CITY OF NEWPORT, ARKANSAS SEWER DEPARTMENT

Audited Financial Statements

December 31, 2023 and 2022

(With Independent auditor's Report Thereon)

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Bonds & Company, P.A.

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council City of Newport, Arkansas

We have audited the accompanying modified cash basis financial statements of the City of Newport, Arkansas Sewer Department (the "Department") as of and for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related notes to the 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 modified cash basis financial position of the City of Newport, Arkansas Sewer Department as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the respective changes in modified cash basis financial position and modified cash basis cash flows for the years then ended, in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting as described in Note 1(B) to the financial statements.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. 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 City of Newport Sewer Department, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Basis of Accounting

As disclosed in Note 1(B) to the financial statements, these financial statements are prepared on a modified cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 1(A), the financial statements present only the Department and do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position balances and transactions that are directly attributable to the changes in financial position, or cash flows of the City of Newport, Arkansas. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Responsibility of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting described in Note 1(B); this includes determining that the modified cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for presentation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible 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 Department'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 opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted 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, 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 Department'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 Department'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.

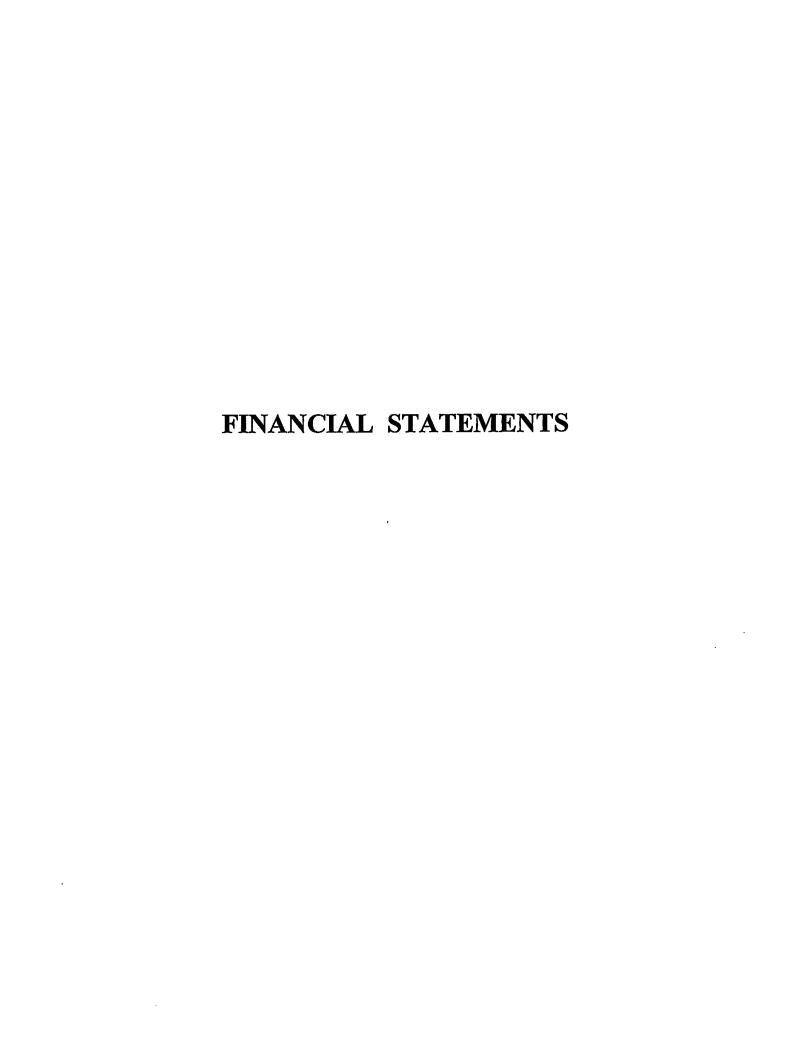
Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the modified cash basis financial statements. The accompanying other information listed in the table of contents is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. The other information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the modified cash basis financial statements and accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

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

Bonds & Company, P.A.

Bonds & Company, P.A. Sherwood, Arkansas August 08, 2024



City of Newport, Arkansas Sewer Department Comparative Statements of Net Position Modified Cash Basis December 31, 2023 and 2022

	2023	2022	
<u>ASSETS</u>			
Current Assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 693,098	\$ 580,382	
Restricted Assets:			
Cash with fiscal agent	20,123	19,759	
Capital Assets, Net	5,022,001	5,169,321	
Total Assets	\$ 5,735,222	\$ 5,769,462	
LIABILITIES AND NET PO	OSITION		
Current Liabilities:			
Current portion of long-term debt	\$ 112,551	\$ 111,293	
Payable to City-General Fund	1,140	926	
Total Current Liabilities	113,691	112,219	
Noncurrent Liabilities:			
Noncurrent portion of long-term debt	942,884	1,055,436	
Total Liabilities	1,056,575	1,167,655	
Net Position			
Net investment in capital assets	3,855,272	4,002,592	
Restricted for:			
Expendable:			
Debt service	20,123	19,759	
Unrestricted	803,252	579,456	
Total Net Position	4,678,647	4,601,807	
Total Liabilities and Net Position	\$ 5,735,222	\$ 5,769,462	

City of Newport, Arkansas Sewer Department

Comparative Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position Modified Cash Basis December 31, 2023 and 2022

	2023	2022	
Operating Revenues			
Biolac plant charges	\$ 566,179	\$ 551,030	
Sewer charges	776,562	751,782	
Sewer connection fees	300	300	
Other income	64,689	2,495	
Total Operating Revenue	1,407,730	1,305,607	
Operating Expenses			
Salaries	243,566	233,866	
Payroll tax expense and benefits	20,907	20,788	
Insurance	54,311	44,796	
Maintenance and repair	168,746	238,154	
Sludge removal	6,038	-0-	
Gas and oil	13,721	16,095	
Operating supplies	162,751	170,485	
Utilities	370,969	360,284	
Professional fees	18,788	18,621	
Other operating expenses	18,176	17,500	
Depreciation	259,550	253,864	
Total Operating Expenses	1,337,523	1,374,453	
Net Operating Income (Loss)	70,207	(68,846)	
Non-operating Revenues (expenses)			
Gain (Loss) on Sale of assets	500	-0-	
Interest income	11,175	2,863	
Interest expense	(7,032)	(7,209)	
Debt service fees	(9,063)	(10,763)	
Proceeds from insurance	5,410	-0-	
Nonoperating revenues (expenses)	990	(15,109)	
Income Before Other Revenues, Expenses Gains or Losses	71,197	(83,955)	
Transfer from (to) the General Fund	5,643	339,907	
Increase (decrease in Net Position	76,840	255,952	
Net Position, Beginning of Year	4,601,807	4,345,855	
Net Position, End of Year	\$ 4,678,647	\$ 4,601,807	

City of Newport, Arkansas Sewer Department Comparative Statements of Cash Flows Modified Cash Basis December 31, 2023 and 2022

	2023	2022
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Cash receipts from customers	\$ 1,407,732	\$ 1,305,607
Cash payments to suppliers for goods and services	(834,196)	(886,723)
Cash payments to employees	(243,566)	(233,866)
Net cash provided/(used) by operating activities	329,970	185,018
Cash flows from non-capital financing activities:		
Contribution from (to) the general fund	5,644	339,907
Net cash provided/(used) by non-capital financing activities	5,644	339,907
Cash flows from capital and related financing activities:		
Interest payments on long-term debt	(7,033)	(7,209)
Payments to trustee for bond principal	(111,293)	(110,052)
Payments to trustee for bond fees	(9,063)	(10,763)
Proceeds from Insurance	5,410	-0-
Distribution from trustee of interest earnings	-0-	-0-
Purchases of capital assets	(112,230)	(339,907)
Net cash provided/(used) in financing activities	(234,209)	(467,931)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Proceeds from equipment disposal	500	-0-
Interest received	11,175	2,649
Net cash provided/(used) by investing activities	11,675	2,649
Net Increase (Decrease) in Current and Restricted Cash	113,080	59,643
Cash and Cash Equivalents - Beginning of Year	600,141	540,498
Cash and Cash Equivalents - End of Year	\$ 713,221	\$ 600,141
Reconciliation of Operating Income to Net Cash Provided By Operating Activities		
Change in Accounts Payable	213	-0-
Operating income (loss)	70,207	\$ (68,846)
Adjustments to reconcile operating income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	259,550	253,864
Net Cash Provided (Used) By Operating Activities	329,970	\$ 185,018
Reconciliation of Cash to Statement of Net Position-Modified Cash Basis		
Current assets - cash and cash equivalents	\$ 693,098	\$ 580,382
Restricted assets - cash with fiscal agent	20,123	19,759
	\$ 713,221	\$ 600,141



NOTE 1: ORGANIZATION AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNT POLICIES

A. Organization

The City of Newport, Arkansas Sewer Department (the "Department") provides sewer treatment services to the citizens of Newport, Arkansas and to commercial and industrial customers located within the service area. The City Council serves as the governing board of the Department and approves rates for user charges.

These financial statements include the Department and present only balances and transactions that are directly attributable to the Sewer Fund. They are not intended to present, and do not present, the financial position and changes therein of the City or its proprietary funds. The Department has no potential component units required to be evaluated for inclusion in its reporting entity.

B. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

The accounts of the Department are organized on the basis of a proprietary fund type, specifically an enterprise fund. Enterprise funds account for the activities (i) that are financed with debt that is secured solely by a pledge of net revenues from fees and charges of the activity; (ii) that are required by laws or regulations that the activity's costs of providing services, including capital costs (such as depreciation or debt service), be recovered with fees and charges, rather than with taxes or similar revenues; or (iii) that the pricing policies of the activity establish fees and charges designed to recover its costs, including capital costs (such as depreciation or debt service).

The basis of accounting determines when transactions and economic events are reflected in financial statements and measurement focus identifies which transactions and events should be recorded. The measurement focus of an enterprise fund is usually an economic resources measurement focus, the objectives of which are the determination of an operating income, changes in financial position and cash flow. Under an economic resource measurement focus, all assets, deferred inflows (outflows) of resources and liabilities are reported. This basis of accounting and measurement focus emphasizes the measurement of net income similar to the approach used by commercial enterprises, revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when incurred. However, as explained in the paragraph that follows, certain modifications to the economic resources measurement focus result from the basis of accounting utilized by the Department.

The Department records all transactions on the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Under the modified cash basis of accounting, the Department generally recognizes assets, liabilities, deferred inflows (outflows) of resources, revenues and expenditures when cash is received or paid. Therefore, these financial statements do not report accounts receivables and revenues for services billed or provided, but not collected. In addition, these financial statements do not reflect liabilities or expenditures for goods or services received before year end for which payment has not yet been made. The only transactions reported on these financial statements that are not directly attributable to the receipts or disbursements of cash are depreciation of the Department's capital assets over the estimated useful lives of the assets.

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NOTE 1: ORGANIZATION AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNT POLICIES (Continued)

C. Basis of Presentation

The presentation of the Department's financial statements follows the requirements of GASB Statement No. 34, Basic Financial Statements - and Management's Discussion and Analysis - for State and Local Governments, as amended, as applicable to enterprise funds. In accordance with the requirements of this standard, the Department's net position is categorized into net investment in capital assets, restricted and unrestricted, as applicable.

In addition, operating revenues and expenditures derived from or related directly to the usage of sewer are distinguished from nonoperating revenues and expenditures for purposes of presentation in the Department's statements of revenues, expenditures and changes in net position-modified cash basis. Operating revenues consist primarily of user charges and operating expenditures include the costs of maintaining and operating the sewer system. Nonoperating revenues and expenditures consist of those revenues and expenditures that are related to financing and investing type activities. When an expenditure is incurred for purposes for which there are both restricted and unrestricted net positions available, it is the Department's policy to apply the expenditure to restricted net position to the extent such are available and then to unrestricted net position.

D. Cash and Cash Equivalents

For the purpose of the presentation on the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents includes all demand deposits and restricted cash includes cash held with fiscal agent.

E. Capital Assets

Capital assets consist of property, plant and equipment which are stated at historical cost or at estimated cost if actual historical cost information is not available. Contributed assets are recorded at their estimated fair value at the time of contribution. The cost of additions and major replacements of retired units of property are capitalized. The Department defines capital assets as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than \$2,000 and an estimated useful life in excess of two years. The cost and accumulated depreciation of property sold or retired is deducted from capital assets and any profit or loss resulting from the disposal is reported as nonoperating revenues or expenditures. The cost of current repairs, maintenance, and minor replacements are charged as an expenditure when incurred. Interest cost related to constructing property, plant and equipment is capitalized as part of the related asset where applicable.

Depreciation of capital assets is charged as an expenditure against operations. Depreciation rates have been applied on a straight-line basis, with estimated useful lives as follows:

Sewer Systems and Plants 40-50 Years Equipment 3-10 Years

NOTE 1: ORGANIZATION AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNT POLICIES (Continued)

F. Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

G. Net Position

Net position is classified in the following three components:

Net investment in capital assets - This component of net assets consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets.

Restricted - This component of net assets consists of constraints imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments or constraints imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. When an expenditure is incurred for purposes for which there are both restricted and unrestricted net positions available, it is the Department's policy to apply those expenditures to restricted net position to the extent such are available and then to unrestricted net position.

Unrestricted - This component of net position consists of net assets that do not meet the definition of "restricted" or "invested in capital assets."

H. Taxes

The City, and thus the Department, is exempt from federal income taxes under Code Section 115 of the Internal Revenue Code and is also exempt from state income taxes under Arkansas law. Accordingly, no provision for income taxes is made in the financial statements.

I. Budgets and Budgetary Accounting

Prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year, the City Council adopts an annual budget for the Department. The budget is adopted under a cash basis and does not include depreciation, certain capital expenditures, and non-operating income and expense items. All annual appropriations lapse at year-end and budgets are amended as needed.

NOTE 2: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Custodial Credit Risk - Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the Department's deposits may not be returned to the Department. In accordance with Arkansas State statutes, the Department is required to

NOTE 2: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS (Continued)

Custodial Credit Risk - Deposits (Continued)

maintain full collateralization of cash balances above the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation insurance limits. At December 31, 2023 and 2022 none of the Department's carrying or bank balance were exposed to custodial credit risk. The Department's carrying balance and bank balance were fully insured by FDIC and pledged securities held in the Department's name.

Restricted Cash

Cash with fiscal agent:

Represents funds required to be paid monthly to a trustee to hold for future debt service payments.

The following is a summary of the restricted cash as of December 31:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Cash with fiscal agent	<u>\$ 20,123</u>	<u>\$ 19,759</u>

NOTE 3: CAPITAL ASSETS

A summary of changes in capital asset balances that occurred during the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2023 follows:

	Balance 1/1/2023	Additions	<u>Deletions</u>	Balance 12/31/2023
Non-depreciable:				
Land	10,000	0	0	10,000
Construction in progress	0	0	0	0
	10,000	0	0	10,000
Depreciable:				
Biolac plant	2,635,862	0	0	2,635,862
Erwin/Robinson expansion	774,794	0	0	774,794
Equipment	739,648	4,599	(19,151)	725,096
Old sewer system	1,488,375	0	0	1,488,375
New sewer system	6,373,679	107,631	0	6,481,310
	12,012,358	112,230	(19,151)	12,105,437
Less accumulated depreciation	(6,853,036)	(240,399)	0	(7,093,435)
	5,159,322	(128,169)	0	5,012,002
Capital assets, net	\$ 5,169,322	(128,169)	\$ (19,151)	\$ 5,022,002

NOTE 3: CAPITAL ASSETS (Continued)

	Balance <u>1/1/2022</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deletions</u>	Balance 12/31/2022
Non-depreciable:				
Land	10,000	0	0	10,000
Construction in progress	0	0	0	0_
	10,000	0	0	10,000
Depreciable:				_
Biolac plant	2,635,862	0	0	2,635,862
Erwin/Robinson expansion	774,794	0	0	774,794
Equipment	739,647	0	0	739,647
Old sewer system	1,488,375	0	0	1,488,375
New sewer system	6,033,772	339,907	0	6,373,679
	11,672,450	339,907	0	12,012,357
Less accumulated depreciation	(6,599,172)	(253,864)	0	(6,853,036)
	5,073,278	86,043	0	5,159,321
Capital assets, net	\$ 5,083,278	\$ 86,043	<u> </u>	\$ 5,169,321

NOTE 4: LONG-TERM DEBT

Long-term Debt Issued and Outstanding

A summary of long-term debt issued and outstanding during the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 follows:

Date of Issue	Date of Final <u>Maturity</u>	Interest Rate	Amount Authorized Debt Outstanding and Issued December 31, 2023		Maturities to <u>December 31, 2023</u>
1/27/2006	1/27/2046	4.375%	\$ 206,000	\$ 158,498	\$ 47,502
4/15/2012	10/15/2031	0%	2,115,000	<u>896,936</u>	1,218,064
			<u>\$ 2,321,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,055,434</u>	<u>\$ 1,265,566</u>

NOTE 4: LONG-TERM DEBT (Continued)

Date of Issue	Date of Final <u>Maturity</u>	Interest Rate	Amount Authorized Debt Outstanding and Issued December 31, 2022		Maturities to <u>December 31, 2022</u>
1/27/2006	1/27/2046	4.375%	\$ 206,000	\$ 162,626	\$ 43,374
4/15/2012	10/15/2031	0%	2,115,000	1,004,103	1,110,897
			<u>\$ 2,321,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,166,729</u>	<u>\$ 1,154,271</u>

Pledged Revenue

The Department has pledged future customer revenues, net of specified operating expenditures, to repay bonds. Total principal, interest and fees remaining on the bonds is \$1,055,434 and \$128,288, respectively. Principal, interest and fees paid for the current year was \$111,293, and \$16,807 respectively. The percentage of customer revenue pledged for the current year principal, interest and fees payments was 10%.

Changes in long-term debt for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, were as follows:

December 31, 2023

		December 511.	2025		
	Beginning <u>Balance</u>	<u>Additions</u>	Reductions	Ending Balance	Due Within One Year
Bonds Payable	<u>\$ 1,166,727</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$ 111,293</u>	<u>\$ 1,055,434</u>	<u>\$ 112,551</u>
	1	December 31, 2	<u> 2022</u>		
	Beginning <u>Balance</u>	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance	Due Within One Year
Bonds Payable	<u>\$ 1,276,701</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 109,972</u>	<u>\$1,166,729</u>	<u>\$ 111,293</u>

NOTE 4: LONG-TERM DEBT (Continued)

Future Principal and Interest Payments:

	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	Service Fee	<u>Total</u>
2024	112,551	6,849	8,700	128,100
2025	113,830	6,656	7,614	128,100
2026	115,127	6,455	6,518	128,100
2027	116,442	6,246	5,412	128,100
2028	117,781	6,026	4,293	128,100
2029-2033	374,093	26,480	6,059	406,632
2034-2038	36,471	19,329	-0-	55,800
2039-2043	45,375	10,425	-0-	55,800
2044-2048	23,764	1,226	-0-	24,990
	<u>\$ 1,055,434</u>	<u>\$ 89,692</u>	<u>\$ 38,596</u>	<u>\$ 1,183,722</u>

NOTE 5: RISK MANAGEMENT AND LITIGATION

The Department is exposed to various risks of loss to torts; thefts of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. Expenditures and claims are recognized only when the claim is paid. In determining claims, events that might create claims, but for which none have been reported, are considered. There have been no significant reduction in the Department's coverage during the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022. In addition, there have been no settlements in excess of the Department's coverage in any of the prior three years.

NOTE 6: TRANSFERS AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE GENERAL FUND

The Department received \$62,922.24 from NEDC settlement to reimburse wastewater lines. There was no donated equipment. During 2023, the City transferred \$5,644 to the Department for sewer improvements.

NOTE 7: CASH HELD WITH FISCAL AGENT

Pursuant to the debt covenant on debt issued with the Arkansas Development Finance Authority (ADFA), the Department is required to make monthly payments into a trustee account. ADFA will semi-annually make the required principal, interest and service fee payments using the funds held along with any accumulated interest. As a result of the arrangement, the Department has funds held with the fiscal agent at December 31, 2023 and 2022, totaling \$20,123 and \$19,759, respectively.

OTHER INFORMATION

City of Newport, Arkansas Sewer Department Other Information Schedule of Sewer Rates December 31, 2023

Rates

First 1,000 gallons	\$ 5.75
Each 1,000 gallons after the first 1,000 gallons	2.25