total Capital Assets, Being Depreciated, Net	22,534	(5,593)	-	16,941
Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangement Assets:				
Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangements	63,015	-	-	63,015
Less Accumulated Amortization:				
Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangements	(57,375)	(3,842)	-	(61,217)
Total Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangement Assets, Net	5,640	(3,842)	-	1,798
Total Capital Assets, Net	$ 28,174	$ (9,435)	$ -	$ 18,739

NOTE 4 DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS

Background

The Florida Retirement System (FRS) was created by Chapter 121, Florida Statutes, to provide a defined benefit pension plan for participating public employees. The FRS was amended in 1998 to add the Deferred Retirement Option Program under the defined benefit plan and amended in 2000 to provide a defined contribution plan alternative to the defined benefit plan for FRS members effective July 1, 2002. This integrated defined contribution pension plan is the FRS Investment Plan. Chapter 112, Florida statutes, established the Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy (HIS) Program, a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan, to assist retired members of any state-administered retirement system in paying the costs of health insurance.

Essentially all regular employees of the Tax Collector are eligible to enroll as members of the state-administered FRS. Provisions relating to the FRS are established by Chapters 121 and 122, Florida statutes; Chapter 112, Part IV, Florida statutes; Chapter 238, Florida statutes; and FRS Rules, Chapter 60S, Florida Administrative Code; wherein eligibility, contributions, and benefits are defined and described in detail. Such provisions may be amended at any time by further action from the Florida Legislature. The FRS is a single retirement system administered by the Florida Department of Management Services, Division of Retirement, and consists of the two cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit plans and other nonintegrated programs. A annual comprehensive financial report of the FRS, which includes its financial statements, required supplementary information, actuarial report, and other relevant information, is available from the Florida Department of Management Services' Web site (www.dms.myflorida.com).

NOTE 4 DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)

Florida Retirement System Pension Plan

Plan Description

The Florida Retirement System Pension Plan (FRS Plan) is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan, with a Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) for eligible employees. The general classes of membership are as follows:

- *Regular Class* – Members of the FRS who do not qualify for membership in the other classes.
- *Elected County Officers Class* – Members who hold specified elective offices in local government.
- *Senior Management Service Class (SMSC)* – Members in senior management level positions.
- *Special Risk Class* – Members who are special risk employees, such as law enforcement officers, meet the criteria to qualify for this class.

Employees enrolled in the FRS Plan prior to July 1, 2011, vest at six years of creditable service and employees enrolled in the FRS Plan on or after July 1, 2011, vest at eight years of creditable service. All vested members, enrolled prior to July 1, 2011, are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 62 or at any age after 30 years of service, except for members classified as special risk who are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 55 if vested, or at any age after 25 years of service. All members enrolled in the FRS Plan on or after July 1, 2011, once vested, are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 65 or any time after 33 years of creditable service, except for members classified as special risk who are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 55, if vested, or at any age after 25 years of service. Employees enrolled in the FRS Plan may include up to four years of credit for military service toward creditable service. The FRS Plan also includes an early retirement provision; however, there is a benefit reduction for each year a member retires before his or her normal retirement date. The FRS Plan provides retirement, disability, death benefits, and annual cost-of-living adjustments to eligible participants.

DROP, subject to provisions of Section 121.091, Florida Statutes, permits employees eligible for normal retirement under the FRS Plan to defer receipt of monthly benefit payments while continuing employment with an FRS participating employer. An employee may participate in DROP for a period not to exceed 8 years after electing to participate, except that certain instructional personnel may participate for up to 10 years. During the period of DROP participation, deferred monthly benefits are held in the FRS Trust Fund and accrue interest. The net pension liability does not include amounts for DROP participants, as these members are considered retired and are not accruing additional pension benefits.

NOTE 4 DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)

Florida Retirement System Pension Plan (Continued)

Benefits Provided

Benefits under the FRS Plan are computed on the basis of age and/or years of service, average final compensation, and service credit. Credit for each year of service is expressed as a percentage of the average final compensation. For members initially enrolled before July 1, 2011, the average final compensation is the average of the five highest fiscal years' earnings; for members initially enrolled on or after July 1, 2011, the average final compensation is the average of the eight highest fiscal years' earnings. The total percentage value of the benefit received is determined by calculating the total value of all service, which is based on the retirement class to which the member belonged when the service credit was earned. Members are eligible for in-line-of-duty or regular disability and survivors' benefits.

As provided in Section 121.101, Florida statutes, if the member is initially enrolled in the FRS before July 1, 2011, and all service credit was accrued before July 1, 2011, the annual cost-of-living adjustment is 3% 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 3% determined by dividing the sum of the pre-July 2011 service credit by the total service credit at retirement multiplied by 3%. FRS Plan members initially enrolled on or after July 1, 2011, will not have a cost-of-living adjustment after retirement.

Detailed information about the County's proportionate share of FRS's net pension liability, deferred outflows/inflows of resources, and pension expense are reported in the government-wide statements of the County.

Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy Program

Plan Description

The Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy Program (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 June 30, 2025, eligible retirees and beneficiaries received a monthly HIS payment of $7.50 for each year of creditable service completed at the time of retirement, with a minimum HIS payment of $45 and a maximum HIS payment of $225 per month, pursuant to Section 112.363, Florida statutes. To be eligible to receive a HIS Plan benefit, a retiree under a State-administered retirement system must provide proof of health insurance coverage, which may include Medicare.

Detailed information about the County's proportionate share of HIS's net pension liability, deferred outflows/inflows of resources, and pension expense are reported in the government-wide statements of the County.

NOTE 4 DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)

FRS Investment Plan

The Florida State Board of Administration (SBA) administers the defined contribution plan officially titled the FRS Investment Plan (Investment Plan). The Investment Plan is reported in the SBA's annual financial statements and in the State of Florida Annual Comprehensive 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. Tax Collector 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 FRS defined benefit 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 plan, including the FRS Financial Guidance Program, are funded through an employer contribution of 0.06% of payroll and by forfeited benefits of plan members.

Benefits Provided

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 FRS Pension Plan is transferred to the Investment Plan, the member must have the years of service required for FRS 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 June 30, 2025, 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 Tax Collector.

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 FRS Pension Plan when approved for disability retirement to receive guaranteed lifetime monthly benefits under the FRS Pension Plan or remain in the Investment Plan and rely upon that account balance for retirement income.

NOTE 4 DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)

Contributions

Participating employer contributions are based upon statewide rates established by the state of Florida. The County's contributions made to the plans during the years ended September 30, 2025, 2024, and 2023 were $146,847, $141,192, and $122,288, respectively, equal to the actuarially determined contribution requirements for each year.

Additional information about pension plans can be found in the Hardee County's comprehensive annual financial report.

NOTE 5 COMPENSATED ABSENCES

The following is a summary of the changes in compensated absences for the year ended September 30, 2025:

	Balance October 1, 2024 As Restated*	Net Change	Balance September 30, 2025	Due Within One Year
Accrued Compensated Absences	$ 32,159	$ (14,848)	$ 17,311	$ 5,583

* Restated for implementation of GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*

The change in compensated absence liability is presented as a net change. See Note 1 for a summary of the Tax Collector's compensated absences policy. The long-term liabilities are not reported in the financial statements of the Tax Collector since they are not payable from spendable resources. They are reported in the financial statements of Hardee County.

NOTE 6 SUBSCRIPTION-BASED INFOMRATION TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENTS

The Tax Collector has entered into subscription based-information technology arrangements (SBITAs) for various terms under certain agreements that meet the definition under GASB Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Agreements*. Detailed information about the Tax Collector's SBITAs can be found in the Hardee County county-wide financial statements.

SBITAs entered into by the Tax Collector are included as other financing sources and capital outlay expenditures in the statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance in the year of inception. Payments made in accordance with the lease terms are reported as debt service expenditures in the statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance as they are incurred.

During the year ended September 30, 2025, the Tax Collector's payments of principal and interest totaled $3,913 and $56, respectively.

NOTE 7 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Transactions with the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners for the year ended September 30, 2025 were as follows:

The General Fund of the Tax Collector received revenue from the Board of County Commissioners in the amount of $805,938 for the year ended September 30, 2025. The General Fund of the Tax Collector paid $114,418 to the Board of County Commissioners for Health Insurance. In addition, $210,872 was due to the Board of County Commissioners at September 30, 2025 from the General Fund.

NOTE 8 RISK MANAGEMENT

The Tax Collector participates in the risk management program through the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners under a local government risk pool. The following types of risk are provided for under the risk management pool:

- Professional Liability
- Automobile Liability
- Public Officials' Liability
- Workers' Compensation

The risk pool assesses each member its prorata share of the estimated amount required to meet current year losses and operating expenses. If total member assessments (premiums) do not produce sufficient funds to meet its obligations, the pool can make additional limited assessments. Losses, if any, in excess of the pool's ability to assess its members would revert back to the member that incurred the loss.

NOTE 9 CONTINGENCIES

The Tax Collector is contingently liable with respect to lawsuits and other claims incidental to the ordinary course of its operations. In the opinion of management, the ultimate disposition of these lawsuits and claims should not have a material adverse effect on the financial position of the Tax Collector.

NOTE 10 CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLE

Effective October 1, 2024, the Tax Collector implemented GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*. This statement updated the recognition and measurement guidance for compensated absences and associated salary-related payments and amended certain previously required disclosures. The Tax Collector's liability for compensated absences is included in the government-wide financial statements of the County.

HARDEE COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR
COMBINING STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION –
FIDUCIARY FUNDS – CUSTODIAL FUNDS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Custodial Funds		Total
	Tax Collector	Motor Vehicle	Total Custodial Funds
ASSETS			
Cash	$ 394,359	$ 129,610	$ 523,969
LIABILITIES			
Due to Individuals	24,619	-	24,619
Due to Other Governments	3,216	129,610	132,826
Deposit - Installment Taxes	366,524	-	366,524
Total Liabilities	394,359	129,610	523,969
NET POSITION	$ -	$ -	$ -

HARDEE COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR
COMBINING STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION –
FIDUCIARY FUNDS – CUSTODIAL FUNDS
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Custodial Funds		Total
	Tax Collector	Motor Vehicle	Total Custodial Funds
ADDITIONS			
Property Tax Collections for Other Governments	$ 20,155,728	$ -	$ 20,155,728
License and Fees Collected for State Agencies	-	3,898,297	3,898,297
Total Additions	20,155,728	3,898,297	24,054,025
DEDUCTIONS			
Payments of Property Tax to Other Governments	20,151,395	-	20,151,395
Payments to State Agencies	4,333	3,898,297	3,902,630
Total Deductions	20,155,728	3,898,297	24,054,025
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION	-	-	-
Fiduciary Net Position - Beginning of Year	-	-	-
FIDUCIARY NET POSITION - END OF YEAR	$ -	$ -	$ -

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*

The Honorable Alisa Lee
Tax Collector
Hardee County, Florida

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the General Fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Tax Collector of Hardee County, Florida (Tax Collector), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Tax Collector's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated December 5, 2025.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

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

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

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

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

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the 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.

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Lakeland, Florida
December 5, 2025

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP
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MANAGEMENT LETTER

The Honorable Alisa Lee
Tax Collector
Hardee County, Florida

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the financial statements of the Tax Collector of Hardee County, Florida, (Tax Collector) as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025, and have issued our report thereon dated December 5, 2025.

Auditors' Responsibility

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

Other Reporting Requirements

We have issued our Independent 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* 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, which are dated December 5, 2025, should be considered in conjunction with this management letter.

Prior Audit Findings

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

Official Title and Legal Authority

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

Financial Management

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

Additional Matters

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

Purpose of this Letter

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

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Lakeland, Florida
December 5, 2025

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

The Honorable Alisa Lee, Tax Collector
and the Florida Auditor General
Hardee County, Florida

We have examined the Tax Collector of Hardee County, Florida's (Tax Collector) compliance with Section 218.415, Florida statutes, regarding the investment of public funds during the year ended September 30, 2025. Management of the Tax Collector is responsible for the Tax Collector's compliance with the specified requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Tax Collector's compliance with the specified requirements based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Tax Collector complied, in all material respects, with the specified requirements referenced above. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about whether the Tax Collector complied with the specified requirements. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

We are required to be independent and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to the engagement.

Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the Tax Collector's compliance with specified requirements.

In our opinion, the Tax Collector complied, in all material respects, with Section 218.415, Florida Statutes, regarding the investment of public funds during the year ended September 30, 2025.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of 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.

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Lakeland, Florida
December 5, 2025