

**Sarasota County, Florida
Sheriff's Office**

Financial Statements

September 30, 2024



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REPORT





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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Honorable Kurt A. Hoffman
Sheriff
Sarasota 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 Sarasota County, Florida, Sheriff ("Sheriff") as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Sheriff's 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 each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Sheriff as of September 30, 2024, and the changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the fiscal year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

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

Emphasis of Matter

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

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 Sheriff's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Sheriff's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Sheriff's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Budgetary Comparison Schedule – General Fund, as listed in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the financial statements. Such information, although not a required part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of the basic financial reporting for placing the financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the 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 Sheriff's basic financial statements. The combining financial statements are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America by us and other auditors. In our opinion, based on our audit and the report of the other auditors, the combining financial statements are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued a report dated December 31, 2024, 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 included under the heading *Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with Governmental Auditing Standards*. 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.

Carr, Riggs & Ingram, L.L.C.

Carr, Riggs, & Ingram, LLC

Sarasota, FL
December 31, 2024



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



**Sarasota County, Florida
Sheriff's Office
Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds**

September 30, 2024

	General	Inmate Welfare	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS				
Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 15,213,911	\$ 1,256,237	\$ 1,108,140	\$ 17,578,288
Investments	3,836	-	-	3,836
Accounts receivable	1,738,214	276,543	1,371,916	3,386,673
Due from other funds	-	9,327	-	9,327
Prepaid	37,519	544	-	38,063
Total assets	\$ 16,993,480	\$ 1,542,651	\$ 2,480,056	\$ 21,016,187
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE				
Liabilities				
Vouchers payable	\$ 2,450,474	\$ 365,901	\$ 1,225,448	\$ 4,041,823
Accounts payable	4,655	-	-	4,655
Accrued wages and benefits	9,368,162	-	-	9,368,162
Due to other governments	520,363	-	9,327	529,690
Due to individuals	-	-	91,719	91,719
Due to Sarasota County, Florida Board of County Commissioners	4,649,826	-	-	4,649,826
Total liabilities	16,993,480	365,901	1,326,494	18,685,875
Fund balances				
Nonspendable	37,519	544	-	38,063
Restricted	-	1,176,206	1,153,562	2,329,768
Unassigned	(37,519)	-	-	(37,519)
Total fund balance	-	1,176,750	1,153,562	2,330,312
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$ 16,993,480	\$ 1,542,651	\$ 2,480,056	\$ 21,016,187

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

**Sarasota County, Florida
Sheriff's Office**
**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes
in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds**

For the year ended September 30, 2024

	General	Inmate Welfare	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues				
Charges for services	\$ 1,866,722	\$ -	\$ 94,709	\$ 1,961,431
Commissions	-	4,296,280	-	4,296,280
Judgements, fines, and forfeits	-	-	100,581	100,581
Grant revenue	1,760	-	60,734	62,494
Interest and other earnings income	277,779	27,905	27,168	332,852
Donations and other revenue	184,313	147,989	522,594	854,896
Total revenues	2,330,574	4,472,174	805,786	7,608,534
Expenditures				
Personnel services	145,430,757	1,387,987	183,838	147,002,582
Operating expenditures	28,794,087	3,397,745	275,212	32,467,044
Capital outlay	19,932,222	-	-	19,932,222
Grants and aids	69,000	-	30,540	99,540
Total expenditures	194,226,066	4,785,732	489,590	199,501,388
Excess (Deficiency) of expenditures over revenues	(191,895,492)	(313,558)	316,196	(191,892,854)
Other financing sources (uses)				
Sale of general capital assets	2,864,608	-	-	2,864,608
Compensation for loss of general capital assets	13,996	-	-	13,996
Transfers in:				
Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners	196,964,689	-	-	196,964,689
Transfers out:				
Interfund - Internal service	(3,297,975)	-	-	(3,297,975)
Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners	(4,649,826)	-	-	(4,649,826)
Total other financing sources	191,895,492	-	-	191,895,492
Net change in fund balance	-	(313,558)	316,196	2,638
Fund balances, beginning of year	-	1,490,308	837,366	2,327,674
Fund balances, end of year	\$ -	\$ 1,176,750	\$ 1,153,562	\$ 2,330,312

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

**Sarasota County, Florida
Sheriff's Office
Statement of Net Position – Internal Service Fund**

September 30,

2024

ASSETS

Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$14,348,715
Accounts receivable	46,790
Total assets	\$14,395,505

LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION

Liabilities

Claims payable	\$ 1,806,813
Total liabilities	1,806,813

Net position

Unrestricted	12,588,692
Total net position	12,588,692

Total liabilities and net position	\$14,395,505
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The accompanying notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**Sarasota County, Florida
Sheriff's Office
Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and
Changes in Net Position—Internal Service Fund**

For the year ended September 30, 2024

Revenues

Charges for services	\$25,254,121
Interest and other earnings	
Other revenue	2,102,676
Total revenues	27,356,797

Expenditures

Claims and claims expenses	20,103,851
Reinsurance premiums	7,572,353
Administrative and other expenses	2,811,264
Total expenditures	30,487,468

Operating Loss	(3,130,671)
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Other financing sources

Compensation for recovery of claims	-
Transfers in:	
Interfund - General fund	3,297,975
Total other financing sources	3,297,975

Change in net position	167,304
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Net position, beginning of year	12,421,388
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Net position, end of year	\$12,588,692
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The accompanying notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**Sarasota County, Florida
Sheriff's Office
Statement of Cash Flows – Internal Service Fund**

For the year ended September 30,

2024

Cash Flows from Operating Activities

Cash payments for claims and claims related services	\$ (19,869,927)
Cash payments for reinsurance premiums	(7,572,353)
Cash payments for administrative services and supplies	(2,811,264)
Cash received from other funds for services	27,356,797
 Net cash used in operating activities	 (2,896,747)

Cash Flows from Noncapital Financing Activities

Cash received from other funds	3,297,975
 Net cash provided by noncapital financing activities	 3,297,975
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	401,228
 Cash and cash equivalents - beginning of year	 13,947,487
 Cash and cash equivalents - end of year	 \$ 14,348,715

**Reconciliation of operating income to net cash
provided by operating activities**

Operating loss	\$ (3,130,671)
Decrease in self insurance claims payable	230,264
Decrease in accounts receivable	3,660
 Net cash used in operating activities	 \$ (2,896,747)

**Sarasota County, Florida
Sheriff's Office
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position – Custodial Fund**

<u>September 30,</u>	<u>2024</u>
	Prisoner Fund
ASSETS	
Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 203,770
Due from individuals and businesses	1,397,864
Total assets	\$ 1,601,634
LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION	
Liabilities	
Due to individuals and businesses	-
Total liabilities	-
Net Position	
Fiduciary net position - held for others	1,601,634
Total Fiduciary Net Position	\$ 1,601,634

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

**Sarasota County, Florida
Sheriff's Office
Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position – Custodial Fund**

<u>September 30,</u>	<u>2024</u>
	Prisoner Fund
Additions	
Inmate trust	\$ -
Total additions	- -
Deductions	
Distributions to beneficiaries	- -
Inmate trust	45,036
Total deductions	45,036
Change in net position	(45,036)
Net position - beginning	1,646,670
Net position - ending	\$ 1,601,634

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

**Sarasota County, Florida
Sheriff's Office
Notes to the Financial Statements**

Note 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Reporting Entity

The Sarasota County, Florida Sheriff (Sheriff) is an elected constitutional officer established pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Florida and the Home Rule Charter of Sarasota County, Florida (the "County"). Pursuant to the Home Rule Charter, the Sheriff's budget is submitted to the Sarasota County Florida Board of County Commissioners (the "Board") for approval.

For financial reporting purposes, the Sheriff is deemed to be a part of the primary government of the County and, therefore, is included as such in the Sarasota County, Florida Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. However, the Sheriff's financial statements do not purport to reflect the financial position for the results of operations of the County taken as a whole.

Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation

The Sheriff's financial statements have been prepared solely for the purpose of complying with the Rules of the Auditor General of the State of Florida (the "Rules"). These financial statements are the fund financial statements required by generally accepted accounting principles. However, these fund statements do not constitute a complete presentation because, in conformity with the Rules, the Sheriff has not presented reconciliations to the government-wide financial statements, management's discussion and analysis, or the pension or the other post-employment benefit related required supplementary information. Also, certain notes to the financial statements may supplement rather than duplicate the notes included in the County's countywide financial statements. In conformity with the Rules, the accompanying financial statements are intended to present the financial position and changes in financial position, where applicable, of each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information, only for that portion of each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information, of Sarasota County, Florida, that is attributable to the Sheriff. They do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of Sarasota County, Florida, as of September 30, 2024, and the changes in its financial position, where applicable, for the fiscal year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Fund Financial Statements

Governmental Funds

The fund financial statements provide information about the Sheriff's funds, including its Fiduciary Fund. Separate statements for each fund category—governmental, proprietary, and fiduciary—are presented. The emphasis of fund financial statements is on major governmental and enterprise funds, each displayed in a separate column. All remaining governmental and enterprise funds are aggregated and reported as nonmajor funds. Major individual governmental and enterprise funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements.

**Sarasota County, Florida
Sheriff's Office
Notes to the Financial Statements**

Note 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Fund Financial Statements (Continued)

The general fund and special revenue funds are governmental funds which use 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 compensated absences and claims and judgments are recorded only when payments are due. The Sheriff has the following governmental funds:

- *General Fund* - is used to account for all general operations of the Sheriff and all transactions that are not accounted for in another fund.
- *Inmate Welfare Fund* - is a special revenue fund used to account for the purchase and sale of items to inmates, such as snack and toiletry articles, at the jail's commissary. The revenue generated by inmate sales and jail telephone commissions are used to fund the purchase of goods and services for the benefit of the inmates.
- *Training Fund* – is a special revenue fund used to account for income from fines and forfeitures and used for training Sheriff's officers and other employees.
- *Miscellaneous Revenue Fund* – is a special revenue fund used to account for income and expenditures from miscellaneous sources such as sale of scrap, firing range fees, and other various sources.
- *Disaster Preparedness Fund* – is a special revenue fund used to account for the expenditures primarily for natural disasters that the Sheriff's office assisted with and revenue from FEMA reimbursement.

Proprietary Fund

An internal service fund is a proprietary fund and is accounting for using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of the related cash flow. The Sheriff has the following internal service fund:

- *Self-Insurance Fund* – This fund is used to account for the Sheriff's insurance activities including employee welfare, risk liability, and workers' compensation. Employee welfare includes, but is not limited to, medical, dental, vision, life, and long-term disability. Retirees are eligible for medical, dental, vision and life insurance on a cost-reimbursement basis.

Fiduciary Fund

The Prisoner Fund is used to account for assets received and held by the Sheriff in the capacity of a custodian for individuals currently held in the jail.

**Sarasota County, Florida
Sheriff's Office
Notes to the Financial Statements**

Note 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Budgetary Information

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 personnel services, operating expenditures, capital outlay, and debt service in governmental fund types in the financial statements of the County, and as appropriations revenues in the basic financial statements of the Sheriff. The preparation, adoption, and administration of the Sheriff's annual budget is governed by *Florida Statutes*. The budget and amendments, if any, are adopted in the same manner as the budget for the Board. A budget is only required to be prepared for the General Fund and it is prepared on a basis consistent with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. Budgetary control is exercised at the fund level. Budgetary changes within the fund are made at the discretion of the Sheriff.

Budgets are not required to be legally adopted for the Sheriff's Special Revenue Funds.

Distribution of "Excess Fees"

The Board requires that the excess of the County appropriations (and other revenues) over expenditures be returned to the Board at the end of the fiscal year. Repayments to the County are recorded as other financing uses in the basic financial statements of the Sheriff and as a reduction in personal services, operating expenditures, capital outlay, and debt service in the basic financial statements of the County. The amount of undistributed excess appropriations at the end of the fiscal year is reported as amounts due to the Board.

Assets, Liabilities, and Fund Balance

Cash and Cash Equivalents - The Sheriff's cash and cash equivalents are considered to be cash on hand, demand deposits, and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

Accounts Receivable - Commission revenues are generally recognized on the basis of billings rendered monthly. The amount of commissions earned for the period from the last billing date to September 30, 2024 is estimated and accrued at year end. The Sheriff deems all amounts collectable therefore an allowance for doubtful accounts is not necessary.

Vouchers Payable and Accrued Liabilities - Balances consist primarily of accrued payroll and related expense for retirement and social security and trade accounts payables.

Claims Payable – Balances consist of claims due and payable for self-insurance.

**Sarasota County, Florida
Sheriff's Office
Notes to the Financial Statements**

Note 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Assets, Liabilities, and Fund Balance (Continued)

Fund Balance

Governmental funds report fund balances are classified either as nonspendable, or as spendable. Spendable fund balances are further classified based on the extent to which there are external and internal constraints on the spending of these fund balances. These classifications are described as follows:

Nonspendable Fund Balance – Amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form or legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

Restricted Fund Balance – Amounts that are constrained for specific purposes which are externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations or imposed by laws through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. The Sheriff is reporting restricted fund balances in the Inmate Welfare, Miscellaneous Revenue, Training, and Disaster Preparedness funds.

Committed Fund Balance – Amounts that are constrained for specific purposes imposed by the Sheriff's formal action of highest level of decision making authority and can only be changed by the same level of action.

Assigned Fund Balance – Includes spendable fund balances intended to be used for specific purposes, but which are neither restricted nor committed.

Unassigned Fund Balance – Represents the residual positive fund balance within the General Fund, which has restricted, committed, or assigned, or is non spendable. In funds other than the General Fund, unassigned fund balances are limited to negative residual balances.

It is the Sheriff's intent to first spend restricted amounts when both restricted and unrestricted fund balances are available.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements requires management of the Sheriff to make a number of estimates and assumptions related to the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures during the period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Interfund Activities and Transactions

Interfund transactions are reflected as services provided, reimbursements, or transfers. Services provided, deemed to be at or near market rates, are treated as revenues and expenditures/expenses. Reimbursements are when on fund incurs a cost, charges the appropriate benefitting fund, and reduces its related cost as a reimbursement. All other interfund transactions are treated as transfers.

**Sarasota County, Florida
Sheriff's Office
Notes to the Financial Statements**

Note 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Recently Issued and Implemented Accounting Pronouncements

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

Subsequent Events

Management has evaluated subsequent events through the date that the financial statements were available to be issued, December 31, 2024 and determined there were no events that occurred that required disclosure. No subsequent events occurring after this date have been evaluated for inclusion in these financial statements.

**Sarasota County, Florida
Sheriff's Office
Notes to the Financial Statements**

Note 2: DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

At September 30, 2024, the book balance of deposits and cash on hand, including the Fiduciary Fund, was \$32,146,245 and the bank balances were \$31,055,237. The Sheriff's bank balances include insured deposits under Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) in the amount of \$250,000 for each banking relationship. The remaining balances are collateralized pursuant to Chapter 280, *Florida Statutes*.

Florida Statutes authorize the Sheriff to invest in the State Board of Administration Local Government Surplus Funds Trust Funds Investments Pool (the "Surplus Funds Investment Pool's"), certain obligations of the U.S. Treasury and U.S., Agencies, repurchase agreements, and interest-bearing time deposits and savings accounts held in banks and savings and loans. At September 30, 2024, the Sheriff had \$3,836 invested with the Surplus Funds Trust Funds Investments Pool. This is reported at amortized cost and is included in cash and cash equivalents on the balance sheet.

The Surplus Funds Investment Pool is administered by the State Board of Administration, under regulatory oversight of the State of Florida, Chapter 19-7 of the Florida Administrative Code. The Prime pool was rated AAAm principal stability fund rating by Standard and Poor's rating agency.

Custodial credit risk – Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution a government may not be able to recover deposits. Monies placed on deposit with financial institutions in the form of demand deposits, time deposits, or certificate of deposits are defined as public deposits. The financial institutions in which the Sheriff places its deposits are certified as "qualified public depositories", as required under the Florida Security for Security for Public Deposits Act. For an investment, this is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the Sheriff will not be able to recover the value of its investment or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party.

Interest rate risk – Interest rate risk is the possibility that interest rates will rise and reduce the fair value of an investment. The Sheriff limits interest rate risk by maintaining an investment portfolio with limited volatility. The investment policy states that no security shall have an estimated average return of principal exceeding five years, unless the investment is an adjustable rate security.

Credit risk – Section 150: *Investments* of the GASB Codification requires that governments provide information about credit risk associated with their investments by disclosing the credit rating of investments in debt securities as described by nationally recognized statistical rating organizations. The Sheriff's investment policy limits credit risk by restricting the authorized investments to securities with specific ranking criteria.

Note 3: COMPENSATED ABSENCES

The amount of vested accumulated compensated absences payable based upon the Sheriff's paid-time-off (PTO) policy is reported as a liability in the government-wide financial statements of the County. That liability is based on length of employment, and includes earned but unused PTO and sick time, as well as FICA taxes related thereto. It consists of the following components:

- 100% of earned, but unused vacation leave
- 25% of earned, but unused sick leave, for employees with greater than ten years of service
- 50% of earned, but unused sick leave, for employees with greater than twenty years of service
- 100% of earned, but unused compensatory leave

**Sarasota County, Florida
Sheriff's Office
Notes to the Financial Statements**

Note 3: COMPENSATED ABSENCES (Continued)

The following is a summary of changes in compensated absences:

October 1, 2023	Increases	Decreases	September 30, 2024
<u>\$ 21,379,417</u>	<u>\$ 19,268,129</u>	<u>\$ 14,578,200</u>	<u>\$ 26,069,346</u>

The current portion of the above liability at September 30, 2024, is \$17,998,603. These liabilities are liquidated by the General Fund.

Note 4: 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 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 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. 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 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.

**Sarasota County, Florida
Sheriff's Office
Notes to the Financial Statements**

NOTE 4: Pension Plans (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 6 years of creditable service and employees enrolled in the FRS Plan on or after July 1, 2011, vest at 8 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 60 or at any age after 30 years of service. Employees enrolled in the FRS Plan may include up to 4 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 5 highest fiscal years' earnings; for members initially enrolled on or after July 1, 2011, the average final compensation is the average of the 8 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.

**Sarasota County, Florida
Sheriff's Office
Notes to the Financial Statements**

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 percent per year. If the member is initially enrolled before July 1, 2011, and has service credit on or after July 1, 2011, there is an individually calculated cost-of-living adjustment. The annual cost-of-living adjustment is a proportion of 3 percent determined by dividing the sum of the pre-July 2011 service credit by the total service credit at retirement multiplied by 3 percent.

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, 2024, 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.

**Sarasota County, Florida
Sheriff's Office
Notes to the Financial Statements**

NOTE 4: 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. 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 the plan, including the FRS Financial Guidance Program, are funded through an employer contribution of 0.04 percent of payroll and by forfeited benefits of plan members.

For all membership classes, employees are immediately vested in their own contributions and are vested after 1 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. Non-vested employer contributions are placed in a suspense account for up to 5 years. If the employee returns to FRS-covered employment within the 5-year period, the employee will regain control over their account. If the employee does not return within the 5-year period, the employee will forfeit the accumulated account balance. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, the information for the amount of forfeitures was unavailable from the SBA; however, management believes that these amounts, if any, would be immaterial to the 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 applicable to the years ended September 30, 2024, 2023, and 2022 were \$25,657,384, \$20,213,577, and \$15,351,808, respectively, equal to the actuarially determined contribution requirements for each year. Additional information about pension plans can be found in the County's comprehensive annual financial report.

**Sarasota County, Florida
Sheriff's Office
Notes to the Financial Statements**

Note 5: DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN

The Sheriff's employees can voluntarily participate in Sarasota County's Deferred Compensation Plan. The County offers a deferred compensation plan created in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code Section 457. The plan, available to all Sheriff's employees, permits them to defer a portion of their salary until future years. The deferred compensation is not available to employees until termination, retirement, death or unforeseeable emergency.

Note 6: POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSIONS

The Sheriff provides postemployment health care benefits in accordance with Section 112.0801, *Florida Statutes*, to all employees who retire from the Sheriff. The Sheriff is required to provide health care coverage at cost to all retirees but does not have to pay any portion of the premium for the retiree to participate in the Sheriff's group health care plan. The liability and expense for other postemployment benefits, calculated in accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 75 *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postretirement Benefits Other Than Pensions*, are reported in the financial statements of the County.

Effective January 1, 2019, the Sheriff's Office established a group health insurance plan intended to provide medical and prescription benefits to the Sheriff's current and retired employees. Prior to January 1, 2019, employees and retirees were covered under a health plan managed by the Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners. Additionally, in accordance with Florida Statute 112.0801, the Sheriff's employees who retire and immediately begin receiving benefits from the FRS have the option of paying premiums to continue in the Sheriff's health insurance plan at the same group rate as for active employees.

Participant Data

At September 30, 2022, the date of the latest actuarial valuation, the Sheriff's plan participation consisted of:

Active Employees	965
Inactive employees or beneficiaries currently receiving benefit payments	205

Funding Policy

The Sheriff has the authority to establish and amend funding policy. The OPEB Plan is currently being funded on a pay-as-you-go basis. No trust or agency fund has been established for the plan.

Total OPEB Liability

The Sheriff's OPEB liability of \$13,156,376 was measured as of September 30, 2024, and was determined by an actuarial valuation as of September 30, 2022. The following table shows the changes in the Sheriff's total OPEB liability for the year ended September 30, 2024.

**Sarasota County, Florida
Sheriff's Office
Notes to the Financial Statements**

Note 6: POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSIONS (Continued)

Balance, as of October 1, 2024	\$ 12,302,216
Changes:	
Service cost	455,023
Interest	568,851
Changes of benefit terms	-
Difference between expected and actual experience of the total OPEB liability	-
Changes in assumptions and other inputs	772,374
<u>Benefit payments</u>	<u>(942,088)</u>
<u>Net changes</u>	<u>854,160</u>
<u>Balance, as of September 30, 2024</u>	<u>\$ 13,156,376</u>

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

	Discount Rate Sensitivity		
	1% Decrease	Discount Rate	1% Increase
	(2.81%)	(3.81%)	(4.81%)
Total OPEB liability	\$ 14,182,508	\$ 13,156,376	\$ 12,222,446

Total OPEB Liability

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

	Healthcare Rate Sensitivity		
	1% Decrease	Trend Rate Assumption	1% Increase
	(11,647,795)	\$ 13,156,376	\$ 14,983,037
Total OPEB liability	\$ 11,647,795	\$ 13,156,376	\$ 14,983,037

Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB

For the year ended September 30, 2024, the Sheriff's OPEB expense was \$1,361,062. In addition, the Sheriff reported deferred outflows and deferred inflows of resources from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 2,259,937	\$ -
Changes in assumptions and other inputs	2,173,894	1,839,360
Total	\$ 4,433,831	\$ 1,839,360

**Sarasota County, Florida
Sheriff's Office
Notes to the Financial Statements**

Note 6: POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSIONS (Continued)

Amounts reported as deferred outflows and deferred inflows of resources are being amortized over 12.0 years and will be recognized as follows:

Year ending September 30,	Amount
2025	\$ 337,188
2026	337,188
2027	337,188
2028	337,188
2029	313,273
Thereafter	932,446
Total	2,594,471

Actuarial Methods and Assumptions

Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about the probability about future employment, mortality, and the healthcare cost trend. Amounts determined regarding the funded status of the plan and the annual required contributions of the employer are subject to continual revision as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

Calculations for financial reporting purposes are based on the benefits provided under terms of the plan as understood by the employer and the plan members in effect at the time of each valuation and on the pattern of sharing of costs between the employer and plan members to that point. The projection of benefits for financial reporting purposes does not explicitly incorporate the potential effects of legal or contractual funding limitations on the pattern of cost sharing between the employer and plan members in the future. Actuarial calculations reflect a long-term perspective. Consistent with that perspective, actuarial methods and assumptions used include techniques that are designed to reduce the effects of short-term volatility in actuarial accrued liabilities and the actuarial value of assets.

The actuarial methods are:

Actuarial cost method Entry Age Normal

The actuarial assumptions are:

Discount rate	3.81% (Based on a 20-Year AA municipal bond rate)
Inflation rate	2.50%
Healthcare cost trend rate	7.50% decreasing to 6.50% in 2024 followed by 6.50% for 2024 and gradually decreasing to an ultimate trend rate of 4.00%.
Salary increase	Salary increase rates used in the July 1, 2022 actuarial valuation of the Florida Retirement System; 3.4% - 7.8%, including inflation

**Sarasota County, Florida
Sheriff's Office
Notes to the Financial Statements**

Note 6: POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSIONS (Continued)

Mortality rates were based on the tables used in the July 1, 2023 actuarial valuation of the Florida Retirement System. They are based on the results of a statewide experience study covering the period 2013 through 2018.

The following changes have been made since the prior year valuation:

- The discount rate was changed from 4.63% as of the beginning of the measurement period to 3.81% as of September 30, 2024.

Note 7: RISK MANAGEMENT

The Sheriff's Office established their own plans that include risk management of general and automotive liability and workers' compensation, effective October 1, 2018; and employee group health insurance activities, effective January 1, 2019. As a result, the Sheriff established its own internal service fund to record all activity related to insurance and risk management.

The Sheriff is insured under sovereign immunity up to a maximum of \$200,000 per person/\$300,000 per occurrence for claims against the Sheriff involving negligence, including automobile and general liability. Negligence claims in excess of statutory limits set in Section 768.28, *Florida Statutes*, can only be recovered through an act of the State of Florida Legislature.

The Sheriff carries a fully insured workers' compensation plan. Employee medical benefit claims exceeding \$250,000 per covered participant are covered with unlimited excess insurance. The Sheriff has also established a fully-funded employee dental plan for active employees and retirees.

There have been no significant reductions in insurance coverage in the last year. Settled claims have not exceeded the insurance provided by third party carriers in any of the last three years.

Note 8: COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Litigation

The Sheriff is involved in various claims and legal actions arising in the ordinary course of operations. In the opinion of management, the ultimate disposition of these matters will not have a material adverse effect on the Sheriff.

Grants

The Sheriff is the recipient of grants that are subject to special compliance requirements and audits by the grantor agencies that may result in disallowed expense amounts. These amounts constitute a contingent liability of the Sheriff. The Sheriff does not believe any contingent liabilities, if any, to be material to the financial statements.



REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION



**Sarasota County, Florida
Sheriff's Office
Required Supplementary Information
Budgetary Comparison Schedule - General Fund**

For the year ended September 30, 2024

	<u>Budget</u>				Variance With Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final	Actual		
Revenues					
Charges for services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,866,722	\$ (1,866,722)	
Grant revenue	- -	- -	1,760	(1,760)	
Interest earnings	- -	- -	277,779	(277,779)	
Miscellaneous	- -	- -	184,313	(184,313)	
Total revenues	- -	- -	2,330,574	(2,330,574)	
Expenditures					
Personnel services	143,485,629	143,566,098	145,430,757	(1,864,659)	
Operating expenditures	30,787,350	32,103,846	28,794,087	3,309,759	
Capital outlay	7,777,679	21,229,745	19,932,222	1,297,523	
Grants and aids	65,000	65,000	69,000	(4,000)	
Total expenditures	182,115,658	196,964,689	194,226,066	2,738,623	
Excess of expenditures over revenues	(182,115,658)	(196,964,689)	(191,895,492)	(5,069,197)	
Other financing sources (uses)					
Sale of general capital assets	- -	- -	2,864,608	(2,864,608)	
Compensation for loss of general capital assets	- -	- -	13,996	(13,996)	
Transfers in:					
Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners	182,115,658	196,964,689	196,964,689	-	
Transfers out:					
Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners	- -	- -	(4,649,826)	4,649,826	
Net other financing sources (uses)	182,115,658	196,964,689	191,895,492	5,069,197	
Net change in fund balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-

Supplementary Financial Information

**Sarasota County, Florida
Sheriff's Office
Combining Balance Sheet –
Nonmajor Governmental Funds**

September 30, 2024

	Training	Miscellaneous Revenue	Disaster Preparedness	Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds
ASSETS				
Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 390,340	\$ 717,800	\$ -	\$ 1,108,140
Accounts receivable	8,940	27,219	1,335,757	1,371,916
Total assets	\$ 399,280	\$ 745,019	\$ 1,335,757	\$ 2,480,056
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE				
Liabilities				
Vouchers payable	\$ -	\$ 346	\$ 1,225,102	\$ 1,225,448
Accrued wages and benefits	-	-	-	-
Due to other governments	-	9,327	-	9,327
Due to individuals	-	91,719	-	91,719
Total liabilities	-	101,392	1,225,102	1,326,494
Fund balances				
Assigned	-	-	-	-
Unassigned	-	-	-	-
Restricted	399,280	643,627	110,655	1,153,562
Total fund balance	399,280	643,627	110,655	1,153,562
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$ 399,280	\$ 745,019	\$ 1,335,757	\$ 2,480,056

**Sarasota County, Florida
Sheriff's Office**
**Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures,
and Changes in Fund Balance – Nonmajor Governmental Funds**

For the year ended September 30, 2024

	Training	Miscellaneous Revenue	Disaster Preparedness	Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds
Revenues				
Charges for services	\$ -	\$ 94,709	\$ -	\$ 94,709
Judgements, fines, and forfeits	100,581	-	-	100,581
Grant revenue	-	-	60,734	60,734
Interest and other earnings income	9,066	18,102	-	27,168
Donations and other revenue	32,239	221,763	268,592	522,594
Total revenues	141,886	334,574	329,326	805,786
Expenditures				
Personnel services	-	97,362	86,476	183,838
Operating expenditures	45,719	150,576	78,917	275,212
Capital outlay	-	-	-	-
Grants and aids	-	30,540	-	30,540
Total expenditures	45,719	278,478	165,393	489,590
Net change in fund balance	96,167	56,096	163,933	316,196
Fund balances, beginning of year	303,113	587,531	(53,278)	837,366
Fund balances, end of year	\$ 399,280	\$ 643,627	\$ 110,655	\$ 1,153,562

Supplemental Reports



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

Honorable Kurt A. Hoffman
Sheriff
Sarasota 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 Sarasota County, Florida, Sheriff (the "Sheriff") as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Sheriff's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated December 31, 2024, which contains an emphasis of matter to refer to a basis of accounting required for compliance with state filing requirements, however, our report was not modified with respect to this matter.

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. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

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

Purpose of this Report

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carr, Riggs & Ingram, L.L.C." The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small vertical line above the 'i' in Ingram.

Carr, Riggs, & Ingram, LLC

Sarasota, FL
December 31, 2024



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MANAGEMENT LETTER

Honorable Kurt A. Hoffman
Sheriff
Sarasota County, Florida

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the financial statements of the Sarasota County, Florida, Sheriff ("Sheriff"), as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, and have issued our report thereon dated December 31, 2024, which contains an emphasis to refer to a basis of accounting required for compliance with state filing requirements, however, our report was not modified with respect to this matter.

Auditor's Responsibility

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

Other Reporting Requirements

We have issued our Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of the Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*; and Independent Accountant's Report on an examination conducted in accordance with *AICPA Professional Standards*, AT-C Section 315, regarding compliance requirements in accordance with Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General. Disclosures in those reports, which are dated December 31, 2024, 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 such findings or recommendations made in the preceding annual financial audit.

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 the management letter, unless disclosed in the notes to the financial statements. See Note 1 in notes to financial statements.

Financial Management

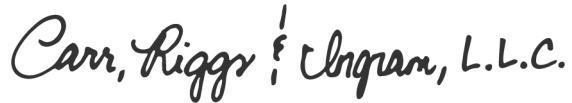
Section 10.554(1)(i)2., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that we communicate any recommendations to improve financial management. In connection with our audit, we did not have any such recommendations.

Additional Matters

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

Purpose of this Letter

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carr, Riggs, & Ingram, L.L.C." The signature is cursive and includes a small vertical mark above the letter "i" in "Ingram".

Carr, Riggs, & Ingram, LLC

Sarasota, FL
December 31, 2024



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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

The Honorable Kurt A. Hoffman
Sheriff
Sarasota County, Florida

We have examined Sarasota County, Florida, Sheriff's (the "Sheriff") compliance with Section 218.415, *Florida Statutes*, regarding the investment of public funds, during the year ended September 30, 2024. Management 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 AICPA. 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.

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.

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, 2024.

Carr, Riggs & Ingram, L.L.C.

Carr, Riggs, & Ingram, LLC

Sarasota, FL
December 31, 2024