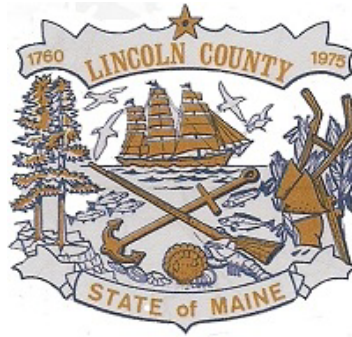


# County of Lincoln, Maine



## Annual Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Independently Audited By



*Proven Expertise & Integrity*

**County of Lincoln Maine**

**December 31, 2023**

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

County Commissioners  
County of Lincoln  
Wiscasset, Maine

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

#### *Opinions*

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the County of Lincoln, Maine as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023 and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the County of Lincoln, Maine'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 the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the County of Lincoln, Maine as of December 31, 2023 and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### *Basis for Opinions*

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

### Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the

United States of America and for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the County of Lincoln, Maine'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 Financial Statements

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

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

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatements 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 controls 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 of Lincoln, Maine'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 doubt about the County of Lincoln, Maine's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

### *Required Supplementary Information*

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, budgetary comparison information, pension and OPEB information on pages 4 through 9 and 37 through 41 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

### Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 31, 2024, on our consideration of the County of Lincoln, Maine's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants 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 of Lincoln, Maine'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 County of Lincoln, Maine's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

*RHR Smith & Company*

Buxton, Maine  
May 31, 2024



## Management's Discussion and Analysis

Lincoln County (the County) provides this Management's Discussion and Analysis to present additional information to the readers of the County's basic financial statements. This narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the County is for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023. Readers are encouraged to consider this information in conjunction with the additional information that is furnished in the County's basic financial statements and required supplementary information.

### Overview of the Financial Statements

The County's basic financial statements include the following components:

- 1) Government-wide Financial Statements,
- 2) Fund Financial Statements, and
- 3) Notes to the Basic Financial Statements.

This report also includes *required supplementary information* (RSI) in addition to the basic financial statements.

### Government-wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements provide a broad view of the County's operations in a manner that is similar to private business. These statements provide both short-term as well as long-term information in regards to the County's financial position. These financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. This measurement focus takes into account all revenues and expenses associated with the fiscal year regardless of when cash is received or paid. The government-wide financial statements include the following two statements:

The Statement of Net Position – this statement presents *all* of the government's assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of resources with the difference being reported as net position.

The Statement of Activities – this statement presents information that shows how the government's net position changed during the period. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of the related cash flows.

The type of activity presented for the County of Lincoln is:

*Governmental activities* – The activities in this section are mostly supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues (federal and state grants). All of the County's basic services are reported in governmental activities, which includes court services, emergency management, district attorney, administration, county buildings, prisoner support, communications, registry of deeds, registry of probate, sheriff's department, recycling, planning and unclassified.

## 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, like other local governments uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with financial related legal requirement. All of the funds of the County can be divided into two categories: governmental funds and fiduciary funds.

*Governmental Funds:* All of the basic services provided by the County are financed through governmental funds. Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported in governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, the governmental fund financial statements focus on near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources. They also focus on the balance of spendable resources available at the end of the fiscal year. Such information will be useful in evaluating the government's near-term financing requirements. This approach is known as the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under this approach revenues are recorded when cash is received or when susceptible to accrual. Expenditures are recorded when liabilities are incurred and due. These statements provide a detailed short-term view of the County's finances to assist in determining whether there will be adequate financial resources available to meet the current needs of the County.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for governmental funds with similar information presented for governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers, may better understand the long-term impact of the government's near-term financing decisions. Both the governmental funds balance sheet and the governmental funds statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between governmental funds and governmental activities. These reconciliations are presented on the pages immediately following each governmental fund financial statement.

The general fund is the only fund for which the County legally adopts a budget. The Budgetary Comparison Schedule – General Fund - Budgetary Basis provides a comparison of the original and final budget and the actual expenditures for the current year.

*Fiduciary Funds:* These funds are used to account for resources held for the benefit of parties outside the County of Lincoln. These funds are not reflected in the government-wide financial statements because the resources of these funds are not available to support the County's own programs. The accounting used for fiduciary funds are much like that of proprietary funds, they use the accrual basis of accounting

## Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements. The Notes to the Basic Financial Statements can be found following the Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position – Fiduciary Funds.

## Required Supplementary Information

The basic financial statements are followed by a section of required supplementary information, which includes a Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual – General Fund, a Schedule of County's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability, a Schedule of County Contributions, Schedules of Net OPEB Liability and Contributions (GASB 75), and Notes to the Required Supplementary Information.

**Government-Wide Financial Analysis**

Our analysis below focuses on the net position, and changes in net position of the County's governmental activities. The County's total net position decreased to \$8,322,063.

Net investments in capital assets – a large part of the County's net position reflects its investment in capital asset (e.g. land, buildings, machinery, and equipment). The County uses these assets to provide services to citizens, consequently these assets are not available for future spending. It should also, be noted, that no part of these capital assets are funded by debt.

Restricted net position – represents resources that are subject on how they may be expended.

Unrestricted net position – the part of net position that can be used to finance day-to-day operations without constraints, enabling legislation, or other legal requirement – increased to a surplus balance of \$4,965,296 at the end of this year. The change in balance is primarily resulting from the County's unfunded net pension and net OPEB liabilities.

Condensed Statements of Net Positions  
As of December 31, 2023 and 2022

<b>Assets:</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>\$ Difference</b>	<b>% Difference</b>
Current Assets	\$ 13,453,223	\$ 13,674,017	\$ (220,794)	-2%
Capital Assets	3,354,475	2,502,365	852,110	34%
Total Assets	<u>16,807,698</u>	<u>16,176,382</u>	<u>631,316</u>	4%
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources:</b>				
Deferred Outflows Related to Pensions	694,821	783,839	(89,018)	-11%
Deferred outflows related to other post-employment benefits	<u>3,944,764</u>	<u>4,443,344</u>	<u>(498,580)</u>	-11%
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>4,639,585</u>	<u>5,227,183</u>	<u>(587,598)</u>	-11%
<b>Liabilities:</b>				
Current Liabilities	567,563	401,039	166,524	42%
Long-term Debt Outstanding	<u>7,649,895</u>	<u>8,374,981</u>	<u>(725,086)</u>	-9%
Total Liabilities	<u>8,217,458</u>	<u>8,776,020</u>	<u>(558,562)</u>	-6%
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources:</b>				
Deferred Inflows Related to Pensions	312,887	576,612	(263,725)	-46%
Deferred inflows related to other post-employment benefits	<u>4,594,875</u>	<u>3,383,764</u>	<u>1,211,111</u>	36%
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>4,907,762</u>	<u>3,960,376</u>	<u>947,386</u>	24%
<b>Net Position:</b>				
Net Investment in Capital Assets	3,354,475	2,502,365	852,110	34%
Restricted	2,292	5,439,619	(5,437,327)	-100%
Unrestricted	<u>4,965,296</u>	<u>725,185</u>	<u>4,240,111</u>	585%
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 8,322,063</u>	<u>\$ 8,667,169</u>	<u>\$ (345,106)</u>	-4%



## Revenues and Expenses

Revenues for the County's governmental activities decreased by 14%, while total expenses increased by 4%. The decrease in County Revenue's was due to the slowing of the recycling and housing market and no additional ARPA Funding. The County's expenses increased by 4%. This is due to the net change in Pension and OPEB Liabilities being minimal along with significant fixed asset investment.

Condensed Statements of Activities  
For the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>\$ Difference</u>	<u>% Difference</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>				
Program Revenues	\$ 2,439,320	\$ 5,804,001	\$ (3,364,681)	-58%
General Revenues	<u>12,692,233</u>	<u>11,847,202</u>	<u>845,031</u>	7%
Total Revenues	<u>15,131,553</u>	<u>17,651,203</u>	<u>(2,519,650)</u>	-14%
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Court Services	148,830	144,477	4,353	3%
Emergency Management	335,088	257,168	77,920	30%
District Attorney	419,602	386,509	33,093	9%
Commissioners	612,959	738,018	(125,059)	-17%
County buildings	609,939	632,599	(22,660)	-4%
Prisoner Support	3,227,639	3,117,632	110,007	4%
Communications	783,856	1,398,765	(614,909)	-44%
Registry of Deeds	273,166	238,312	34,854	15%
Registry of Probate	274,235	229,316	44,919	20%
Community Programs	99,020	97,880	1,140	1%
Sheriff's Department	3,934,759	4,023,395	(88,636)	-2%
Employee Benefits	98,193	95,032	3,161	3%
Planning	319,879	223,822	96,057	43%
Recycling	604,006	349,952	254,054	73%
Insurances	92,951	89,718	3,233	4%
Contingency	707	-	707	0%
Special Projects/Reserves	2,443,345	1,672,420	770,925	46%
Capital Projects/Reserves	496,485	484,718	11,767	2%
TBRJ Debt Service	<u>702,000</u>	<u>725,450</u>	<u>(23,450)</u>	-3%
Total Expenses	<u>15,476,659</u>	<u>14,905,183</u>	<u>571,476</u>	4%
Change in Net Position	(345,106)	2,746,020	(3,091,126)	-113%
<b>Beginning Net Position</b>	<u>8,667,169</u>	<u>5,937,789</u>	<u>2,729,380</u>	46%
<b>Ending Net Position</b>	<u>\$ 8,322,063</u>	<u>\$ 8,683,809</u>	<u>\$ (361,746)</u>	-4%

### Financial Analysis of the County's Fund Statements

*Governmental Funds:* The financial reporting focus of the County's governmental funds is to provide information on the near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of spendable resources. Such information may be useful in assessing the County's financial requirements. In particular, general fund unassigned fund balance may serve as a useful measure of a government's financial position at the end of the year, and the net resources available for spending.

**Table 3**

#### Fund Balances - Governmental Funds

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
General Fund:		
Nonspendable	\$ 2,292	\$ 27,923
Assigned	265,000	300,000
Unassigned	<u>3,797,825</u>	<u>3,324,641</u>
Total General Fund	<u>\$ 4,065,117</u>	<u>\$ 3,652,564</u>
ARPA Special Revenue Fund:		
Restricted	<u>\$ 3,609,781</u>	<u>\$ 5,295,483</u>
	<u>\$ 3,609,781</u>	<u>\$ 5,295,483</u>
Nonmajor Funds:		
Restricted	\$ 209,464	\$ 144,136
Committed	4,995,847	4,174,615
Assigned	<u>28,086</u>	<u>27,961</u>
	<u>\$ 5,233,397</u>	<u>\$ 4,346,712</u>

The general fund unassigned fund balance increased by \$473,184 from the prior fiscal year. This was mostly due to a significant increase in interest income.

#### Budgetary Highlights

The general fund actual revenues were under budget by \$44,595 primarily due to the slowing of the recycling and housing market.

The general fund actual expenditures were under budget by \$1,407,283. This is due to a cycle of significant staff turnover and long-term vacancies.

#### Capital Assets

As of December 31, 2023, the net book value of capital assets recorded by the County increased by \$852,110 from the prior year. The increase was due to current year depreciation expense of \$406,973, which was offset with capital additions of \$1,387,628 and net disposals of \$128,545.

**Capital Assets (Net of Depreciation)**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>\$ Difference</u>	<u>% Difference</u>
Land	\$ 132,300	\$ 132,300	\$ -	
Construction in progress	-	70,790	(70,790)	100.0%
Buildings and improvements	641,109	688,052	(46,943)	-6.8%
Vehicles	499,507	259,248	240,259	92.7%
Machinery and equipment	1,945,886	1,192,956	752,930	63.1%
Infrastructure	<u>135,673</u>	<u>159,019</u>	<u>(23,346)</u>	-14.7%
Total	<u>\$ 3,354,475</u>	<u>\$ 2,502,365</u>	<u>\$ 852,110</u>	34.1%

**Debt**

At December 31, 2023, the County had no bonds outstanding. Other long-term obligations include accrued compensated absences, other post-employment benefits and net pension liability. Refer to Note 5 of Notes to Financial Statements for more detailed information.

**Currently Known Facts, Decisions or Conditions  
Economic Factors and Next Year’s Budget and Rates**

In prior years, the County’s unassigned fund balance had fallen below a sufficient level to sustain government operations for a period of approximately two months. As of December 31, 2023 the County had established an unassigned fund balance that covers approximately three months, or 29% of the approved appropriations for the fiscal year 2023 budget. The County also continues to maintain significant reserves for future capital and program needs.

**Requests for Information**

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, customers, and investors and creditors with a general overview of the County’s finances and to show the County’s accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional information, contact the County Finance Office at 32 High St. Wiscasset, Maine 04578.

**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION**

As of December 31, 2023

**STATEMENT A**

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
<b>Assets</b>	
Current assets:	
Cash	\$ 13,127,911
Accounts receivable	325,312
Prepaid expenses	-
Total current assets	<u>13,453,223</u>
Capital assets:	
Land	132,300
Construction in progress	-
Depreciable capital assets	9,462,338
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(6,240,163)</u>
Total capital assets	<u>3,354,475</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>16,807,698</u>
<b>Deferred Outflows of resources</b>	
Deferred outflows related to pensions	694,821
Deferred outflows related to other post-employment benefits	<u>3,944,764</u>
<b>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<u>4,639,585</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Current liabilities:	
Accounts payable	455,089
Accrued payroll	92,000
Other current liabilities	(2,162)
Accrued compensated absences	<u>22,636</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>567,563</u>
Noncurrent liabilities:	
Accrued compensated absences	430,089
Net OPEB liability	5,494,922
Net Pension liability	<u>1,724,884</u>
Total noncurrent liabilities	<u>7,649,895</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>8,217,458</u>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	
Deferred inflows related to pensions	312,887
Deferred inflows related to other post-employment benefits	<u>4,594,875</u>
<b>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	<u>4,907,762</u>
<b>Net Position</b>	
Net investment in capital assets	3,354,475
Restricted	2,292
Unrestricted	<u>4,965,296</u>
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<u>\$ 8,322,063</u>

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

**STATEMENT B**

Functions / Programs	Expenses	Program Revenues		Net (Expenses)
		Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Revenues and Changes in Net Position
				Governmental Activities
<b>Governmental activities:</b>				
Court Services	\$ 148,830	\$ 32,370	\$ 91,746	\$ (24,714)
Emergency Management	335,088	-	64,674	(270,414)
District Attorney	419,602	-	-	(419,602)
Administration	612,959	46,665	-	(566,294)
County buildings	609,939	-	-	(609,939)
Transportation	3,227,639	27,429	297,825	(2,902,385)
Communications	783,856	13,268	66,693	(703,895)
Registry of Deeds	273,166	390,206	-	117,040
Registry of Probate	274,235	195,207	-	(79,028)
Community Programs	99,020	-	-	(99,020)
Sheriff's Department	3,934,759	87,506	127,938	(3,719,315)
Employee Benefits	98,193	-	23,097	(75,096)
Planning	319,879	-	75,056	(244,823)
Recycling	604,006	150,096	75,353	(378,557)
Insurances	92,951	-	1,500	(91,451)
Contingency	707	-	-	(707)
Special Projects / Reserves	2,443,345	-	657,106	(1,786,239)
Capital Projects / Reserves	496,485	-	15,585	(480,900)
TBRJ Debt Service	702,000	-	-	(702,000)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 15,476,659</b>	<b>\$ 942,747</b>	<b>\$ 1,496,573</b>	<b>(13,037,339)</b>
<b>General Revenues:</b>				
				12,309,500
Taxes from cities and towns				382,733
Interest revenues				<u>12,692,233</u>
Total general revenue				
				(345,106)
<b>Change in Net Position</b>				
				8,667,169
Beginning Net Position				<u>8,667,169</u>
Ending Net Position				<u><u>\$ 8,322,063</u></u>

**BALANCE SHEET-GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**

**STATEMENT C**

As of December 31, 2023

	General	ARPA Special Revenue	Other Governmental Funds	Total
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash	\$ 13,127,911	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,127,911
Accounts receivable	252,499	-	72,812	325,311
Prepaid expenses	-	-	-	-
Due from other funds	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 13,380,410</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 72,812</b>	<b>\$ 13,453,222</b>
<b>Liabilities and Fund Balances</b>				
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Accounts payable	420,089	35,000	-	455,089
Accrued payroll	92,000	-	-	92,000
Other current liabilities	(2,162)	-	-	(2,162)
Due to other funds	8,807,658	(3,644,781)	(5,162,877)	-
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>9,317,585</b>	<b>(3,609,781)</b>	<b>(5,162,877)</b>	<b>544,927</b>
<b>Fund balances</b>				
Restricted	-	3,609,781	211,756	3,821,537
Committed	-	-	4,995,847	4,995,847
Assigned	265,000	-	28,086	293,086
Unassigned	3,797,825	-	-	3,797,825
<b>Total fund balances</b>	<b>4,062,825</b>	<b>3,609,781</b>	<b>5,235,689</b>	<b>12,908,295</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$ 13,380,410</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 72,812</b>	<b>\$ 13,453,222</b>

**RECONCILIATION OF THE BALANCE SHEET -  
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION**  
As of December 31, 2023

**STATEMENT D**

<b>Total governmental funds balances, per Statement C</b>	\$ 12,908,295
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.	3,354,475
Deferred Outflows and Inflows related to pensions	381,934
Deferred Outflows and Inflows related to OPEB	(650,111)
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds	
Accrued compensated absences	(452,725)
Net OPEB liability	(5,494,922)
Net Pension liability	<u>(1,724,884)</u>
<b>Net position of governmental activities, per Statement A</b>	<u>\$ 8,322,062</u>

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES  
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

STATEMENT E

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	General	ARPA Special Revenue	Other Governmental Funds	Total
<b>Revenues</b>				
Taxes from cities and towns	\$ 12,309,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,309,500
Charges for services	1,030,197	-	110,256	1,140,453
Intergovernmental revenues	658,972	-	581,851	1,240,823
Interest	25,095	-	435,107	460,202
Other revenue	-	-	15,585	15,585
<b>Total revenues</b>	<u>14,023,764</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,142,799</u>	<u>15,166,563</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Court Services	135,102	-	-	135,102
Emergency Management	287,810	-	-	287,810
District Attorney	383,432	-	-	383,432
Administration	558,335	-	-	558,335
County buildings	512,699	-	-	512,699
Prisoner Support	3,171,509	-	-	3,171,509
Communications	1,413,530	-	-	1,413,530
Registry of Deeds	235,625	-	-	235,625
Registry of Probate	244,943	-	-	244,943
Community Programs	99,021	-	-	99,021
Sheriff's Department	3,776,270	-	-	3,776,270
Employee Benefits	98,194	-	-	98,194
Planning	283,914	-	-	283,914
Recycling	582,152	-	-	582,152
Insurances	92,952	-	-	92,952
Contingency	707	-	-	707
TBRJ Debt Service	702,000	-	-	702,000
Capital expenditures	-	-	496,485	496,485
Other expenditures	-	1,685,702	792,644	2,478,346
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<u>12,578,195</u>	<u>1,685,702</u>	<u>1,289,129</u>	<u>15,553,026</u>
<b>Revenue Surplus (Deficit)</b>	1,445,569	(1,685,702)	(146,330)	(386,463)
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>				
Transfers in	-	-	1,035,308	1,035,308
Transfers out	(1,035,308)	-	-	(1,035,308)
<b>Net other financing</b>	<u>(1,035,308)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,035,308</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Change in Fund Balance</b>	410,261	(1,685,702)	888,978	(386,463)
<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<u>3,652,564</u>	<u>5,295,483</u>	<u>4,346,712</u>	<u>13,294,759</u>
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<u>\$ 4,062,825</u>	<u>\$ 3,609,781</u>	<u>\$ 5,235,690</u>	<u>\$ 12,908,296</u>



**RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES,  
EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES OF  
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**

**STATEMENT F**

As of December 31, 2023

**Net change in total governmental funds balances, per Statement E** \$ (386,463)

Capital assets acquired during the year are reported as expenditures in the governmental funds, but are not reported as expenses of governmental activities. Instead, they are reported as increases in capital assets in the Statement of Net Position.

Capital asset acquisitions 1,387,628

Certain expenses and expense adjustments 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.

Depreciation expense (406,973)

Change in accrued compensated absences (17,102)

Change in net pension liability and related deferred outflows and inflows 37,602

Change in accrued post employment benefits and related deferred outflows and inflows (831,253)

**Change in net position of governmental activities, per Statement B** \$ (345,106)

**STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION**  
**FIDUCIARY FUNDS**  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

**STATEMENT G**

	<u>Pension Liability Trust</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash	\$ 733,737
Investments	-
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>733,737</u>
<b>NET POSITION</b>	
Total net position held in trust for pensions	<u>\$ 733,737</u>

**County of Lincoln, Maine**

**Basic Financial Statements**

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION  
FIDUCIARY FUNDS**

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

**STATEMENT H**

	<u>Pension Liability Trust</u>
<b>Additions</b>	
Dividends and interest	\$ 61,978
Change in market value	<u>-</u>
	61,978
<b>Deductions</b>	
Fees	1,352
Net cash purchases	-
Change in market value	<u>-</u>
	<u>1,352</u>
<b>Change in Fund Balance</b>	60,626
<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<u>673,111</u>
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<u><u>\$ 733,737</u></u>

**NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The accounting policies of the County of Lincoln (the County), conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The following is a summary of such significant policies:

**Government-Wide Financial Statements**

The statement of net position and statement of activities focuses on the primary government of the County as a whole. All governmental funds are included but are presented using the accrual basis of accounting. Fiduciary funds are excluded from these government-wide financial statements.

Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

The statement of net position and the statement of activities are prepared using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting.

Program revenues include charges to taxpayers who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given program; and operating or capital grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirement of a particular program.

Internal Activity

Amounts reported in the governmental funds as “due to other funds” and “due from other funds” have been eliminated in the statement of net position, except amounts due between the governmental and business-type activities. Any amounts that are “due to” or “due from” the fiduciary funds have been included in the statement of net position.

Capitalization of Assets

For government-wide financial statements, capital assets are valued at historical cost or estimated historical cost. Donated capital assets are valued at their estimated fair value on the date of donation. Assets over \$5,000 are capitalized.

Depreciation

For government-wide financial statements, capital assets are depreciated over the assets useful lives using the straight-line method. The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Buildings: 20 – 50 years  
Infrastructure: 50 - 100 years  
Machinery & Equipment: 3 – 50 years  
Vehicles: 3 – 25 years

Property Taxes

Taxes from Cities and Counties are committed on or around March 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Taxes are due on or near September 1<sup>st</sup>. If the taxes are not paid by a City or Town on or before the due date, the County may issue a warrant to the sheriff to levy by distress and sale of real and personal property of any inhabitants.

**NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)****Fund Financial Statements**Principles Determining Scope of Reporting Entity

In evaluating how to define the reporting entity, for financial reporting purposes, management has considered all potential component units. The decision to include a potential component unit was made based on criteria set forth in GAAP. The criteria used define the reporting entity as the primary government and those component units for which the primary government is financially accountable. Financial accountability is defined as appointment of a voting majority of the component unit's board, and either a) the ability to impose will by the primary government, or b) the possibility that the component unit will provide a financial benefit to or impose a financial burden on the primary government. Application of these criteria and determination of type of presentation involves considering whether the activity benefits the government and/or its citizens, or whether the activity is conducted within the geographic boundaries of the government and is generally available to its citizens. Based upon the application of these criteria, it has been determined that the County has no component units.

Fund Accounting

The accounts of the County 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 equity, revenues, and expenditures or expenses, 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 various funds are grouped, in the financial statements in this report, into generic fund types and broad fund categories, as follows:

General 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.

Special Revenue Funds

Special revenue funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenues sources that are legally restricted to expenditures for specified purpose.

Fiduciary Funds

Trust and Agency Funds - Trust and Agency Funds are used to account for assets received by the County and held in the capacity of a trustee, custodian, or agent.

*Pension Liability Trust* – The primary purpose of the Pension Liability Trust is to hold money for the purpose of paying the Maine Public Employees Retirement Systems (MEPERS) employee contributions to the MEPERS.

**NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**Basis of Accounting

Basis of accounting refers to when revenues and expenditures or expenses are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. Basis of accounting relates to the timing of the measurements made, regardless of the measurement focus applied. All governmental funds are accounted for using the modified accrual basis of accounting. Their revenues are recognized when they become measurable and available as net current assets, generally within sixty days. Property taxes are recorded as revenue when levied even though a portion of the taxes may be collected in subsequent years. Miscellaneous revenues are recorded when received in cash because they are generally not measurable until actually received. Intergovernmental revenues and interest income are accrued when their receipt occurs soon enough after the end of the accounting period so as to be both measurable and available. Expenditures are generally recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related fund liability is incurred.

Exceptions to the general rule include principal and interest on general long-term debt, which is recognized when due. All trust and agency funds are accounted for using the accrual basis of accounting.

Estimates

Management uses estimates and assumptions in preparing these financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. These estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, the disclosure of contingent liabilities, and the reported revenues and expenses. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Budget

The annual budget is the financial plan for the operation of the County for the ensuing annual period. The budget process provides for a professional management approach to the establishment of priorities and implementation of work programs while providing an orderly means for control and evaluation of the financial posture of the government.

The County Commissioners hold a public hearing in the County on the proposed budget no later than 90 days before the end of the County's Fiscal year. At this meeting the budget advisory committee will receive the County Commissioners itemized final estimate in the form of a budget. The budget advisory committee will review the budget and any supplemental information prepared by the department manager and makes any recommendation to the County Commissioners no later than 45 days before the end of the County's fiscal year.

Upon completion of the public hearing and review of budget advisory committee recommendations the Commissioners may then approve the budget by 2/3 vote of its memberships, in any event, no later than 15 days before the end of the County's fiscal year.

Excess Funds

There is no documented policy on where to hold excess funds.

Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable are stated at the amount management expects to collect from balances outstanding at year-end. Allowances for uncollectible accounts are based on management's assessment of the periodic aging of accounts receivable.

**NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

Investments

It is the County’s policy to state investments at market value at the balance sheet date.

Interfund Receivables and Payables

Interfund activity is reported as either loans or transfers. Loans are reported as interfund receivables and payables as appropriate and are subject to elimination upon consolidation. All other interfund transactions are treated as transfers. Transfers between governmental funds are eliminated as part of the reconciliation to the government-wide financial statements.

Accrued Compensated Absences

Pursuant to the terms of the personnel policies, vacation time is granted in varying amounts according to the length of service. In the government-wide financial statements, liabilities that are attributable to services already rendered are accrued as employees earn the rights to the benefits and are recognized in the period incurred. In the governmental fund financial statements, compensated absences are recognized as related payments come due each period.

Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets and liabilities, the statement of net position will sometimes report separate sections for deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources. These separate financial statement elements, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources, represent a consumption or acquisition of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense) or inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The governmental activities have deferred outflows and inflows that relate to the net pension and net OPEB liabilities, which include the County’s contributions subsequent to the measurement date, which are recognized as a reduction of the related net liability in the subsequent year. They also include changes in assumptions, differences between expected and actual experience, and changes in proportion and differences between County contributions and proportionate share of contributions, which are deferred and amortized over the average expected remaining service lives of active and inactive members in the plan. They also include the net difference between projected and actual earnings on plan investments, which is deferred and amortized over a five-year period.

Net Position Components

Net position in the government-wide financial statements is required to be separated into the following three components:

*Net Investment in Capital Assets* - This component shows the portion of net position that is the most illiquid. It is tied up in capital assets, net of any depreciation or related debt.

Capital assets	\$9,594,638
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(6,240,163)</u>
Net investment in capital assets	<u>\$3,354,475</u>

*Restricted* - This component shows the portion of net assets that is restricted by external constraints (e.g., grant agreements, laws, regulations, other governments, etc.) to be used only for specified purposes.

*Unrestricted* - This component shows the remainder of net position that is neither net investment in capital assets nor restricted. It is the portion that may be used for general governmental purposes.

**NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**Fund Balance Components

For governmental funds, the nonspendable fund balances represent amounts that will never convert to cash or will not convert to cash to affect the current period; the restricted fund balances represent the amounts that are restricted by external governments, contributors, or external laws; the committed fund balances represent self-imposed limitations by the County Commissioners that must be voted on to be established, modified, or rescinded; the assigned fund balances represent intended use of resources such as encumbrances by the County Administrator that the Administrator feels is necessary to operate the County; and the unassigned fund balances represent anything that does not fit into the above four classifications. The general fund is the only fund that can report a positive unassigned balance.

If expenditures can be applied to either restricted or unrestricted balances, the government's policy is to apply them to restricted balances. If expenditures can be applied to committed, assigned or unassigned, the government's policy is to apply them first to committed balances, then to assigned balances, and any remainder is to be applied to unassigned balances.

The County has not established a policy regarding a minimum fund balance.

Revenues

Tax revenue and other major county revenue sources are susceptible to accrual under the modified accrual basis of accounting. Property tax revenues are recognized in the year for which they are levied. Fees and charges are reported as program revenues for the function that generates them. Grant and contributions are reported as program revenues if their use is restricted to a particular function.

**NOTE 2 - CASH****Custodial Credit Risk**

Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that, in the event of a bank failure, the County will not be able to recover the value of its deposits or investments that are in the possession of an outside party.

The County currently does not have a policy covering custodial credit risk for deposits. However, the County maintains deposits in qualifying financial institutions that are a member of the FDIC, and the County has an additional municipal deposit collateralization agreement.

At December 31, 2023, the County had a bank balance of \$13,127,911. Of this cash balance, \$250,000 was insured by the federal depository insurance (FDIC), the remaining deposits of \$12,877,911 were insured by a municipal deposit collateralization agreement.



**NOTE 3 - INVESTMENTS**

At December 31, 2023, the County had fully liquidated the MPERS Trust. The balance of \$733,737 was held in cash and cash equivalents and issued payable to the County in January 2024.

**Credit Risk**

Under Maine statute, municipalities may invest in corporate bonds and other obligations of any U.S. or Canadian corporation, provided that the securities are rated within the three highest grades by any rating service approved by the Superintendent of Financial institutions and are payable in U.S. funds. At December 31, 2023, the County’s investments in corporate securities were in compliance with this statute.

**NOTE 4 - CAPITAL ASSETS**

Capital asset activity for the year ended December 31, 2023, was as follows:

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
As of December 31, 2023**

**NOTE 4 - CAPITAL ASSETS**

	Beginning Balance	Additons	Retirements	Ending Balance
<i>Non-depreciable assets</i>				
Land	\$ 132,300	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 132,300
Construction in progress	70,790		(70,790)	-
Total Non-Depreciable	203,090	-	(70,790)	132,300
<i>Depreciable assets</i>				
Buildings & Improvements	3,952,465	101,679	(271,092)	3,783,052
Vehicles	1,229,877	391,075	(53,432)	1,567,520
Machinery & Equipment	2,952,930	894,874	(217,204)	3,630,600
Infrastructure	481,166	-	-	481,166
	<u>8,616,438</u>	<u>1,387,628</u>	<u>(541,728)</u>	<u>9,462,338</u>
Total capital assets	8,819,528	1,387,628	(612,518)	9,594,638
<i>Accumulated Depreciation</i>				
Buildings & Improvements	(3,264,413)	(90,867)	213,337	(3,141,943)
Vehicles	(970,629)	(150,816)	53,432	(1,068,013)
Machinery & Equipment	(1,759,974)	(141,944)	217,204	(1,684,714)
Infrastructure	(322,147)	(23,346)	-	(345,493)
	<u>(6,317,163)</u>	<u>(406,973)</u>	<u>483,973</u>	<u>(6,240,163)</u>
Net capital assets	<u>\$ 2,502,365</u>	<u>\$ 980,655</u>	<u>\$ (128,545)</u>	<u>\$ 3,354,475</u>

:

Depreciation was charged to governmental functions as follows:

Emergency Management	\$	14,384
County Buildings		112,480
Transportation		4,268
Communications		89,926
Deeds		2,414
Probate		9,549
Sheriff		131,193
Recycling		42,759
Total	\$	<u>406,973</u>

**NOTE 5 – LONG-TERM DEBT**

Summarized below are the long-term debt liabilities at December 31, 2023:

	<u>Balance 1/1/2023</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deletions</u>	<u>Balance 12/31/2023</u>	<u>Current Portion</u>
Accrued compensated absences	\$ 435,623	\$ 17,102	\$ -	\$ 452,725	\$ 22,636
Net OPEB Liability	6,700,534	(1,205,612)	-	5,494,922	-
Net pension Liability	(1,260,605)	(464,279)	-	(1,724,884)	-
Totals	<u>\$ 5,875,552</u>	<u>\$ (1,652,789)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 4,222,763</u>	<u>\$ 22,636</u>

**NOTE 6 - COMPONENTS OF FUND BALANCE**

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

At December 31, 2023, the components of fund balances consisted of the following:

	Nonspendable	Restricted	Committed	Assigned	Unassigned
<b>General Fund</b>					
Unassigned Fund Balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,797,825
Assigned for 2024 Expenditure	-	-	-	265,000	-
<b>Special Revenue Funds</b>					
Ask Program	-	-	4,000	-	-
Alternative Sentencing Program	-	49,962	-	-	-
ARPA Funding	-	3,609,781	-	-	-
Bi-Centennial Reserve	-	-	10,000	-	-
Broadband Grant	-	-	60,994	-	-
Civil Process	-	-	9,465	-	-
Court Appointed Reserve	-	-	20,000	-	-
CRPSG Grant	-	-	25,000	-	-
Dare	-	205	-	-	-
DA Witness Reserve	-	-	6,685	-	-
Deeds Preservation	-	-	230,731	-	-
Education Instruction	-	-	13,893	-	-
EMA In-kind	-	-	-	605	-
Hazmat Team	-	2,769	-	-	-
Health and Safety Reserve	-	-	12,554	-	-
Home Release Reserve	-	-	44,300	-	-
Interest Income	-	-	435,107	-	-
IT Infrastructure	-	-	19,975	-	-
Legal Reserve	-	-	172,888	-	-
Lincoln County Triad	2,292	-	-	-	-
Local EMA Grant	-	1,699	-	-	-
Opioid Funding	-	154,322	-	-	-
Probate Preservation	-	-	16,882	-	-
Project Life Saver	-	507	-	-	-
Safety Reserve	-	-	15,644	-	-
Strategic Planning Reserve	-	-	84,445	-	-
Termination Reserve	-	-	125,001	-	-
Training Reserve	-	-	95,287	-	-
Unemployment Reserve	-	-	50,000	-	-
Uninsured Loss Reserve	-	-	84,483	-	-
Wellness	-	-	209	-	-
<b>Capital Reserve Funds</b>					
Buildings & Grounds Reserve	-	-	578,210	-	-
CIP Reserve	-	-	1,244,198	-	-
Capital Equipment Reserve	-	-	225,000	-	-
Capital Improvement Reserve	-	-	515,272	-	-
Communications Reserve	-	-	205,607	-	-
County Map & Promo Reserve	-	-	3,226	-	-
Incentive Reserve	-	-	100,000	-	-
Repeater Reserve	-	-	50,000	-	-
Recycling Reserve	-	-	107,342	-	-
Sheriff IT Reserve	-	-	110,861	-	-
Sheriff Training Reserve	-	-	219,600	-	-
Sheriff Vehicle Reserve	-	-	98,988	-	-
Heidi K-9	-	-	-	27,481	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,292</b>	<b>\$ 3,819,245</b>	<b>\$ 4,995,847</b>	<b>\$ 293,086</b>	<b>\$ 3,797,825</b>

**NOTE 7 – EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS**Plan Description

The County is a participant of the Maine Public Employees State Retirement System's (MainePERS or the System) multiple employer cost sharing consolidated retirement plan. Accordingly, due to the consolidation, details of the pension obligation pertaining to the County can no longer be presented. Additional information may be obtained from the MainePERS, 46 State House Station; Augusta, Maine 04333-0046.

As of June 30, 2023, there were 327 employers participating in the plan.

Benefit terms are established in Maine statute; in this case of the PLD Consolidated Plan, an advisory group, also established by statute, reviews the terms of the plan and periodically makes recommendations to the Legislature to amend them. The System's retirement programs provide defined retirement benefits based on members' average final compensation and service credit earned as of retirement. Vesting (i.e., eligibility for benefits upon reaching qualification) occurs upon the earning of five years of service credit (effective October 1, 1999, the prior ten-year requirement was reduced by legislative action to five years for employees of the PLD). In some cases, vesting occurs on the earning of one year of service credit immediately preceding retirement at or after normal retirement age. The normal retirement age is determined by whether a member had met certain creditable service requirements on specific dates, as established by statute. For PLD members, normal retirement age is 60 or 65. The monthly benefit of members who retire before normal retirement age by virtue of having at least 25 years of service credit is reduced by a statutorily prescribed factor for each year of age that a member is below his/her normal retirement age at retirement. The System also provides disability and death benefits which are established by statute for State employee and teacher members and by contract with other participating employers under applicable statutory provisions.

Upon termination of membership, members' accumulated employee contributions are refundable with interest, credited in accordance with statute. Withdrawal of accumulated contributions results in forfeiture of all benefits and membership rights. The annual rate of interest credited to members' accounts is set by the System's Board of Trustees and is currently 3.88%

**Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions**

As of December 31, 2023 the County reported a liability of \$1,724,884 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2023, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The County's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the County's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating local municipalities, actuarially determined. As of December 31, 2023 the County's proportion was 0.54%.

For the year ended December 31, 2023, the County recognized pension expense of \$716,508.

**NOTE 7 - EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS (Continued)**

**Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions (Continued)**

As of December 31, 2023, the County reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	PLD Plan	
	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 320,227	\$ -
Change of assumptions	-	-
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	-	292,704
Changes in proportion and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions	131,878	20,183
District contributions subsequent to the measurement date	242,716	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 694,821</b>	<b>\$ 312,887</b>

Deferred outflows relating to pensions resulting from County contributions subsequent to the measurement date in the amount of \$242,716, as of December 31, 2023, will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in 2023. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions as of December 31, 2023, will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year	PLD Plan
2024	29,859
2025	(201,128)
2026	296,880
2027	13,606
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 139,217</b>

**NOTE 7 - EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS (Continued)****Actuarial Methods and Assumptions**

The collective total pension liability for the Plan was determined by an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2023, using the following methods and assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement.

*Actuarial Cost Method*

The Entry Age Normal actuarial funding method is used to determine costs. Under this funding method, the total employer contribution rate consists of two elements, the normal cost rate and the unfunded actuarial liability (UAL) rate.

The individual entry age normal method is used to determine liabilities. Under the individual entry age normal method, a normal cost rate is calculated for each employee. This rate is determined by taking the value, as of age at entry into the Plan, of the member's projected future benefits, and dividing it by the value, also as of the member's entry age, of his expected future salary. The normal cost for each employee is the product of his pay and his normal cost rate. The normal cost for the group is the sum of the normal costs for all members.

Experience gains and losses, i.e., decreases or increases in liabilities and/or in assets when actual experience differs from the actuarial assumptions, affect the unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL).

*Asset Valuation Method*

The actuarial valuation employs a technique for determining the actuarial value of assets which dampens the swing in the market value. The specific technique adopted in this valuation recognizes in a given year one-third of the investment return that is different from the actuarial assumption for investment return.

*Amortization*

The net pension liability of the PLD Consolidated Plan is amortized on a level percentage of payroll using a method where a separate twenty-year closed period is established annually for the gain or loss for that year.

Significant actuarial assumptions employed by the actuary for funding purposes as of June 30, 2023 are as follows:

- *Investment Rate of Return* – 6.50% per annum for the year ended June 30, 2023 and for the year ended June 30, 2022, compounded annually.
- *Inflation Rate* – 2.75% per annum for the year ended June 30, 2023.
- *Annual Salary Increases, Merit, and Inflation*– members of the PLD Consolidated Plan, 2.75% - 11.48% for the year ended June 30, 2023.
- *Cost of Living Benefit Increases* – 1.91% per annum for the year ended June 30, 2023 participating local districts.
- *Mortality Rates* – For the year ended June 30, 2023, for active members and non-disabled retirees of the participating local districts, the RPEC\_2020 Total Dataset Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table, for males and females, is used.

**NOTE 7 – EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS (Continued)**

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investment was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major class of assets. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. Best estimates of geometric real rates of return for each major asset class included in the Plan's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2023, are summarized in the following table. Assets of the Plan are commingled for investment purposes.

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Public Equities	6.0%
US Government	2.6%
Private equity	7.6%
Real assets:	
Real estate	5.2%
Infrastructure	5.3%
Natural Resources	5.0%
Traditional Credit	3.2%
Alternative Credit	7.4%
Diversifiers	5.0%

*Discount Rate*

The discount rate used to measure the collective total pension liability was 6.5% for 2023. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rate and that employer contributions will be made at contractually required rates, actuarially determined. Based on these assumptions, the Plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current Plan members. 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.

The following table shows how the collective net pension liability as of June 30, 2023 would change if the discount rate used was one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current rate.

County's proportionate share of the net pension liability	1% Decrease <u>(5.5%)</u>	Current Discount Rate <u>(6.5%)</u>	1% Increase <u>(7.5%)</u>
	\$ 4,726,308	\$ 1,724,884	\$ (751,047)

*Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position*

Detailed information about the pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued MainePERS financial report.

**NOTE 7 – EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS (Continued)**

*Financial Reporting*

The Plan issues stand-alone financial reports which can be found online at:

<http://www.maineopers.org/Publications/Publications.htm#Annual Reports>

**NOTE 8 – OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS – OPEB (GASB 75)**

GASB Statement 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*, replaces the requirements of Statement No. 45, *Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*. The statement established standard for recognizing and measuring liabilities, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources and expenses. This statement identifies the methods and assumptions that are required to be used to project benefit payments, discount projected benefit payments to their actuarial present value, and attribute that present value to period of employee service. Note disclosure and required supplementary information requirements about OPEB are also addressed.

**General Information about the OPEB Plan**

*Plan Description:* The County, in accordance with its current health insurance company agreement, provides optional health and other benefits to eligible retirees. Benefit provisions for contractual employees are established and amended through negotiations between the County Commissioners and the respective unions. For all other employees, benefit provisions are established and amended by the County Commissioners.

At December 31, 2023, the following employees were covered by the benefit terms:

Active Employees	72
Inactive Employees Entitled to But Not Yet Receiving Benefits	-
Inactive Employees Currently Receiving Benefits	<u>13</u>
Total	85

**Total OPEB Liability**

The County’s total OPEB liability of \$5,494,922 was measured as of December 31, 2023, and was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date.

*Actuarial assumptions and other inputs:* The total OPEB liability in the December 31, 2023 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, and other inputs, applied to all periods included in the measurement, unless otherwise specified:



**NOTE 8 - OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS – OPEB (GASB 75) (Continued)**

*Actuarial assumptions and other inputs*

Measurement Date	December 31, 2023
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal
Discount Rate	4.00%
Inflation Rate	3.00%
Salary Rate Increase	4.00%
Health Care Trend Rates	
Initial Health Care Cost Trend Rate	7.00%
Ultimate Health Care Cost Trend Rate	4.50%
Fiscal Year the Ultimate Rate is Reached	Fiscal Year 2038

A rate of 4.00% is used, which is the S&P Municipal Bond 20 Year High-Grade Rate Index as of December 31, 2023.

Mortality rates were based on the PubG.H-2010 General Mortality with Mortality Improvement using Scale MP-2020.

The actuarial assumptions used in the valuation were based on the results of the most recent actuarial experience study.

**Actuarial Assumptions**

The actuarial assumptions used in the December 31, 2023 valuation were based on the results of the most recent actuarial experience study.

**Changes in the Total OPEB Liability**

	<u>Total OPEB Liability</u>
Balance at December 31, 2022	\$ 6,700,534
Changes for the year:	
Service Cost	191,951
Interest	286,249
Changes of benefit terms	-
Differences between expected and actual experience	(1,902,583)
Changes in assumptions of other inputs	336,845
Benefit Payments	(118,074)
Other Changes	-
Net Changes	<u>(1,205,612)</u>
Balance at December 31, 2023	<u>\$ 5,494,922</u>

The Discount Rate and Actuarial Cost Method were changed based on GASB 75 rules. Retiree Contributions were changed due to the revised County policy. Starting per capita costs were updated using most recent premiums. The health care trend rates were reset based on recent experiences. Decrements were changed per AMM allowances. The election at retirement assumptions was changed.

NOTE 8 – OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS – OPEB (GASB 75) (Continued)

Sensitivity Information

*Sensitivity of the total OPEB liability to changes in the discount rate:* 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 (18.90%) or 1-percentage-point higher (15.05%) than the current discount rate:

	<u>1% Increase</u>	<u>Valuation Rate</u>	<u>1% Decrease</u>
Total OPEB Liability	\$ 4,668,074	\$ 5,494,921	\$ 6,533,478

*Sensitivity of the total OPEB liability to changes in the healthcare cost trend rates:* 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 health-care cost trend rates that 1-percentage-point lower (17.13%) or 1-percentage-point higher (22.35%) than the current healthcare cost trend rates:

	<u>1% Increase</u>	<u>Valuation Rate</u>	<u>1% Decrease</u>
Total OPEB Liability	\$ 6,722,950	\$ 5,494,921	\$ 4,553,538

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

For the year ended December 31, 2023, the County recognized an OPEB expense of \$622,153. At December 31, 2023, the County reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>	<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>
Difference Between Expected & Actual Experience	\$ 1,042,540	\$ 1,735,016
Changes of Assumptions	2,902,224	2,859,859
Total	<u>\$ 3,944,764</u>	<u>\$ 4,594,875</u>

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

<u>Fiscal Year Ending:</u>	<u>Outflows</u>	<u>Inflows</u>
December 31, 2024	835,426	691,473
December 31, 2025	835,426	691,473
December 31, 2026	666,845	639,797
December 31, 2027	633,052	608,555
December 31, 2028	474,605	565,679
December 31, 2029	344,416	563,366
December 31, 2030	89,185	462,825
December 31, 2031	33,879	191,359
December 31, 2032	31,930	180,348
Total	<u>\$ 3,944,764</u>	<u>\$ 4,594,875</u>

**NOTE 9 - DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN**

There is a deferred compensation 457(b) plan sponsored by the County, but as it is administered by nongovernmental third parties and the plan administrators invest plan assets at the direction of the plan's participants, the plan is not reported in the financial statements of the County.

Employees are not required to contribute to the plan, but if the employees choose to contribute, the County will match up to 8% of employee contributions. During the year ended December 31, 2023, the County contributed \$54,831.22.

**NOTE 10 - 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, along with numerous other municipalities in the State, is a member of three public entity risk pools in the State currently operating as a common risk management and insurance program for which all political subdivisions in the State of Maine are eligible to participate. The pools provide coverage for worker's compensation, unemployment and property liability insurance. As a member of the pools, the County shares in contributing to the cost of and receiving benefits from a self-insured pooled risk management program. There were no unpaid contributions at year-end. There were no deductible claims for the fiscal year.

The pool agreement permits the pool to make additional assessments to members should there be deficiency in pool assets to meet its liabilities. At this time, the pool foresees no likelihood of an additional assessment for past years.

**NOTE 11 - COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES**State and Federal Grants

The County participates in numerous State and Federal grant programs, which are governed by various rules and regulations of the grantor agencies. Costs charged to the respective grant programs are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor agencies; therefore, to the extent that the County has not complied with rules and regulations governing the grants, refunds of any money received may be required and the collectability of any related receivable at December 31, 2023 may be impaired. In the opinion of the County, there are no significant contingent liabilities relating to compliance with the rules and regulations governing the respective agents; therefore, no provision has been recorded in the accompanying combined financial statements for such contingencies.

Litigation

The County is subject to certain legal proceedings and claims which arise in the ordinary course of conducting its activities. In the opinion of management, the County has defensible positions and any ultimate liabilities are covered by insurance or will not materially affect the financial position of the County.

**NOTE 12 - OVERLAPPING DEBT**

The County is contingently responsible for the following debt as of December 31, 2023 (also see Joint Venture note below):

<u>Governmental Unit</u>	<u>Outstanding Debt</u>	<u>County's Percentage</u>	<u>County's share of debt</u>
Lincoln and Sagadahoc Multi-County Jail Authority	\$ 2,645,000	50%	\$ 1,322,500

The debt of Lincoln and Sagadahoc Multi-County Jail Authority is paid through annual assessments to the County. The debt will be fully paid in 2025.

**NOTE 13 - JOINT VENTURE**

On March 6, 2003 the Maine legislature passed LD 1199, an act to establish the Lincoln and Sagadahoc Multi-County Jail Authority (Jail Authority). The bill authorized the County of Lincoln, Maine and County of Sagadahoc, Maine to form a multi-county jail authority and to issue debt and collect assessments to operate the jail. The jail became the responsibility of the Board of Directors upon completion. The Board of Directors consists of six public members, one from each of the Commissioners Districts; four County Commissioners, two from each County; and two Sheriffs, one from each County. The Board of Directors conducts all of the affairs of the Jail Authority. Upon dissolution of the Jail Authority, by a 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors, the Jail Authority will liquidate assets and liabilities of the Jail Authority. All expenses will be paid and any residual funds will be distributed evenly by the Counties. The Jail Authority is a separate reporting entity and has not been included within the financial statements of the County.

The Jail Authority issued revenue bonds in the amount of \$14,920,000 in 2014. Although the bonds are in the name of the Jail Authority, the Lincoln County Commissioners have passed a resolution authorizing the guarantee of half of the debt service, or \$7,460,000. Lincoln County’s share of principal and interest for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023 was \$610,000, and \$92,000, respectively. Lincoln and Sagadahoc Counties operate under a cost sharing agreement entered into by the commissioners on November 5, 2002, which obligates Lincoln County to share in the operating and capital costs of the jail. The share of operating costs is split 50/50 between the two counties. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023, Lincoln County’s share was \$1,322,500. In addition to contributions from the two counties, the Jail Authority receives revenues from the boarding of prisoners from outside the two supporting jurisdictions, from various grants and other miscellaneous revenue.

The Jail Authority issues its own financial statements and copies can be obtained from the Jail Authority at 522 Bath Road Wiscasset, Maine 04578.

**NOTE 14 - JAIL OPERATIONS**

During its 2007 Fiscal Year, the State of Maine enacted legislation known as LD 2080 “An Act to Better Coordinate and Reduce the Cost of the delivery of State and County Correctional Services”, located in Public Laws 2007, Chapter 653. This Act has in essence capped what counties can assess their municipalities for taxes to fund their corrections budgets, and will also establish the annual growth limitations for future corrections expenditures. A Board of Overseers at the State of Maine has been appointed to supervise county correction operations. At the present time issues such as the funding of accrued benefits; ownership and maintenance of correction assets; external funding of certain corrections operations; corrections capital/reserve funding and ownership; and the treatment of net position (deficit) have not been specifically addressed in this Act. Any financial and/or other impact on the County cannot be determined at the time of the issuance of this report.

**NOTE 15 – RECLASSIFICATIONS**

Certain reclassifications have been made to the prior year's financial statements to conform to the current year presentation. The reclassification had no effect on previously reported results of operations or net position.

**NOTE 16 - SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

In preparing these financial statements, management has evaluated events and transactions for potential recognition or disclosure through the date the financial statements were available to be issued, which was the same as the report date.

**County of Lincoln, Maine**  
**BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE**  
**GENERAL FUND - BUDGETARY BASIS**  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

**Required Supplementary Information**  
**SCHEDULE A**

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance Positive (Negative)
<b>Revenues</b>				
Taxes from cities and towns	\$ 12,609,500	\$ 12,309,500	\$ 12,309,500	\$ -
Use of Surplus		\$ 377,459	\$ 377,459	
Charges for services	1,044,378	1,044,378	1,041,253	(3,125)
Intergovernmental revenues	766,891	766,891	725,326	(41,565)
Interest	25,000	25,000	25,095	95
Total revenues	<u>14,445,769</u>	<u>14,523,228</u>	<u>14,478,633</u>	<u>(44,595)</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Court Services	169,153	169,153	135,101	34,052
Emergency Management	316,924	316,924	287,809	29,115
District Attorney	436,878	436,878	383,431	53,447
Administration	664,241	664,241	558,334	105,907
County buildings	533,584	533,584	512,698	20,886
Prisoner Support	3,227,131	3,227,131	3,171,507	55,624
Communications	1,814,341	1,814,341	1,413,529	400,812
Registry of Deeds	247,275	247,275	235,623	11,652
Registry of Probate	340,697	340,697	244,942	95,755
Community Programs	99,020	99,020	99,020	-
Sheriff's Department	4,191,681	4,191,681	3,776,269	415,412
Employee Benefits	112,854	112,854	98,193	14,661
Planning	308,585	308,585	283,913	24,672
Recycling	627,405	627,405	582,151	45,254
Insurances	98,692	98,692	92,951	5,741
Contingency	95,000	95,000	707	94,293
TBRJ Debt Service	702,000	702,000	702,000	-
Total expenditures	<u>13,985,461</u>	<u>13,985,461</u>	<u>12,578,178</u>	<u>1,407,283</u>
<b>Revenue Surplus (Deficit)</b>	460,308	537,767	1,900,455	(1,362,688)
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>				
Transfers out	<u>(460,308)</u>	<u>(1,035,308)</u>	<u>(1,035,308)</u>	-
Net other financing	(460,308)	(1,035,308)	(1,035,308)	-
<b>Change in Fund Balance</b>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (497,541)</u>	<u>\$ 865,147</u>	<u>\$ (1,362,688)</u>
<b>Addition to (Use of) Fund Balance</b>				
Assigned	\$ (265,000)	\$ (265,000)	\$ -	
Unassigned	-	-	865,147	
	<u>\$ (265,000)</u>	<u>\$ (265,000)</u>	<u>\$ 865,147</u>	

**County of Lincoln, Maine**

**Required Supplementary Information**

**SCHEDULE OF COUNTY'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY**  
**MAINE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM CONSOLIDATED PLAN**

**SCHEDULE B**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Proportion of the net pension liability	0.54%	0.47%	0.48%	0.47%	0.44%
Proportionate share of net pension liability	\$ 1,724,884	\$ 1,416,284	\$ (155,679)	\$ 1,854,876	\$ 1,338,140
Covered-employee payroll	\$ 3,995,973	\$ 3,726,745	\$ 3,349,107	\$ 2,974,921	\$ 2,692,443
Proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	43.2%	38.0%	-4.6%	62.4%	49.7%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	92.30%	93.25%	100.80%	90.60%	90.60%

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Proportion of the net pension liability	0.46%	0.46%	0.46%	0.48%	0.50%
Proportionate share of net pension liability	\$ 1,279,174	\$ 1,880,548	\$ 2,449,960	\$ 1,518,429	\$ 7,744
Covered-employee payroll	\$ 2,482,837	\$ 2,593,004	\$ 2,441,522	\$ 2,279,942	\$ 2,536,777
Proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	51.5%	72.5%	100.3%	66.6%	30.53%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	78.32%	86.42%	81.61%	88.30%	94.10%

*Schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.*

**County of Lincoln, Maine**

**Required Supplementary Information**

**SCHEDULE OF COUNTY CONTRIBUTIONS**

**SCHEDULE C**

MAINE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM CONSOLIDATED PLAN

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Actuarially determined contribution	\$ 494,604	\$ 428,746	\$ 356,985	\$ 312,228	\$ 285,204
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution	<u>(494,604)</u>	<u>(428,746)</u>	<u>(356,985)</u>	<u>(312,228)</u>	<u>(285,204)</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Covered-employee payroll	\$ 3,995,973	\$ 3,726,745	\$ 3,349,107	\$ 2,974,921	\$ 2,692,443
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	12.4%	11.5%	10.7%	10.5%	10.6%
	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Actuarially determined contribution	\$ 255,903	\$ 235,796	\$ 224,018	\$ 111,717	\$ 118,851
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution	<u>(255,903)</u>	<u>(235,793)</u>	<u>(224,018)</u>	<u>(111,717)</u>	<u>(118,851)</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Covered-employee payroll	\$ 2,482,837	\$ 2,593,004	\$ 2,441,522	\$ 2,279,942	\$ 2,536,777
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	10.3%	9.1%	9.2%	4.9%	4.7%

*Schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.*



SCHEDULES OF NET OPEB LIABILITY AND CONTRIBUTIONS (GASB 75)

SCHEDULE D

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
<u>Net OPEB Liability</u>					
Net OPEB liability	\$ 5,494,922	\$ 6,700,534	\$ 8,932,629	\$ 7,723,006	\$ 5,336,642
Covered payroll	3,995,973	3,597,000	3,597,000	3,541,748	3,541,748
Net OPEB liability as a percentage of covered payroll	137.51%	186.28%	248.34%	218.06%	150.68%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of total OPEB liability	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<u>Contributions</u>					
Actuarially determined contribution	\$ 494,604.00	\$ 428,746.00	\$ 356,985.00	\$ 312,228.00	\$ 285,204.00
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution	(494,604)	(428,746)	(356,985)	(312,228)	(285,204)
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Schedule is intended to show information for 5 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

See notes to the County financial statements for summary of significant actuarial methods and assumptions.

**NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**General

The County is required to have a budget for the General Fund. The County is not required to adopt an annual budget for its special revenues. Budgets for individual special revenues funds are utilized in accordance with the requirement for the grantor agencies.

Basis of Accounting

The modified accrual basis of accounting is used in preparing budgets except when non-cash items are involved. In that case, the non-cash items are omitted from the budget.

**NOTE 2 – ORIGINAL AND FINAL BUDGET DIFFERENCES**

The County is required by state statute to adopt a budget before December 31<sup>st</sup>. There were no adjustments that happened between December 31<sup>st</sup> and when the County committed taxes in March. However, the County's Commissioners approved an additional transfer as 12/31/2023 from the General Fund to the County's Special Revenue & Capital Reserve funds in the amount \$575,000.



Proven Expertise & Integrity

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*

County Commissioners  
County of Lincoln  
Wiscasset, Maine

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the County of Lincoln, Maine as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023 and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the County of Lincoln, Maine's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated May 31, 2024.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the County of Lincoln, Maine's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the County of Lincoln, Maine's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the County of Lincoln, Maine's internal control.

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

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

### Compliance and Other Matters

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

### Purpose of this Report

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

*RHR Smith & Company*

Buxton, Maine  
May 31, 2024