

Form 5500 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ► Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.	OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089 2016 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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Part I	Annual Report Identification Information		
For calendar plan year 2016 or fiscal plan year beginning <u>10/01/2016</u> and ending <u>09/30/2017</u>			
A	This return/report is for:	☐ a multiemployer plan ☐ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must attach a list of participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.) ☒ a single-employer plan ☐ a DFE (specify) _____	
B	This return/report is:	☐ the first return/report ☐ the final return/report ☐ an amended return/report ☐ a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)	
C	If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. ☐		
D	Check box if filing under:	☒ Form 5558 ☐ automatic extension ☐ the DFVC program ☐ special extension (enter description)	

Part II	Basic Plan Information —enter all requested information		
1a	Name of plan <u>GRIFFON CORPORATION EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN</u>	1b	Three-digit plan number (PN) ► <u>001</u>
		1c	Effective date of plan <u>10/01/1982</u>
2a	Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan) Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions) <u>GRIFFON CORPORATION</u> <u>712 FIFTH AVENUE, 18TH FLOOR</u> <u>NEW YORK, NY 10019</u>	2b	Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>11-1893410</u>
		2c	Plan Sponsor's telephone number <u>212-957-5000</u>
		2d	Business code (see instructions) <u>541990</u>

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	<u>06/29/2018</u>	<u>THOMAS GIBBONS</u>
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE
Preparer's name (including firm name, if applicable) and address (include room or suite number)			Preparer's telephone number

3a Plan administrator's name and address ☒ Same as Plan Sponsor	3b Administrator's EIN 3c Administrator's telephone number <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the name, EIN and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name	4b EIN 4c PN
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5 6354
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d). a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year..... a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits..... c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits. f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) h Number of participants that terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	<div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> 6a(1) 3896 6a(2) 3578 6b 0 6c 2388 6d 5966 6e 34 6f 6000 6g 5945 6h 0
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item).....	7
8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions: 2I 2P 3H 3I	
b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:	

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☐ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor	9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☐ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor
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10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

a Pension Schedules

- (1) ☒ **R** (Retirement Plan Information)
- (2) ☐ **MB** (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- (3) ☐ **SB** (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary

b General Schedules

- (1) ☒ **H** (Financial Information)
- (2) ☐ **I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
- (3) ☐ 0 **A** (Insurance Information)
- (4) ☒ **C** (Service Provider Information)
- (5) ☐ **D** (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
- (6) ☐ **G** (Financial Transaction Schedules)

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2016 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2016 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code _____

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Service Provider Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110
		2016
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2016 or fiscal plan year beginning **10/01/2016** and ending **09/30/2017**

A Name of plan GRIFFON CORPORATION EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 GRIFFON CORPORATION	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 11-1893410

Part I	Service Provider Information (see instructions)
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You must complete this Part, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information required for **each person** who received, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of monetary value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or the person's position with the plan during the plan year. If a person received **only** eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures, you are required to answer line 1 but are not required to include that person when completing the remainder of this Part.

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

a Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions)..... ☒ Yes ☐ No

b If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation
VANGUARD

23-1945930

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

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2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

WELLS FARGO BANK NA

94-1347393

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
21 50	NONE	43935	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☒ No ☐	0	Yes ☐ No ☒

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3. If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received \$1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

4 Provide, to the extent possible, the following information for each service provider who failed or refused to provide the information necessary to complete this Schedule.

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

Part III Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)
(complete as many entries as needed)

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Financial Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ► File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110
		2016
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2016 or fiscal plan year beginning 10/01/2016 and ending 09/30/2017		
A Name of plan GRIFFON CORPORATION EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 GRIFFON CORPORATION	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 11-1893410	

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement
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1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. **Round off amounts to the nearest dollar.** MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.

Assets		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a		
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions.....	1b(1)		
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)		
(3) Other.....	1b(3)		
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit).....	1c(1)	152827	163664
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)		
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)		
(B) All other.....	1c(3)(B)		
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)		
(B) Common.....	1c(4)(B)		
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property).....	1c(6)		
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		
(8) Participant loans.....	1c(8)		
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)		
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)		
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)		
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities.....	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds).....	1c(13)	997622	1039272
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts).....	1c(14)		
(15) Other	1c(15)		

1d Employer-related investments:

		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)	91523921	128809639
(2) Employer real property	1d(2)		
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e		
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	92674370	130012575

Liabilities

g Benefit claims payable	1g		
h Operating payables	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness	1i		
j Other liabilities	1j	34387000	42674992
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j)	1k	34387000	42674992

Net Assets

l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	58287370	87337583
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Part II Income and Expense Statement

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

Income

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a Contributions:			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers	2a(1)(A)	2779609	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)		
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)		
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		2779609
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)		
(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)		
(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)		
(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)		
(E) Participant loans	2b(1)(E)		
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		0
(2) Dividends: (A) Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)		
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)		
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		0
(3) Rents	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: (A) Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)		
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)		
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result	2b(4)(C)		0
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: (A) Real estate	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)	29721284	
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)		29721284

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts	2b(6)		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts	2b(7)		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds).....	2b(10)		2819856
c Other income.....	2c		30476
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2d		35351225

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	4701042	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits	2e(2)		
(3) Other	2e(3)		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines 2e(1) through (3).....	2e(4)		4701042
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		
h Interest expense.....	2h		1556035
i Administrative expenses: (1) Professional fees.....	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees.....	2i(2)		
(3) Investment advisory and management fees.....	2i(3)	43935	
(4) Other	2i(4)		
(5) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (4).....	2i(5)		43935
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		6301012

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		29050213
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan.....	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan.....	2l(2)		

Part III Accountant's Opinion

3 Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

a The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1) ☐ Unqualified (2) ☐ Qualified (3) ☒ Disclaimer (4) ☐ Adverse

b Did the accountant perform a limited scope audit pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and/or 103-12(d)?

☒ Yes ☐ No

c Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: **NAWROCKI SMITH LLP**

(2) EIN: **74-3216978**

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** because:

(1) ☐ This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, or MTIA. (2) ☐ It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l.

During the plan year:

a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.).....

b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)

	Yes	No	Amount
4a		X	
4b		X	

		Yes	No	Amount
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)	4c		X	
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)	4d		X	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	4e	X		20000000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?	4f		X	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	4g		X	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	4h		X	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	4i	X		
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	4j		X	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?	4k		X	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?	4l		X	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)	4m		X	
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.	4n			
o Defined Benefit Plan or Money Purchase Pension Plan Only: Were any distributions made during the plan year to an employee who attained age 62 and had not separated from service?	4o			

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year?
If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year. ☐ Yes ☒ No **Amount:**

5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)

5b(1) Name of plan(s)	5b(2) EIN(s)	5b(3) PN(s)

5c If the plan is a defined benefit plan, is it covered under the PBGC insurance program (See ERISA section 4021.)? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not determined
If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year (See instructions.)

Part V Trust Information

6a Name of trust	6b Trust's EIN
6c Name of trustee or custodian	6d Trustee's or custodian's telephone number

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Retirement Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2016 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2016 or fiscal plan year beginning 10/01/2016 and ending 09/30/2017

A Name of plan <u>GRIFFON CORPORATION EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ <u>001</u>
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>GRIFFON CORPORATION</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>11-1893410</u>

Part I	Distributions
---------------	----------------------

All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.

1 Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions	1	<u>0</u>
2 Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits): EIN(s): <u>56-1354495</u>		
Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.		
3 Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year	3	

Part II	Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part.)
----------------	---

4 Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A
If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.			
5 If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. Date: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.			
6 a Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)	6a		
b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year	6b		
c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount)	6c		
If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.			
7 Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A
8 If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A

Part III	Amendments
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9 If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box.....	☐ Increase	☐ Decrease	☐ Both	☐ No
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Part IV	ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under Section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.
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10 Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan?	☐ Yes	☒ No
11 a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock?	☐ Yes	☒ No
b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.)	☐ Yes	☒ No
12 Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market?	☐ Yes	☒ No

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.

Schedule R (Form 5500) 2016
v. 160205

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year (measured in dollars). See instructions. *Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.*

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

14	Enter the number of participants on whose behalf no contributions were made by an employer as an employer of the participant for:		
	a The current year	14a	
	b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	14b	
	c The second preceding plan year	14c	
15	Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:		
	a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	15a	
	b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	15b	
16	Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:		
	a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year	16a	
	b If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers	16b	
17	If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment. ☐		

Part VI	Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans
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18	If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment	☐
19	If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) through (c)	
	a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as: Stock: _____% Investment-Grade Debt: _____% High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Estate: _____% Other: _____%	
	b Provide the average duration of the combined investment-grade and high-yield debt: ☐ 0-3 years ☐ 3-6 years ☐ 6-9 years ☐ 9-12 years ☐ 12-15 years ☐ 15-18 years ☐ 18-21 years ☐ 21 years or more	
	c What duration measure was used to calculate line 19(b)? ☐ Effective duration ☐ Macaulay duration ☐ Modified duration ☐ Other (specify): _____	

Part VII	IRS Compliance Questions
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20a Is the plan a 401(k) plan? If "No," skip b	☐ Yes ☐ No
20b How did the plan satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals under section 401(k)(3) for the plan year? Check all that apply:	☐ Design-based safe harbor ☐ "Prior year" ADP test ☐ "Current year" ADP test ☐ N/A
21a What testing method was used to satisfy the coverage requirements under section 410(b) for the plan year? Check all that apply:	☐ Ratio percentage test ☐ Average benefit test ☐ N/A
21b Did the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination requirements of sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) for the plan year by combining this plan with any other plan under the permissive aggregation rules?	☐ Yes ☐ No
22a If the plan is a master and prototype plan (M&P) or volume submitter plan that received a favorable IRS opinion letter or advisory letter, enter the date of the letter / / and the serial number .	
22b If the plan is an individually-designed plan that received a favorable determination letter from the IRS, enter the date of the most recent determination letter / / .	

GRIFFON CORPORATION
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS OF AND FOR THE YEARS ENDING
SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 AND 2016

GRIFFON CORPORATION
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS OF AND FOR THE YEARS ENDING
SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 AND 2016

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Independent Auditor's Report	1
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits	3
Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits	4
Notes to Financial Statements	5
Schedules of Assets Held for Investment Purposes	11
Schedule of Reportable Transactions	12



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Plan Administrator of the
Griffon Corporation Employee Stock Ownership Plan:

Report on the Financial Statements

We were engaged to audit the accompanying financial statements of the Griffon Corporation Employee Stock Ownership Plan (the "Plan"), which comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of September 30, 2017 and 2016, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, and the related notes to financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes 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.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on conducting our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Because of the matter described in the *Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion* paragraph, however, we were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion.

Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion

As permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's ("DOL") Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the Plan Administrator instructed us not to perform, and we did not perform, any auditing procedures with respect to the information summarized in Note 3, which was certified by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., the Trustee of the Plan, except for comparing the information with the related information included in the financial statements. We have been informed by the Plan Administrator that the Trustee holds the Plan's investment assets and executes investment transactions. The Plan Administrator has obtained a certification from the Trustee as of and for the years ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, that the information provided to the Plan Administrator by the Trustee is complete and accurate.

NawrockiSmith

Disclaimer of Opinion

Because of the significance of the matter described in the *Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion* paragraph, we have not been able to obtain sufficient, appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on these financial statements.

Other Matter

The supplemental schedules on pages 11 and 12 as of and for the years ending September 30, 2017 and 2016, are required by the Department of Labor Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and are presented for the purpose of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements. Because of the significance of the matter described in the *Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion* paragraph, it is inappropriate to and we do not express an opinion on the supplemental schedules referred to above.

Report on Form and Content in Compliance with DOL Rules and Regulations

The form and content of the information included in the financial statements and supplemental schedules other than that derived from the information certified by the Trustee, have been audited by us in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and, in our opinion, are presented in compliance with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

June 6, 2018
Melville, New York



GRIFFON CORPORATION
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 AND 2016

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
ASSETS:		
Cash	\$ 163,664	\$ 152,827
Investments, at fair value:		
Griffon Corporation Common Stock - Sponsor (Note 3)	128,809,639	91,523,921
Vanguard Index Trust 500 Portfolio	624,649	600,750
Vanguard Bond Index Fund Intermediate Portfolio	207,123	198,930
Vanguard Bond Index Fund Short-Term Portfolio	<u>207,500</u>	<u>197,942</u>
Total investments	<u>129,848,911</u>	<u>92,521,543</u>
Total assets	<u>130,012,575</u>	<u>92,674,370</u>
LIABILITIES:		
Loan payable (Note 7)	<u>42,674,992</u>	<u>34,387,000</u>
Total liabilities	<u>42,674,992</u>	<u>34,387,000</u>
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	<u>\$ 87,337,583</u>	<u>\$ 58,287,370</u>

The accompanying notes to financial statements are an
integral part of these statements.

GRIFFON CORPORATION
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 AND 2016

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 58,287,370	\$ 51,468,384
ADDITIONS:		
Net appreciation in value of investments	29,721,284	6,715,839
Employer contributions	2,779,609	2,365,761
Dividends	1,424,258	1,107,717
Investment income	1,395,598	119,330
Other income	30,476	9,324
DEDUCTIONS:		
Participant withdrawals	(4,701,042)	(2,241,506)
Interest expense	(1,556,035)	(1,096,683)
Other expenses	(43,935)	(160,796)
Net additions	<u>29,050,213</u>	<u>6,818,986</u>
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 87,337,583</u>	<u>\$ 58,287,370</u>

The accompanying notes to financial statements are an
integral part of these statements.

GRIFFON CORPORATION
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(1) The Griffon Corporation Employee Stock Ownership Plan (the “Plan”):

The following Plan description is provided for general information purposes. Participants in the Plan should refer to the Plan document for more detailed and complete information.

General -

The Plan is a defined contribution plan. All employees of Griffon Corporation and Subsidiaries (the “Company”) who were employed as of May 1983, and who were not members of a collective bargaining unit, automatically became eligible to participate in the Plan. All employees, not members of a collective bargaining unit, employed subsequent to that date become eligible to participate in the Plan on the next October 1st following their completion of one year of service, as defined. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. Expenses incurred in connection with the administration of the Plan are paid by the Company.

Contributions -

Contributions to the Plan may be made in such amounts as the Board of Directors of the Company determines in its sole discretion.

Allocations to participants’ accounts -

The Company declares quarterly dividends. Dividends paid on all shares held by the Plan are used to offset debt service on loans payable (Note 7).

Annually, the calculation of the aggregate number of shares to be released to participants is based on loans payable debt service using the principal and interest methodology.

The shares are allocated to each participant’s account in the following manner: On a quarterly basis, the dividends paid on shares held in participants’ individual accounts are utilized to allocate shares from the aggregate number of shares to be released, equal in value to those dividends, based on the closing price of Griffon Corporation common stock on the dividend payment date. The remaining balance of the aggregate number of shares to be released are allocated to participants’ individual accounts based on the proportion that each participant’s aggregate compensation, as defined (not to exceed \$270,000 for the Plan year ended September 30, 2017), bears to the total of all participants’ compensation. After becoming eligible to participate in the Plan, participants are 50% vested in the contributions associated with their account upon one year of service and are fully vested after two years of continuous service.

Withdrawals by participants and payments of benefits -

Upon termination of employment at or after attaining normal retirement age, death, total disability or attainment of age 70 ½, vested Plan benefits are available for a participant in the form of a lump-sum distribution or by payment in a series of equal periodic payments over a period not to exceed five years.

Non-employees can request a distribution if their total account value is less than \$5,000.

Plan termination -

It is currently the intention of the Company that the Plan shall be permanent. However, the Company reserves the right to terminate, suspend or completely discontinue contributions to the Plan at any time. Upon termination or partial termination of the Plan, all participants become fully vested in their individual accounts.

(2) Summary of significant accounting policies:

Basis of accounting -

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared under the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Use of estimates in the preparation of financial statements -

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of changes in net assets available for benefits during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Any adjustments applied to estimated amounts are recognized in the year in which such adjustments are determined.

Investment valuation and income recognition -

Investments are reported at fair value. The methods used to measure fair value may produce an amount that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, although the Plan believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

At September 30, 2017 and 2016, the Plan's investments were primarily held in Griffon Corporation common stock and various mutual funds and are stated at fair value. The net appreciation (depreciation) in the fair value of investments includes realized and unrealized gains and losses on the fair value of investments held by the Plan. Purchases and sales of investments are recorded on a trade date basis.

Griffon Corporation common stock acquired by or contributed to the Plan after December 31, 1986 is subject to diversification requirements contained in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended ("Code"). If a participant has attained age fifty-five (55) or older and has participated in the Plan for at least ten (10) years, the participant is eligible to elect to receive a distribution of Griffon Corporation common stock in their account. Beginning with the first plan year in which the participant first meets the requirements above and for the next five (5) plan years, the participant can elect to have twenty-five percent (25%) of the eligible Griffon Corporation common stock in their account (less any prior such distributions) distributed to them. In the last plan year for which the participant may make this election, the participant may elect to have fifty percent (50%) of the eligible Griffon Corporation common stock in their account distributed to them. The distribution is in the form of cash, which can be held in a mutual fund in their account or can be rolled over to an IRA or the Griffon Corporation 401(k) Plan.

Management fees and operating expenses charged to the Plan for investments in mutual funds are deducted from income earned on a daily basis and are not separately reflected. Consequently, management fees and operating expenses are reflected as a reduction of net appreciation in fair value of investments.

(3) Fair value measurements and investments

Fair value is defined as the exchange price that would be received for an asset or paid to transfer a liability (an exit price) in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. Financial Accounting Standards Board guidelines on fair value measurements, establish a fair value hierarchy, which require an entity to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when measuring fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to measurements involving significant unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are as follows:

- Level 1 inputs are quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the reported entity has the ability to access at the measurement date.
- Level 2 inputs are inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.
- Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value:

Common stock: Valued at the closing price reported on the active market where the individual shares are traded. The Company's common stock is deemed to be actively traded.

Mutual funds: Valued at the daily closing price as reported by the fund. Mutual funds held by the Plan are open-end mutual funds that are registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. These funds are required to publish their daily net asset value and to transact at that price. The mutual funds held by the Plan are deemed to be actively traded.

Investments as of September 30, 2017 and 2016 are comprised of the following:

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Common stock	\$128,809,639	\$91,523,921
Mutual funds	<u>1,039,272</u>	<u>997,622</u>
	<u>\$129,848,911</u>	<u>\$92,521,543</u>

The following table represents the Plan's fair value hierarchy for investments as of September 30, 2017:

	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>	<u>Level 3</u>
Common stock	\$128,809,639	\$128,809,639	\$ -	\$ -
Mutual funds	<u>1,039,272</u>	<u>1,039,272</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 129,848,911</u>	<u>\$129,848,911</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

The following table represents the Plan's fair value hierarchy for investments as of September 30, 2016:

	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>	<u>Level 3</u>
Common stock	\$ 91,523,921	\$ 91,523,921	\$ -	\$ -
Mutual funds	<u>997,622</u>	<u>997,622</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 92,521,543</u>	<u>\$ 92,521,543</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

As of September 30, 2017 and 2016, the Plan did not possess any level 2 or 3 types of investments.

The Plan's investments consist primarily of common shares of Griffon Corporation, as follows:

	<u>Number of Shares</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Market Value</u>
September 30, 2017	5,802,236	\$99,165,294	\$128,809,639
September 30, 2016	5,380,595	\$88,290,868	\$91,523,921

As of September 30, 2017, 2,414,481 common shares have been allocated to participant accounts. The market value was determined by using the last reported sale price on the New York Stock Exchange at September 30, 2017 and 2016 (\$22.20 and \$17.01, respectively). As of September 30, 2016, the cost of \$88,290,868 reflects the transfer of 3,015,854 shares at \$16.90 per share as a result of the refinancing of the new ESOP Term Loan.

(4) Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan invests in various investment securities including the stock of the Plan Sponsor, Griffon Corporation. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term, and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits.

(5) Information Prepared and Certified By Trustee

The information included in the accompanying financial statements and supplemental schedules was obtained from data that has been prepared and certified to as complete and accurate by the Trustee, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

(6) Tax status

The Plan has received a favorable determination letter, dated September 14, 2013, from the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") stating that it qualifies under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code ("IRC"), and is entitled to an exemption under Section 501(a). Although the Plan has been amended since receiving the determination letter, the Plan Administrator and the Plan's tax counsel believe that the Plan is designed and is currently being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC.

U.S. generally accepted accounting principles require the Plan Administrator to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability for any uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the IRS. The Plan Administrator believes there are no such positions, and therefore, no provision for income tax has been included in the Plan financial statements. The Plan is subject to routine audits by tax authorities. An IRS examination of the Plan is in progress. The Plan Administrator believes the Plan is no longer subject to income tax examinations for years prior to 2014.

(7) Loans payable

In August 2016, Griffon's ESOP entered into an agreement that refinanced the existing ESOP loan into a new Term Loan in the amount of \$35,092,000 (the "Agreement"). The Agreement also provided for a Line Note with \$10,908,000 available to purchase shares of Griffon common stock in the open market. The availability period for the Line Note went through August 2017, at which point the outstanding balance under the Line Note will be combined with the Term Loan. The Term Loan and Line Note bear interest at LIBOR plus 2.50%. The Term Loan requires quarterly principal payments of \$655,000 through September 2016 and \$569,000 thereafter, with a balloon payment due at maturity on March 22, 2020. During the year ended September 30, 2017, Griffon's ESOP purchased 621,875 shares of common stock for a total of \$10,907,992 or \$17.54 per share, under the Line Note that has now been fully utilized. As of September 30, 2017, \$42,674,992 was outstanding under the Term Loan and 3,387,755 shares were pledged as collateral to secure the loan balance, with a lien on a specific amount of the Company assets and repayment is guaranteed by Griffon Corporation.

Principal maturities of this loan payable are as follows:

<u>Year Ending</u> <u>September 30,</u>	
2018	\$ 2,276,000
2019	2,276,000
2020	<u>38,122,992</u>
	<u>\$42,674,992</u>

(8) Subsequent events

Management of the Plan has evaluated subsequent events through June 6, 2018, which is the date these financial statements were available to be issued, and noted the following:

On April 16, 2018, Griffon Corporation paid a special cash dividend of \$1.00 per share. As a result, the ESOP received income of \$5,704,783 which was used to reduce the outstanding principal balance of the ESOP term loan.

Subsequent to September 30, 2017, the ESOP made its annual share calculation and release as described in Note 1. The total amount of shares released was 280,604 which includes 25,665 shares for dividends on allocated shares used to service debt and 254,939 shares allocated based on compensation.

GRIFFON CORPORATION EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

EIN: 11-1893410

PLAN NUMBER: 001

FORM 5500, SCHEDULE H, LINE 4i

SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR)

AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 AND 2016

(a)	(b)	September 30, 2017			September 30, 2016		
		(c)	(d)	(e)	(c)	(d)	(e)
	Issuer	Description	Cost	Current Value	Description	Cost	Current Value
*	Griffon Corporation	5,802,236 shares of common stock	\$ 99,165,924	\$ 128,809,639	5,380,595 shares of common stock	\$ 88,290,868	\$ 91,523,921
*	Vanguard Fiduciary Trust Company	Index Trust 500 Portfolio (2,686 shares)	538,957	624,649	Index Trust 500 Portfolio (3,001 shares)	532,410	600,750
*	Vanguard Fiduciary Trust Company	Bond Index Fund Intermediate Portfolio (18,105 shares)	213,103	207,123	Bond Index Fund Intermediate Portfolio (16,787 shares)	192,685	198,930
*	Vanguard Fiduciary Trust Company	Bond Index Fund Short-Term Portfolio (19,837 shares)	209,690	207,500	Bond Index Fund Short-Term Portfolio (18,691 shares)	196,968	197,942
			<u>\$ 100,127,674</u>	<u>\$ 129,848,911</u>		<u>\$ 89,212,931</u>	<u>\$ 92,521,543</u>

* Represents party-in-interest

See auditor's report on supplementary information.

GRIFON CORPORATION EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

EIN: 11-1893410

PLAN NUMBER: 001

FORM 5500, SCHEDULE H, LINE 4j

SCHEDULE OF REPORTABLE TRANSACTIONS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 AND 2016

<u>(a) Identity of Party Involved</u>	<u>(b) Description of Assets (Include Interest Rate and Maturity in Case of a Loan)</u>	<u>(c) Purchase Price</u>	<u>(d) Selling Price</u>	<u>(g) Cost of Asset</u>	<u>(h) Current Value of Asset on Transaction Date</u>	<u>(i) Net Gain (Loss)</u>
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None

(A) Reportable transactions are those purchases and sales of the same security which, individually or in the aggregate, exceed 5% of Plan assets as of the beginning of the Plan year.

See auditor's report on supplementary information.

GRIFFON CORPORATION EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

EIN: 11-1893410

PLAN NUMBER: 001

FORM 5500, SCHEDULE H, LINE 4i

SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR)

AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 AND 2016

(a)	(b)	September 30, 2017			September 30, 2016		
		(c)	(d)	(e)	(c)	(d)	(e)
	Issuer	Description	Cost	Current Value	Description	Cost	Current Value
*	Griffon Corporation	5,802,236 shares of common stock	\$ 99,165,924	\$ 128,809,639	5,380,595 shares of common stock	\$ 88,290,868	\$ 91,523,921
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			<u>\$ 100,127,674</u>	<u>\$ 129,848,911</u>		<u>\$ 89,212,931</u>	<u>\$ 92,521,543</u>

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See auditor's report on supplementary information.