

Town of Higden, Arkansas

Financial and Compliance Report

December 31, 2024 and 2023

LEGISLATIVE JOINT AUDITING COMMITTEE



TOWN OF HIGDEN, ARKANSAS
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FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023

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Arkansas

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Senate Chair
Sen. Jim Dotson
Senate Vice Chair



Rep. Robin Lundstrum
House Chair
Rep. RJ Hawk
House Vice Chair

Kevin William White, CPA, JD
Legislative Auditor

LEGISLATIVE JOINT AUDITING COMMITTEE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

Financial and Compliance Report

Town of Higden, Arkansas Officials and Council Members
Legislative Joint Auditing Committee

A priority of Arkansas Legislative Audit is to assist local government officials by promoting sound financial management and accountability of government resources. The Legislative Auditor reports on the fiscal affairs of local governments, as well as compliance with relevant state laws and observance of good business practices to provide accountability for tax dollars expended to support government operations.

We have performed certain limited procedures with respect to cash basis financial information and compliance with certain state laws and accepted accounting practices for the Town of Higden, Arkansas, as of and for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, and have issued our report thereon dated June 11, 2025. Management of the Town is responsible for maintaining the financial records and complying with state laws and accepted accounting practices.

The finding contained in this section relates to the following officials who held office during 2024 and 2023:

Mayor: Scott Barker
Recorder/Treasurer: Bill Estell (April 4, 2024 – December 31, 2024)
Wayne Weatherford (January 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024)

We evaluated the Town's compliance with certain state laws concerning general and district court accounting, budgeting, purchasing, and investing and depositing of public funds.

Noncompliance with state law and accepted accounting practices was noted in the office of the **Mayor**.

Mayor

In 2024, Street Fund disbursements exceeded budgeted appropriations by \$10,144 (169%), in non-compliance with Ark. Code Ann. § 14-58-203.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee, local Town government, state executive and oversight management, and other parties as required by Arkansas Code, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties. However, pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 10-4-417, all reports presented to the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee are matters of public record and distribution is not limited.

ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin White".

Kevin William White, CPA, JD
Legislative Auditor

Little Rock, Arkansas
June 11, 2025
LOM308024

TOWN OF HIGDEN, ARKANSAS
 SCHEDULE OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024
 (UNAUDITED)

Schedule 1

	General Fund	Special Revenue Fund (Street)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Cash Balance, January 1, 2024	\$ 216,248	\$ 100,300
Receipts:		
State aid	1,695	9,374
Property taxes	27,221	1,556
Sales taxes	24,967	
Interest	516	527
Total Receipts	<u>54,399</u>	<u>11,457</u>
Disbursements:		
General government	16,399	
Highways and streets		16,144
Public safety	11,440	
Total Disbursements	<u>27,839</u>	<u>16,144</u>
Cash Balance, December 31, 2024	<u>\$ 242,808</u>	<u>\$ 95,613</u>

TOWN OF HIGDEN, ARKANSAS
 SCHEDULE OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023
 (UNAUDITED)

Schedule 2

	General Fund	Special Revenue Fund (Street)
Cash Balance, January 1, 2023	\$ 193,846	\$ 91,955
Receipts:		
State aid	1,733	9,617
Property taxes	26,603	1,532
Sales taxes	24,591	
Interest	553	538
Other	688	
Total Receipts	54,168	11,687
Disbursements:		
General government	20,326	
Highways and streets		3,342
Public safety	11,440	
Total Disbursements	31,766	3,342
Cash Balance, December 31, 2023	\$ 216,248	\$ 100,300

TOWN OF HIGDEN, ARKANSAS
 OTHER INFORMATION
 FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023
 (UNAUDITED)

- 1. Cash balances on the Financial Schedules include demand accounts.

- 2. The Municipality's capital assets records are summarized below:

	December 31, 2024	December 31, 2023
Land	\$ 16,600	\$ 16,600
Buildings	95,156	95,156
Equipment	9,771	9,771
Totals	\$ 121,527	\$ 121,527