## CARAWAY WATER AND SEWER (A COMPONENT UNIT OF THE CITY OF CARAWAY, AR)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (AUDITED)
DECEMBER 31, 2023

MEYER & WARD, P.A.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
P.O. BOX 1045
WYNNE, AR 72396

## CARAWAY WATER AND SEWER

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# MEYER AND WARD, P.A. CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS P.O. BOX 1045 WYNNE, ARKANSAS 72396

#### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Mayor and City Council Caraway Water and Sewer Dept. Caraway, AR 72419

#### **Opinions**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the business-type activities of the Caraway Water and Sewer Department as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Caraway Water and Sewer Department's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the business-type activities of the Caraway Water and Sewer Department, 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 Opinion**

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

#### Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note A, the financial statements present only the Caraway Water and Sewer Department and do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position, and the respective changes in financial position, or where applicable, its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

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

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

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

#### Required Supplementary Information

Management has omitted the required 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 and Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the budgetary comparison information on pages 16 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with 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 Information

Management is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. The other information comprises the introductory and statistical sections but does not include the basic financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinions on the basic financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

#### Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated July 8, 2024, on our consideration of the Caraway Water and Sewer Department's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Caraway Water and Sewer Department'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 Caraway Water and Sewer Department's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Meyer & Ward

Meyer & Ward, P.A. Certified Public Accountants Wynne, Arkansas 72396 July 8, 2024

## CARAWAY WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT STATEMENT OF NET POSITION DECEMBER 31, 2023

ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	37,966
Accounts receivable		32,630
Total Current Assets		70,596
RESTRICTED ASSETS		
Cash in bank		113,313
Total Restricted Assets		113,313
Capital Assets:		
Land		35,545
Water & Sewer System	2	2,959,718
Tools & Equipment		218,343
Office Equipment		39,335
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(	1,761,150)
CAPITAL ASSETS, NET		1,491,791
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	1,675,700

## CARAWAY WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT STATEMENT OF NET POSITION DECEMBER 31, 2023

Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ 5,742
State Withholdings Payable	222
Garbage Payable	9,924
Sales Tax Payable	1,731
Total Current Liabilities	17,619
Liabilities Davable from Destricted Assets	
Liabilities Payable from Restricted Assets	00.074
Current portion of long-term debt	23,874
Customer deposits	50,275
Accrued Interest	208
Total Payable from Restricted Assets	74,357
LONG TERM DEBT, NET OF CURRENT PORTION	494,340
Net Position	
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	973,577

20,825

94,982

1,089,384

\$ 1,675,700

**LIABILITIES** 

Restricted for debt service

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION

Unrestricted

**Total Net Position** 

## CARAWAY WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

OPERATING REVENUES		
Water sales and service fees	\$	285,574
Other Revenue		11,147
Total Operating Revenues		296,721
	·	
OPERATING EXPENSES:		
Salaries and fringe benefits		154,021
Payroll Taxes		7,795
Advertising		84
Depreciation		63,726
Dues and subscriptions		3,425
Fuel		7,649
Insurance		8,691
Msœllaneous		1,032
Permits and fees		8,855
Postage		3,677
Professional fees		4,500
Repairs		6,288
Supplies		57,221
Uniform		868
Utilities		34,433
Total Operating Expenses		362,265
OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)		(65,544)
NONOPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)		
Interest income		2,443
Transfers In - City General Fund		39,728
Interest expense		(11,961)
Nonoperating revenues (expenses)		30,210
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET POSITION		(35,334)
Prior Year Net Position		1,124,718
Net Position at end of year	\$	1,089,384

## CARAWAY WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

Cash Flows From Operating Activities:	
Receipts from customers	\$ 300,295
Payments to suppliers	(143,815)
Payments to employees	(154,021)
Net cash provided by operating activities	 2,459
Cash flows from capital and related financing activities	
Principal paid on capital debt	(20,326)
(Increase) decrease in restricted assets	(256)
Net cash provided (used) by capital and related activities	(20,582)
Cash flows from investing activities	
Interest income	2,443
Interest paid on capital debt	(11,967)
Transfers from (to) other City Funds	39,728
Net cash provided (used) by investing activities	30,204
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	12,081
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	25,885
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 37,966
Reconciliation of Operating Income to Net Cash Provided by	
Operating Activities	
Operating Income	\$ (65,544)
Depreciation	63,726
(Increase) Decrease in:	
Accounts receivable	249
Increase (Decrease) in :	
Accounts Payable	606
Sales Tax Payable	97
Customer Meter Deposits	3,325
	\$ 2,459

#### NOTE A – ORGANIZATION AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### REPORTING ENTITY

Caraway Water and Sewer Department (the Department) is a component unit of the City of Caraway, AR. The financial statements present only the Caraway Water and Sewer Department, and do not include any other funds of the City of Caraway, AR, and are not intended to be government wide financial statements for the City of Caraway, AR.

#### BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

Basis of accounting refers to the point at which revenues or expenses are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. The accompanying financial statements are presented on the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when earned, and expenses are recognized when incurred.

#### ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Accounts Receivable are collateralized by Meter Deposits. Accounts Receivable are presented at estimated net realizable value. Revenues are reported net of all discounts and allowances, including bad debts.

#### PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property and equipment is stated at cost. Expenditures for major renewals and betterments are capitalized while minor replacements, maintenance, and repairs, which do not improve or extend the life of such assets, are charged to operations as incurred. Depreciation is provided by the straight- line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets. Estimated useful lives range from 5-10 years for office furniture and equipment to 40 years for water system.

#### CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

The Caraway Water and Sewer Department considers all cash, and certificates of deposits purchased with a maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents. Deposits restricted pursuant to loan agreements or for other purposes are not considered cash equivalents.

#### **ESTIMATES**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that could affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### NOTE A – ORGANIZATION AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – (cont'd)

#### CREDIT RISK

Financial instruments which potentially subject the Department to concentrations of credit risk consist principally of temporary cash investments. The Department places its temporary cash investments with financial institutions, and its policy is to limit the amount of credit exposure to any one financial institution. The Department's policy is to limit such investments to amounts covered by FDIC coverage, and securities pledged to collateralize deposits.

#### **ADVERTISING**

Advertising costs are expensed when incurred.

#### SALES TAX

Caraway Water and Sewer Department is subject to state and local sales taxes on water and gas sales. Revenues are presented net of sales taxes.

#### **NET POSITION**

Net Position is divided into three components:

- Investments in capital assets, net of related debt consist of the historical cost of capital assets less accumulated depreciation and less any debt that remains outstanding that was used to finance those assets.
- Restricted amounts that are restricted by the Department's creditors, (for example, debt covenants), by laws and regulations of other governments, or by other contributors.
- Unrestricted all other net position is reported in this category.

#### OPERATING REVENUES AND EXPENSES

Operating revenues and expenses of the Department consist of charges for services, and the costs of providing those services, excluding interest costs.

#### RESTRICTED RESOURCES

When an expense is incurred that could be paid by using either restricted or unrestricted resources, the Department's policy is to first apply the expenditure toward restricted resources.

#### NOTE B – RESTRICTED ASSETS:

City ordinances mandate certain cash funds be set aside for debt retirement, and emergency (depreciation) reserves. Restricted accounts are also established to cover the Department's liability for customer deposits. At December 31, 2023 restricted cash was as follows:

	Cash		
Water - Meter Deposit - Checking	\$ 38,505		
Water - Meter Deposit - CD	15,081		
Water - Depreciation Fund - CD	16,500		
Water - Debt Service - CD	20,825		
Water - Well Depreciaiton - Checking	18,980		
Water - Infrasturcture Cash	81		
Escrow Holdings	 3,341		
	\$ 113,313		

The customer's deposit reserve is established to cover the Caraway Water and Sewer Departments' liability for customer deposits of \$ 50,275.

#### NOTE C - CONTINGENCIES

The Caraway Water and Sewer Department is subject to governmental regulations regarding water quality and waste disposal. Fines may result from noncompliance.

#### NOTE D - CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT RISKS:

The entity's policy is for deposits to be secured by collateral valued at market or par, whichever is lower, less the amount of Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Insurance. The entity's deposits are categorized to give an indication of the level of risk assumed by the entity at December 31, 2023. The categories of risk are described as follows:

Category 1 - Insured or collateralized by the entity or by the entity of its agent in the entity's name.

Category 2 – Collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institutions trust department or by its agent in the entity's name.

#### Category 3 - Uncollateralized

## NOTE D – CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT RISKS: (Cont'd)

At December 31, 2023, Deposits are categorized as follows:

			Category					
				1 2 3			3	
	Carryin	g amount						
Petty Cash Deposits with Financial	\$	100					\$	100
Institutions		151,179		151,179		-		
	\$	151,279	\$	151,179	\$	-	\$	100

Sales – All of the Caraway Water and Sewer revenues are earned from water and sewer services provided to local area residents.

### NOTE E - PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

A Summary of activity for property plant and equipment accounts is as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance	
Assets not subject to depreciation:					
Land	\$ 35,545			\$ 35,545	
	35,545	-	-	35,545	
Assets subject to depreciation					
Water and Sewer System	2,959,718			2,959,718	
Tools and Equipment	218,343			218,343	
Office Equipment	39,335			39,335	
	3,217,396			3,217,396	
Total	3,252,941			3,252,941	
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(1,697,424)	(63,726)		(1,761,150)	
Net Property and Equipment	\$ 1,555,517	\$ (63,726)	\$ -	\$ 1,491,791	

#### NOTE F: LONG TERM DEBT

Long-Term debt includes special obligation bonds and notes payable from revenues generated by operation of the water system. These debts are to be retired through the year 2044, with interest ranging from .75% to 4.375 %. The following is a summary of debt service requirements as of December 31, 2023:

For years ending			
December 31,	Principal	Interest	Total
2024	23,874	11,630	35,504
2025	24,335	11,169	35,504
2026	24,778	10,727	35,505
2027	25,235	10,269	35,504
2028	25,681	9,823	35,504
For five years ending			
2033	136,209	41,311	177,520
2038	150,795	26,725	177,520
2043	100,029	12,590	112,619
2048	7,278	87	7,365
	\$ 518,214	\$ 134,331	\$ 652,545

A summary of notes payable activity is as follows:

Balance					Balance
12/31/2022	Additions	Red	ductions	1	2/31/2023
\$ 538,540		\$	20,326	\$	518,214

#### NOTE G: RETIREMENT PLAN:

All Department employees are covered under the City of Caraway Defined Contribution Pension Plan. All full time employees 21 or older are eligible to participate after six month's service. The Water Department matches 3% of each participating employee's covered payroll. Contributions are fully vested after 5 years of service. Total employer contributions for 2023 was \$ 2,436.

## NOTE H: SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Management has evaluated subsequent events through the date of this report. No items were noted which would require disclosure.

## MEYER & WARD, P.A. CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS P.O. BOX 1045 WYNNE, ARKANSAS 72396

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  $AUDITING\ STANDARDS$ 

Mayor and City Council Caraway Water and Sewer Department Caraway, AR 72419

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the business-type activities of the Caraway Water and Sewer Department as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Caraway Water and Sewer Departments' basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated July 8, 2024.

#### **Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Caraway Water and Sewer Departments' 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 Caraway Water and Sewer Departments' internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Caraway Water and Sewer Departments' 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 Department'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 over financial reporting 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 Caraway Water and Sewer Departments' financial statements are free of 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 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 Department'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 Department's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Meyer & Ward

Meyer & Ward, P.A. Certified Public Accountants Wynne, Arkansas 72396

July 8, 2024

## Caraway Water and Sewer Department Budgetary Comparison Schedule For the year ended December 31, 2023

	Actual Budget		Budget		Variance Over (Under)	
OPERATING REVENUES	•		•	400.000	•	(440.070)
Water sales and service fees	\$	285,574	\$	428,850	\$	(143,276)
Other Revenue		11,147		3,500		7,647
Total Operating Revenues		296,721		432,350		(135,629)
OPERATING EXPENSES:						
Salaries and fringe benefits		154,021		130,675		(23,346)
Payroll Tax Expense		7,795		16,000		8,205
Advertising		84		500		416
Depreciation		63,726				(63,726)
Dues and subscriptions		3,425		1,000		(2,425)
Garbage Fees				105,000		105,000
Loan Payments				35,056		35,056
Non capitalized equipment				10,000		10,000
Fuel		7,649		6,000		(1,649)
Insurance		8,691		6,000		(2,691)
Miscellaneous		1,032		13,250		12,218
Permits and fees		8,855		5,040		(3,815)
Postage		3,677		3,500		(177)
Professional fees		4,500		5,000		500
Repairs		6,288		10,000		3,712
Sales Tax				21,000		21,000
Supplies		57,221		30,000		(27,221)
Uniform		868		1,000		132
Utilities		34,433		33,200		(1,233)
Total Operating Expenses		362,265		432,221		69,956
OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)		(65,544)		129		(65,673)
NONOPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)						
Interest income		2,443				2,443
Transfers In - City General Fund		39,728				39,728
Interest expense		(11,961)				(11,961)
Nonoperating revenues (expenses)		30,210		_		30,210
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET POSITION		(35,334)		129		(35,463)
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