

|                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Form 5500</b><br><br>Department of the Treasury<br>Internal Revenue Service<br><br>Department of Labor<br>Employee Benefits Security<br>Administration<br><br>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation | <b>Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan</b><br>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).<br><br><p style="text-align: center;">▶ <b>Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.</b></p> | OMB Nos. 1210-0110<br>1210-0089<br><br><b>2021</b><br><br><b>This Form is Open to Public Inspection</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Part I</b>                                                                                             | <b>Annual Report Identification Information</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning <u>01/01/2021</u> and ending <u>12/31/2021</u>  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>A</b> This return/report is for:                                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> a multiemployer plan <input type="checkbox"/> a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must attach a list of participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a single-employer plan <input type="checkbox"/> a DFE (specify) _____ |
| <b>B</b> This return/report is:                                                                           | <input type="checkbox"/> the first return/report <input type="checkbox"/> the final return/report<br><input type="checkbox"/> an amended return/report <input type="checkbox"/> a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)                                                                                                      |
| <b>C</b> If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. . . . .                                | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>D</b> Check box if filing under:                                                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form 5558 <input type="checkbox"/> automatic extension <input type="checkbox"/> the DFVC program<br><input type="checkbox"/> special extension (enter description)                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>E</b> If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here. . . . . | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                          |            |                                                       |  |                                                                     |  |                                                                  |  |                                                             |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Part II</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                          |            |                                                       |  |                                                                     |  |                                                                  |  |                                                             |  |
| <b>1a</b> Name of plan<br><u>FIRST WESTERN BANCSHARES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP AND 401(K) PLAN</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;"><b>1b</b> Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;"><u>002</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>1c</b> Effective date of plan<br/><u>01/01/1976</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>2b</b> Employer Identification Number (EIN)<br/><u>71-0605306</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>2c</b> Plan Sponsor's telephone number<br/><u>479-675-8231</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>2d</b> Business code (see instructions)<br/><u>522120</u></td> </tr> </table> | <b>1b</b> Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ | <u>002</u> | <b>1c</b> Effective date of plan<br><u>01/01/1976</u> |  | <b>2b</b> Employer Identification Number (EIN)<br><u>71-0605306</u> |  | <b>2c</b> Plan Sponsor's telephone number<br><u>479-675-8231</u> |  | <b>2d</b> Business code (see instructions)<br><u>522120</u> |  |
| <b>1b</b> Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <u>002</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                          |            |                                                       |  |                                                                     |  |                                                                  |  |                                                             |  |
| <b>1c</b> Effective date of plan<br><u>01/01/1976</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                          |            |                                                       |  |                                                                     |  |                                                                  |  |                                                             |  |
| <b>2b</b> Employer Identification Number (EIN)<br><u>71-0605306</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                          |            |                                                       |  |                                                                     |  |                                                                  |  |                                                             |  |
| <b>2c</b> Plan Sponsor's telephone number<br><u>479-675-8231</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                          |            |                                                       |  |                                                                     |  |                                                                  |  |                                                             |  |
| <b>2d</b> Business code (see instructions)<br><u>522120</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                          |            |                                                       |  |                                                                     |  |                                                                  |  |                                                             |  |
| <b>2a</b> Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan)<br>Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box)<br>City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions)<br><u>FIRST WESTERN BANCSHARES, INC.</u><br><br><u>P.O. BOX 238</u><br><u>BOONEVILLE, AR 72927</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.

|                  |                                                   |            |                                                              |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SIGN HERE</b> | Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature. | 10/13/2022 | JONATHAN MCNAIR                                              |
|                  | Signature of plan administrator                   | Date       | Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator       |
| <b>SIGN HERE</b> |                                                   |            |                                                              |
|                  | Signature of employer/plan sponsor                | Date       | Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor |
| <b>SIGN HERE</b> |                                                   |            |                                                              |
|                  | Signature of DFE                                  | Date       | Enter name of individual signing as DFE                      |

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

Form 5500 (2021)  
v. 210624

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| <b>3a</b> Plan administrator's name and address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Plan Sponsor                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |  | <b>3b</b> Administrator's EIN                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |     |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  | <b>3c</b> Administrator's telephone number                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |     |
| <b>4</b> If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report:<br><b>a</b> Sponsor's name<br><b>c</b> Plan Name                                                                                                                                     |  | <b>4b</b> EIN<br><br><b>4d</b> PN                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |     |
| <b>5</b> Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  | <b>5</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 180 |
| <b>6</b> Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines <b>6a(1)</b> , <b>6a(2)</b> , <b>6b</b> , <b>6c</b> , and <b>6d</b> ).                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |     |
| <b>a(1)</b> Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year.....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  | <b>6a(1)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 117 |
| <b>a(2)</b> Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  | <b>6a(2)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 120 |
| <b>b</b> Retired or separated participants receiving benefits.....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  | <b>6b</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |     |
| <b>c</b> Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  | <b>6c</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 67  |
| <b>d</b> Subtotal. Add lines <b>6a(2)</b> , <b>6b</b> , and <b>6c</b> .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  | <b>6d</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 187 |
| <b>e</b> Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits. ....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  | <b>6e</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |     |
| <b>f</b> Total. Add lines <b>6d</b> and <b>6e</b> .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  | <b>6f</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 187 |
| <b>g</b> Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  | <b>6g</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 168 |
| <b>h</b> Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  | <b>6h</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 7   |
| <b>7</b> Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item).....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  | <b>7</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |     |
| <b>8a</b> If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:<br>2F 2H 2J 2O 2T 3H 3I                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |     |
| <b>b</b> If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |     |
| <b>9a</b> Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)<br>(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Insurance<br>(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts<br>(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust<br>(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor                                                                                                                   |  | <b>9b</b> Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)<br>(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance<br>(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts<br>(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust<br>(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |     |
| <b>10</b> Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |     |
| <b>a Pension Schedules</b><br>(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>R</b> (Retirement Plan Information)<br><br>(2) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>MB</b> (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary<br><br>(3) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>SB</b> (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary |  | <b>b General Schedules</b><br>(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>H</b> (Financial Information)<br>(2) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>I</b> (Financial Information – Small Plan)<br>(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>1</u> <b>A</b> (Insurance Information)<br>(4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>C</b> (Service Provider Information)<br>(5) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>D</b> (DFE/Participating Plan Information)<br>(6) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>G</b> (Financial Transaction Schedules) |     |

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

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**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

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**11c** Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2021 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2021 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div>SCHEDULE A</div> <div>(Form 5500)</div> <div>Department of the Treasury</div> <div>Internal Revenue Service</div> <div>Department of Labor</div> <div>Employee Benefits Security Administration</div> <div>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</div> | <div>Insurance Information</div> <div>This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).</div> <div>▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.</div> <div>▶ Insurance companies are required to provide the information pursuant to ERISA section 103(a)(2).</div> | <div>OMB No. 1210-0110</div> <div>2021</div> <div>This Form is Open to Public Inspection</div> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                                                                                              |                                                                         |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2021 and ending 12/31/2021                   |                                                                         |  |
| <div>A Name of plan</div> <div>FIRST WESTERN BANCSHARES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP AND 401(K) PLAN</div> | <div>B Three-digit plan number (PN)</div> <div>▶ 002</div>              |  |
| <div>C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500</div> <div>FIRST WESTERN BANCSHARES, INC.</div>  | <div>D Employer Identification Number (EIN)</div> <div>71-0605306</div> |  |

|        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Part I | <div>Information Concerning Insurance Contract Coverage, Fees, and Commissions</div> <div>Provide information for each contract on a separate Schedule A. Individual contracts grouped as a unit in Parts II and III can be reported on a single Schedule A.</div> |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                         |
|-------------------------|
| 1 Coverage Information: |
|-------------------------|

|                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div>(a) Name of insurance carrier</div> <div>JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY USA</div> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| (b) EIN    | (c) NAIC code | (d) Contract or identification number | (e) Approximate number of persons covered at end of policy or contract year | Policy or contract year |            |
|------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
|            |               |                                       |                                                                             | (f) From                | (g) To     |
| 01-0233346 | 65838         | 24555                                 | 131                                                                         | 01/01/2021              | 12/31/2021 |

|                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 Insurance fee and commission information. Enter the total fees and total commissions paid. List in line 3 the agents, brokers, and other persons in descending order of the amount paid. |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                      |                               |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (a) Total amount of commissions paid | (b) Total amount of fees paid |
| 12119                                | 1785                          |

|                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3 Persons receiving commissions and fees. (Complete as many entries as needed to report all persons). |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid |
| LPL FINANCIAL CORPORATION<br>P.O. BOX 502030<br>SAN DIEGO, CA 92150                              |

| (b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid | Fees and other commissions paid |             | (e) Organization code |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
|                                               | (c) Amount                      | (d) Purpose |                       |
| 12119                                         |                                 |             | 4                     |

|                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BKD, LLP<br>400 W. CAPITOL AVENUE<br>SUITE 2500<br>LITTLE ROCK, AR 72201-0000 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| (b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid | Fees and other commissions paid |                  | (e) Organization code |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
|                                               | (c) Amount                      | (d) Purpose      |                       |
|                                               | 1785                            | TPA COMPENSATION | 5                     |

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**(a)** Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

---

| <b>(b)</b> Amount of sales and base commissions paid | Fees and other commissions paid |                    | <b>(e)</b><br>Organization code |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
|                                                      | <b>(c)</b> Amount               | <b>(d)</b> Purpose |                                 |
|                                                      |                                 |                    |                                 |

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**(a)** Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

---

| <b>(b)</b> Amount of sales and base commissions paid | Fees and other commissions paid |                    | <b>(e)</b><br>Organization code |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
|                                                      | <b>(c)</b> Amount               | <b>(d)</b> Purpose |                                 |
|                                                      |                                 |                    |                                 |

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**(a)** Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

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| <b>(b)</b> Amount of sales and base commissions paid | Fees and other commissions paid |                    | <b>(e)</b><br>Organization code |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
|                                                      | <b>(c)</b> Amount               | <b>(d)</b> Purpose |                                 |
|                                                      |                                 |                    |                                 |

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**(a)** Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

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| <b>(b)</b> Amount of sales and base commissions paid | Fees and other commissions paid |                    | <b>(e)</b><br>Organization code |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
|                                                      | <b>(c)</b> Amount               | <b>(d)</b> Purpose |                                 |
|                                                      |                                 |                    |                                 |

---

**(a)** Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

---

| <b>(b)</b> Amount of sales and base commissions paid | Fees and other commissions paid |                    | <b>(e)</b><br>Organization code |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
|                                                      | <b>(c)</b> Amount               | <b>(d)</b> Purpose |                                 |
|                                                      |                                 |                    |                                 |

**Part II Investment and Annuity Contract Information**

Where individual contracts are provided, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

|          |                                                                                               |          |         |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|---------|
| <b>4</b> | Current value of plan's interest under this contract in the general account at year end ..... | <b>4</b> |         |
| <b>5</b> | Current value of plan's interest under this contract in separate accounts at year end.....    | <b>5</b> | 3836956 |

**6** Contracts With Allocated Funds:**a** State the basis of premium rates ▶

|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |           |  |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--|
| <b>b</b> | Premiums paid to carrier .....                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>6b</b> |  |
| <b>c</b> | Premiums due but unpaid at the end of the year .....                                                                                                                                                  | <b>6c</b> |  |
| <b>d</b> | If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, enter amount. ....<br>Specify nature of costs ▶ | <b>6d</b> |  |

**e** Type of contract: (1) ☐ individual policies (2) ☐ group deferred annuity  
(3) ☐ other (specify) ▶

**f** If contract purchased, in whole or in part, to distribute benefits from a terminating plan, check here ▶ ☐**7** Contracts With Unallocated Funds (Do not include portions of these contracts maintained in separate accounts)

**a** Type of contract: (1) ☐ deposit administration (2) ☐ immediate participation guarantee  
(3) ☐ guaranteed investment (4) ☐ other ▶

|          |                                                                                                |              |  |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| <b>b</b> | Balance at the end of the previous year .....                                                  | <b>7b</b>    |  |
| <b>c</b> | Additions: (1) Contributions deposited during the year .....                                   | <b>7c(1)</b> |  |
|          | (2) Dividends and credits.....                                                                 | <b>7c(2)</b> |  |
|          | (3) Interest credited during the year.....                                                     | <b>7c(3)</b> |  |
|          | (4) Transferred from separate account.....                                                     | <b>7c(4)</b> |  |
|          | (5) Other (specify below) .....                                                                | <b>7c(5)</b> |  |
|          | ▶                                                                                              |              |  |
|          | (6) Total additions .....                                                                      | <b>7c(6)</b> |  |
| <b>d</b> | Total of balance and additions (add lines <b>7b</b> and <b>7c(6)</b> ) .....                   | <b>7d</b>    |  |
| <b>e</b> | Deductions:                                                                                    |              |  |
|          | (1) Disbursed from fund to pay benefits or purchase annuities during year .....                | <b>7e(1)</b> |  |
|          | (2) Administration charge made by carrier.....                                                 | <b>7e(2)</b> |  |
|          | (3) Transferred to separate account.....                                                       | <b>7e(3)</b> |  |
|          | (4) Other (specify below) .....                                                                | <b>7e(4)</b> |  |
|          | ▶                                                                                              |              |  |
|          | (5) Total deductions .....                                                                     | <b>7e(5)</b> |  |
| <b>f</b> | Balance at the end of the current year (subtract line <b>7e(5)</b> from line <b>7d</b> ) ..... | <b>7f</b>    |  |

**Part III Welfare Benefit Contract Information**

If more than one contract covers the same group of employees of the same employer(s) or members of the same employee organizations(s), the information may be combined for reporting purposes if such contracts are experience-rated as a unit. Where contracts cover individual employees, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

**8** Benefit and contract type (check all applicable boxes)

- a** ☐ Health (other than dental or vision)     
 **b** ☐ Dental     
 **c** ☐ Vision     
 **d** ☐ Life insurance  
**e** ☐ Temporary disability (accident and sickness)     
 **f** ☐ Long-term disability     
 **g** ☐ Supplemental unemployment     
 **h** ☐ Prescription drug  
**i** ☐ Stop loss (large deductible)     
 **j** ☐ HMO contract     
 **k** ☐ PPO contract     
 **l** ☐ Indemnity contract  
**m** ☐ Other (specify) ▶

**9** Experience-rated contracts:

|                                                                                                                                                    |                 |                 |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| <b>a</b> Premiums: (1) Amount received .....                                                                                                       | <b>9a(1)</b>    |                 |  |
| (2) Increase (decrease) in amount due but unpaid .....                                                                                             | <b>9a(2)</b>    |                 |  |
| (3) Increase (decrease) in unearned premium reserve .....                                                                                          | <b>9a(3)</b>    |                 |  |
| (4) Earned ((1) + (2) - (3)) .....                                                                                                                 |                 | <b>9a(4)</b>    |  |
| <b>b</b> Benefit charges (1) Claims paid .....                                                                                                     | <b>9b(1)</b>    |                 |  |
| (2) Increase (decrease) in claim reserves .....                                                                                                    | <b>9b(2)</b>    |                 |  |
| (3) Incurred claims (add (1) and (2)) .....                                                                                                        |                 | <b>9b(3)</b>    |  |
| (4) Claims charged .....                                                                                                                           |                 | <b>9b(4)</b>    |  |
| <b>c</b> Remainder of premium: (1) Retention charges (on an accrual basis) --                                                                      |                 |                 |  |
| (A) Commissions .....                                                                                                                              | <b>9c(1)(A)</b> |                 |  |
| (B) Administrative service or other fees .....                                                                                                     | <b>9c(1)(B)</b> |                 |  |
| (C) Other specific acquisition costs .....                                                                                                         | <b>9c(1)(C)</b> |                 |  |
| (D) Other expenses .....                                                                                                                           | <b>9c(1)(D)</b> |                 |  |
| (E) Taxes .....                                                                                                                                    | <b>9c(1)(E)</b> |                 |  |
| (F) Charges for risks or other contingencies .....                                                                                                 | <b>9c(1)(F)</b> |                 |  |
| (G) Other retention charges .....                                                                                                                  | <b>9c(1)(G)</b> |                 |  |
| (H) Total retention .....                                                                                                                          |                 | <b>9c(1)(H)</b> |  |
| (2) Dividends or retroactive rate refunds. (These amounts were <input type="checkbox"/> paid in cash, or <input type="checkbox"/> credited.) ..... |                 | <b>9c(2)</b>    |  |
| <b>d</b> Status of policyholder reserves at end of year: (1) Amount held to provide benefits after retirement .....                                |                 | <b>9d(1)</b>    |  |
| (2) Claim reserves .....                                                                                                                           |                 | <b>9d(2)</b>    |  |
| (3) Other reserves .....                                                                                                                           |                 | <b>9d(3)</b>    |  |
| <b>e</b> Dividends or retroactive rate refunds due. (Do not include amount entered in line 9c(2).) .....                                           |                 | <b>9e</b>       |  |

**10** Nonexperience-rated contracts:

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |            |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--|
| <b>a</b> Total premiums or subscription charges paid to carrier .....                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>10a</b> |  |
| <b>b</b> If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, other than reported in Part I, line 2 above, report amount. ....<br>Specify nature of costs. | <b>10b</b> |  |

**Part IV Provision of Information**

**11** Did the insurance company fail to provide any information necessary to complete Schedule A? ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No

**12** If the answer to line 11 is "Yes," specify the information not provided. ▶

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SCHEDULE C<br/>(Form 5500)</b><br><br>Department of the Treasury<br>Internal Revenue Service<br><br>Department of Labor<br>Employee Benefits Security Administration<br><br>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation | <b>Service Provider Information</b><br><br>This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).<br><br>▶ <b>File as an attachment to Form 5500.</b> | OMB No. 1210-0110                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>2021</b>                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>This Form is Open to Public Inspection.</b> |
| For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2021 and ending 12/31/2021                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                |
| <b>A</b> Name of plan<br>FIRST WESTERN BANCSHARES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP AND 401(K) PLAN                                                                                                                    | <b>B</b> Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶                                                                                                                                                                                | 002                                            |
| <b>C</b> Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500<br>FIRST WESTERN BANCSHARES, INC.                                                                                                                     | <b>D</b> Employer Identification Number (EIN)<br>71-0605306                                                                                                                                                            |                                                |

|               |                                                        |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Part I</b> | <b>Service Provider Information (see instructions)</b> |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------|

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>(b)</b> Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation<br>JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY<br><br>01-0233346 |
| <b>(b)</b> Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation                                                          |
| <b>(b)</b> Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation                                                          |
| <b>(b)</b> Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation                                                          |

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**(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)

BKD, LLP

44-0160260

| <b>(b)</b><br>Service Code(s) | <b>(c)</b><br>Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest | <b>(d)</b><br>Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-. | <b>(e)</b><br>Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor) | <b>(f)</b><br>Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures? | <b>(g)</b><br>Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-. | <b>(h)</b><br>Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount? |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15 50                         | NONE                                                                                                     | 23935                                                                         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                                         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                        | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>                                            |

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

LANDMARK, PLC

71-0355269

| <b>(b)</b><br>Service Code(s) | <b>(c)</b><br>Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest | <b>(d)</b><br>Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-. | <b>(e)</b><br>Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor) | <b>(f)</b><br>Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures? | <b>(g)</b><br>Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-. | <b>(h)</b><br>Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount? |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10 50                         | NONE                                                                                                     | 10500                                                                         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                                         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                        | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>                                            |

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

STERN BROTHERS VALUATION ADVISORS

1044 MAIN STREET, SUITE 501  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64105-2149

| <b>(b)</b><br>Service Code(s) | <b>(c)</b><br>Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest | <b>(d)</b><br>Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-. | <b>(e)</b><br>Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor) | <b>(f)</b><br>Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures? | <b>(g)</b><br>Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-. | <b>(h)</b><br>Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount? |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 34 50                         | NONE                                                                                                     | 6800                                                                          | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                                         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                        | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>                                            |

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

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

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

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

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

**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<br>(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<br>(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<br>(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)

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>a</b> Name:     | <b>b</b> EIN:       |
| <b>c</b> Position: |                     |
| <b>d</b> Address:  | <b>e</b> Telephone: |
|                    |                     |

Explanation:

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>a</b> Name:     | <b>b</b> EIN:       |
| <b>c</b> Position: |                     |
| <b>d</b> Address:  | <b>e</b> Telephone: |
|                    |                     |

Explanation:

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>a</b> Name:     | <b>b</b> EIN:       |
| <b>c</b> Position: |                     |
| <b>d</b> Address:  | <b>e</b> Telephone: |
|                    |                     |

Explanation:

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>a</b> Name:     | <b>b</b> EIN:       |
| <b>c</b> Position: |                     |
| <b>d</b> Address:  | <b>e</b> Telephone: |
|                    |                     |

Explanation:

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>a</b> Name:     | <b>b</b> EIN:       |
| <b>c</b> Position: |                     |
| <b>d</b> Address:  | <b>e</b> Telephone: |
|                    |                     |

Explanation:

|                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SCHEDULE D</b><br><b>(Form 5500)</b><br><br><small>Department of the Treasury<br/>Internal Revenue Service</small><br><br><small>Department of Labor<br/>Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> | <b>DFE/Participating Plan Information</b><br><br>This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).<br><br><b>► File as an attachment to Form 5500.</b> | OMB No. 1210-0110<br><br><hr/> <b>2021</b><br><br><hr/> <b>This Form is Open to Public Inspection.</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2021 and ending 12/31/2021

|                                                                                                               |                                                                            |            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>A</b> Name of plan<br><u>FIRST WESTERN BANCSHARES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP AND 401(K) PLAN</u>       | <b>B</b> Three-digit plan number (PN) <span style="float: right;">►</span> | <u>002</u> |
|                                                                                                               |                                                                            |            |
| <b>C</b> Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500<br><u>FIRST WESTERN BANCSHARES, INC.</u> | <b>D</b> Employer Identification Number (EIN)<br><u>71-0605306</u>         |            |

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Part I</b> | <b>Information on interests in MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs (to be completed by plans and DFEs)</b><br>(Complete as many entries as needed to report all interests in DFEs) |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                                                                     |                               |                                                                                                                                                      |  |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>JH MULTIMANAGER AGGRESSIVE LS</u> |                               |                                                                                                                                                      |  |  |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>JOHN HANCOCK USA</u>           |                               |                                                                                                                                                      |  |  |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN <u>01-0233346-000</u>                                               | <b>d</b> Entity code <u>P</u> | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <span style="float: right;"><u>261416</u></span> |  |  |
|                                                                                     |                               |                                                                                                                                                      |  |  |
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>JH MULTIMANAGER GROWTH LS</u>     |                               |                                                                                                                                                      |  |  |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>JOHN HANCOCK USA</u>           |                               |                                                                                                                                                      |  |  |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN <u>01-0233346-000</u>                                               | <b>d</b> Entity code <u>P</u> | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <span style="float: right;"><u>769894</u></span> |  |  |
|                                                                                     |                               |                                                                                                                                                      |  |  |
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>JH MULTIMANAGER BALANCED LS</u>   |                               |                                                                                                                                                      |  |  |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>JOHN HANCOCK USA</u>           |                               |                                                                                                                                                      |  |  |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN <u>01-0233346-000</u>                                               | <b>d</b> Entity code <u>P</u> | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <span style="float: right;"><u>520807</u></span> |  |  |
|                                                                                     |                               |                                                                                                                                                      |  |  |
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>JH MULTIMANAGER MODERATE LS</u>   |                               |                                                                                                                                                      |  |  |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>JOHN HANCOCK USA</u>           |                               |                                                                                                                                                      |  |  |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN <u>01-0233346-000</u>                                               | <b>d</b> Entity code <u>P</u> | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <span style="float: right;"><u>687650</u></span> |  |  |
|                                                                                     |                               |                                                                                                                                                      |  |  |
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>JH MULTIMANAGER CONSERV LS</u>    |                               |                                                                                                                                                      |  |  |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>JOHN HANCOCK USA</u>           |                               |                                                                                                                                                      |  |  |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN <u>01-0233346-000</u>                                               | <b>d</b> Entity code <u>P</u> | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <span style="float: right;"><u>39573</u></span>  |  |  |
|                                                                                     |                               |                                                                                                                                                      |  |  |
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>AMERICAN CENTURY HERITAGE</u>     |                               |                                                                                                                                                      |  |  |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>JOHN HANCOCK USA</u>           |                               |                                                                                                                                                      |  |  |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN <u>01-0233346-000</u>                                               | <b>d</b> Entity code <u>P</u> | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <span style="float: right;"><u>1235</u></span>   |  |  |
|                                                                                     |                               |                                                                                                                                                      |  |  |
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>BLUE CHIP GROWTH FUND</u>         |                               |                                                                                                                                                      |  |  |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>JOHN HANCOCK USA</u>           |                               |                                                                                                                                                      |  |  |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN <u>01-0233346-000</u>                                               | <b>d</b> Entity code <u>P</u> | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <span style="float: right;"><u>323045</u></span> |  |  |

|                                                                               |                        |                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: CAPITAL APPRECIATION FUND      |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK USA            |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN 01-0233346-000                                                | <b>d</b> Entity code P | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 64806  |
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: EUROPACIFIC GROWTH FUND        |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK USA            |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN 01-0233346-000                                                | <b>d</b> Entity code P | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 95115  |
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: FINANCIAL INDUSTRIES FUND      |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK USA            |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN 01-0233346-000                                                | <b>d</b> Entity code P | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 7746   |
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: INTL EQUITY INDEX FUND         |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK USA            |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN 01-0233346-000                                                | <b>d</b> Entity code P | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 12439  |
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: INVESCO SMALL CAP GROWTH       |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK USA            |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN 01-0233346-000                                                | <b>d</b> Entity code P | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 620    |
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: JH DISCIPLINED VALUE INTL FUND |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK USA            |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN 01-0233346-000                                                | <b>d</b> Entity code P | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 7220   |
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: JOHN HANCOCK MID CAP GROWTH    |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK USA            |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN 01-0233346-000                                                | <b>d</b> Entity code P | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 135633 |
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: JOHN HANCOCK U.S. GROWTH FUND  |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK USA            |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN 01-0233346-000                                                | <b>d</b> Entity code P | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 11329  |
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: MID CAP INDEX FUND             |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK USA            |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN 01-0233346-000                                                | <b>d</b> Entity code P | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 10869  |
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: MID VALUE FUND                 |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK USA            |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN 01-0233346-000                                                | <b>d</b> Entity code P | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 16312  |

|                                                                                     |                               |                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <b>NEW OPPORTUNITIES FUND</b>        |                               |                                                                                                                  |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <b>JOHN HANCOCK USA</b>           |                               |                                                                                                                  |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN <b>01-0233346-000</b>                                               | <b>d</b> Entity code <b>P</b> | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <b>29139</b> |
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <b>REAL EST. SECURITIES FUND</b>     |                               |                                                                                                                  |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <b>JOHN HANCOCK USA</b>           |                               |                                                                                                                  |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN <b>01-0233346-000</b>                                               | <b>d</b> Entity code <b>P</b> | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <b>1655</b>  |
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <b>SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY FUND</b> |                               |                                                                                                                  |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <b>JOHN HANCOCK USA</b>           |                               |                                                                                                                  |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN <b>01-0233346-000</b>                                               | <b>d</b> Entity code <b>P</b> | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <b>95674</b> |
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <b>SMALL CAP VALUE FUND</b>          |                               |                                                                                                                  |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <b>JOHN HANCOCK USA</b>           |                               |                                                                                                                  |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN <b>01-0233346-000</b>                                               | <b>d</b> Entity code <b>P</b> | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <b>4167</b>  |
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <b>T. ROWE PRICE HEALTH SCI</b>      |                               |                                                                                                                  |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <b>JOHN HANCOCK USA</b>           |                               |                                                                                                                  |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN <b>01-0233346-000</b>                                               | <b>d</b> Entity code <b>P</b> | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <b>24901</b> |
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <b>T. ROWE PRICE NEW ERA FUND</b>    |                               |                                                                                                                  |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <b>JOHN HANCOCK USA</b>           |                               |                                                                                                                  |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN <b>01-0233346-000</b>                                               | <b>d</b> Entity code <b>P</b> | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <b>6120</b>  |
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <b>TEMPLETON FOREIGN SMALLER CO</b>  |                               |                                                                                                                  |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <b>JOHN HANCOCK USA</b>           |                               |                                                                                                                  |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN <b>01-0233346-000</b>                                               | <b>d</b> Entity code <b>P</b> | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <b>565</b>   |
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <b>THE GROWTH FUND OF AMERICA</b>    |                               |                                                                                                                  |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <b>JOHN HANCOCK USA</b>           |                               |                                                                                                                  |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN <b>01-0233346-000</b>                                               | <b>d</b> Entity code <b>P</b> | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <b>45355</b> |
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <b>VANGUARD SMALL CAP GROW INDEX</b> |                               |                                                                                                                  |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <b>JOHN HANCOCK USA</b>           |                               |                                                                                                                  |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN <b>01-0233346-000</b>                                               | <b>d</b> Entity code <b>P</b> | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <b>9217</b>  |
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <b>500 INDEX FUND</b>                |                               |                                                                                                                  |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <b>JOHN HANCOCK USA</b>           |                               |                                                                                                                  |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN <b>01-0233346-000</b>                                               | <b>d</b> Entity code <b>P</b> | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <b>83406</b> |

|                                                                              |                        |                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: EQUITY INCOME FUND            |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK USA           |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN 01-0233346-000                                               | <b>d</b> Entity code P | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 44705  |
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: FUNDAMENTAL INVESTORS         |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK USA           |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN 01-0233346-000                                               | <b>d</b> Entity code P | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 109227 |
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: JPMORGAN U.S. EQUITY FUND     |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK USA           |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN 01-0233346-000                                               | <b>d</b> Entity code P | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 21787  |
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: TEMPLETON WORLD               |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK USA           |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN 01-0233346-000                                               | <b>d</b> Entity code P | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 24446  |
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: INVESTMENT COMPANY OF AMERICA |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK USA           |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN 01-0233346-000                                               | <b>d</b> Entity code P | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 3694   |
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: TOTAL STOCK MARKET INDEX FUND |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK USA           |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN 01-0233346-000                                               | <b>d</b> Entity code P | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 362    |
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: WASHINGTON MUTUAL INVESTORS   |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK USA           |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN 01-0233346-000                                               | <b>d</b> Entity code P | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1105   |
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: AMERICAN BALANCED FUND        |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK USA           |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN 01-0233346-000                                               | <b>d</b> Entity code P | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 177564 |
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: BLACKROCK GLOBAL ALLOCATION   |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK USA           |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN 01-0233346-000                                               | <b>d</b> Entity code P | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 9057   |
| <b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: MFS UTILITIES FUND            |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK USA           |                        |                                                                                                            |
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN 01-0233346-000                                               | <b>d</b> Entity code P | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 15493  |

**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: OPPORTUNISTIC FIXED INCOME

**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK USA

|                                |                        |                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN 01-0233346-000 | <b>d</b> Entity code P | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 396 |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: FIDELITY ADVISOR TOTAL BOND

**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK USA

|                                |                        |                                                                                                           |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN 01-0233346-000 | <b>d</b> Entity code P | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 25482 |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: HIGH YIELD FUND

**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK USA

|                                |                        |                                                                                                           |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN 01-0233346-000 | <b>d</b> Entity code P | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 13265 |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: JOHN HANCOCK BOND FUND

**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK USA

|                                |                        |                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN 01-0233346-000 | <b>d</b> Entity code P | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 110697 |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PIMCO REAL RETURN

**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK USA

|                                |                        |                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN 01-0233346-000 | <b>d</b> Entity code P | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 4440 |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: VANGUARD SHORT-TERM FEDERAL

**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK USA

|                                |                        |                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN 01-0233346-000 | <b>d</b> Entity code P | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 9328 |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

|                 |                      |                                                                                                     |
|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN | <b>d</b> Entity code | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) |
|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

|                 |                      |                                                                                                     |
|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN | <b>d</b> Entity code | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) |
|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

|                 |                      |                                                                                                     |
|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN | <b>d</b> Entity code | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) |
|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

|                 |                      |                                                                                                     |
|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>c</b> EIN-PN | <b>d</b> Entity code | <b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) |
|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**Part II Information on Participating Plans (to be completed by DFEs)**

(Complete as many entries as needed to report all participating plans)

**a** Plan name**b** Name of  
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of  
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of  
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of  
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of  
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of  
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of  
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plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of  
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plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of  
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SCHEDULE H</b><br><b>(Form 5500)</b><br><br><small>Department of the Treasury<br/>Internal Revenue Service</small><br><br><small>Department of Labor<br/>Employee Benefits Security Administration</small><br><br><small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small> | <b>Financial Information</b><br><br>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).<br><br><b>► File as an attachment to Form 5500.</b> | OMB No. 1210-0110<br><br><b>2021</b><br><br><b>This Form is Open to Public Inspection</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                                                                                          |                                         |            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------|
| For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning <b>01/01/2021</b> and ending <b>12/31/2021</b> |                                         |            |
| <b>A</b> Name of plan<br><b>FIRST WESTERN BANCSHARES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP AND 401(K) PLAN</b>  | <b>B</b> Three-digit plan number (PN) ► | <b>002</b> |
| <b>C</b> Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500<br><b>FIRST WESTERN BANCSHARES, INC.</b>   |                                         |            |
| <b>D</b> Employer Identification Number (EIN)<br><b>71-0605306</b>                                       |                                         |            |

| Part I                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Asset and Liability Statement |                       |                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>1</b> 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. <b>Round off amounts to the nearest dollar.</b> 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 |
| <b>a</b> Total noninterest-bearing cash.....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>1a</b>                     | 25234                 | 103705          |
| <b>b</b> Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                               |                       |                 |
| <b>(1)</b> Employer contributions .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>1b(1)</b>                  |                       |                 |
| <b>(2)</b> Participant contributions.....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>1b(2)</b>                  |                       |                 |
| <b>(3)</b> Other .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>1b(3)</b>                  |                       |                 |
| <b>c</b> General investments:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                               |                       |                 |
| <b>(1)</b> Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit) .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>1c(1)</b>                  |                       |                 |
| <b>(2)</b> U.S. Government securities .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>1c(2)</b>                  |                       |                 |
| <b>(3)</b> Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                               |                       |                 |
| <b>(A)</b> Preferred .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>1c(3)(A)</b>               |                       |                 |
| <b>(B)</b> All other .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>1c(3)(B)</b>               |                       |                 |
| <b>(4)</b> Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                               |                       |                 |
| <b>(A)</b> Preferred .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>1c(4)(A)</b>               |                       |                 |
| <b>(B)</b> Common .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>1c(4)(B)</b>               |                       |                 |
| <b>(5)</b> Partnership/joint venture interests .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>1c(5)</b>                  |                       |                 |
| <b>(6)</b> Real estate (other than employer real property) .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>1c(6)</b>                  |                       |                 |
| <b>(7)</b> Loans (other than to participants) .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>1c(7)</b>                  |                       |                 |
| <b>(8)</b> Participant loans .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>1c(8)</b>                  |                       |                 |
| <b>(9)</b> Value of interest in common/collective trusts.....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>1c(9)</b>                  |                       |                 |
| <b>(10)</b> Value of interest in pooled separate accounts .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>1c(10)</b>                 |                       |                 |
| <b>(11)</b> Value of interest in master trust investment accounts.....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>1c(11)</b>                 |                       |                 |
| <b>(12)</b> Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>1c(12)</b>                 |                       |                 |
| <b>(13)</b> Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds) .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>1c(13)</b>                 | 3201320               | 3836956         |
| <b>(14)</b> Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts).....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>1c(14)</b>                 |                       |                 |
| <b>(15)</b> Other.....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>1c(15)</b>                 |                       |                 |

|                    |                                                                  | (a) Beginning of Year | (b) End of Year |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>1d</b>          | Employer-related investments:                                    |                       |                 |
| (1)                | Employer securities.....                                         | 1d(1) 7962758         | 10460878        |
| (2)                | Employer real property.....                                      | 1d(2)                 |                 |
| <b>e</b>           | Buildings and other property used in plan operation .....        | 1e                    |                 |
| <b>f</b>           | Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e) .....      | 1f 11189312           | 14401539        |
| <b>Liabilities</b> |                                                                  |                       |                 |
| <b>g</b>           | Benefit claims payable .....                                     | 1g                    |                 |
| <b>h</b>           | Operating payables .....                                         | 1h                    |                 |
| <b>i</b>           | Acquisition indebtedness.....                                    | 1i                    |                 |
| <b>j</b>           | Other liabilities.....                                           | 1j                    |                 |
| <b>k</b>           | Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j) ..... | 1k                    |                 |
| <b>Net Assets</b>  |                                                                  |                       |                 |
| <b>l</b>           | Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f) .....                 | 1l 11189312           | 14401539        |

**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.

|          |                                                                                                     | (a) Amount       | (b) Total |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| <b>a</b> | <b>Contributions:</b>                                                                               |                  |           |
| (1)      | Received or receivable in cash from: <b>(A)</b> Employers .....                                     | 2a(1)(A) 562816  |           |
|          | <b>(B)</b> Participants .....                                                                       | 2a(1)(B) 349226  |           |
|          | <b>(C)</b> Others (including rollovers).....                                                        | 2a(1)(C) 3985    |           |
| (2)      | Noncash contributions.....                                                                          | 2a(2)            |           |
| (3)      | Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A), (B), (C), and line 2a(2) .....                             | 2a(3)            | 916027    |
| <b>b</b> | <b>Earnings on investments:</b>                                                                     |                  |           |
| (1)      | Interest:                                                                                           |                  |           |
|          | <b>(A)</b> Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)..... | 2b(1)(A)         |           |
|          | <b>(B)</b> U.S. Government securities .....                                                         | 2b(1)(B)         |           |
|          | <b>(C)</b> Corporate debt instruments .....                                                         | 2b(1)(C)         |           |
|          | <b>(D)</b> Loans (other than to participants) .....                                                 | 2b(1)(D)         |           |
|          | <b>(E)</b> Participant loans.....                                                                   | 2b(1)(E)         |           |
|          | <b>(F)</b> Other .....                                                                              | 2b(1)(F)         |           |
|          | <b>(G)</b> Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F).....                                      | 2b(1)(G)         |           |
| (2)      | Dividends: <b>(A)</b> Preferred stock.....                                                          | 2b(2)(A)         |           |
|          | <b>(B)</b> Common stock .....                                                                       | 2b(2)(B) 65740   |           |
|          | <b>(C)</b> Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds).....                            | 2b(2)(C)         |           |
|          | <b>(D)</b> Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A), (B), and (C) .....                                  | 2b(2)(D)         | 65740     |
| (3)      | Rents .....                                                                                         | 2b(3)            |           |
| (4)      | Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: <b>(A)</b> Aggregate proceeds .....                              | 2b(4)(A)         |           |
|          | <b>(B)</b> Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions).....                                        | 2b(4)(B)         |           |
|          | <b>(C)</b> Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result .....                         | 2b(4)(C)         |           |
| (5)      | Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: <b>(A)</b> Real estate .....                      | 2b(5)(A)         |           |
|          | <b>(B)</b> Other .....                                                                              | 2b(5)(B) 2498120 |           |
|          | <b>(C)</b> Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B) .....                | 2b(5)(C)         |           |

|                                                                                                |        | (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)  |            | 381306    |
| (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) |            |           |
| c Other income.....                                                                            | 2c     |            |           |
| d Total income. Add all <b>income</b> amounts in column (b) and enter total.....               | 2d     |            | 3861193   |
| <b>Expenses</b>                                                                                |        |            |           |
| e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:                                            |        |            |           |
| (1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers.....                 | 2e(1)  | 606408     |           |
| (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)  |            | 606408    |
| f Corrective distributions (see instructions).....                                             | 2f     |            |           |
| g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions).....                    | 2g     |            |           |
| h Interest expense.....                                                                        | 2h     |            |           |
| i Administrative expenses: (1) Professional fees.....                                          | 2i(1)  | 41235      |           |
| (2) Contract administrator fees.....                                                           | 2i(2)  | 1323       |           |
| (3) Investment advisory and management fees.....                                               | 2i(3)  |            |           |
| (4) Other.....                                                                                 | 2i(4)  |            |           |
| (5) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (4).....                            | 2i(5)  |            | 42558     |
| j Total expenses. Add all <b>expense</b> amounts in column (b) and enter total.....            | 2j     |            | 648966    |
| <b>Net Income and Reconciliation</b>                                                           |        |            |           |
| k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d.....                                        | 2k     |            | 3212227   |
| 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) ☒ Unmodified (2) ☐ Qualified (3) ☐ Disclaimer (4) ☐ Adverse

b Check the appropriate box(es) to indicate whether the IQPA performed an ERISA section 103(a)(3)(C) audit. Check both boxes (1) and (2) if the audit was performed pursuant to both 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and 29 CFR 2520.103-12(d). Check box (3) if pursuant to neither.

(1) ☒ DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 (2) ☐ DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d) (3) ☐ neither DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 nor DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d).

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

(1) Name: LANDMARK PLC, CPA

(2) EIN: 71-0355269

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.).....

|    | Yes | No | Amount |
|----|-----|----|--------|
| 4a |     | X  |        |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Yes | No | Amount  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|---------|
| <b>b</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.) ..... |     |    |         |
| <b>4b</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |     | X  |         |
| <b>c</b> 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.) .....                                                                                                                             |     |    |         |
| <b>4c</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |     | X  |         |
| <b>d</b> 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.) .....                                                                                                                  |     |    |         |
| <b>4d</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |     | X  |         |
| <b>e</b> Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond? .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | X   |    | 3000000 |
| <b>f</b> Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty? .....                                                                                                                                                                          |     | X  |         |
| <b>4f</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |     | X  |         |
| <b>g</b> 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? .....                                                                                                                                       |     | X  |         |
| <b>4g</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |     | X  |         |
| <b>h</b> 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? .....                                                                                                                             |     | X  |         |
| <b>4h</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |     | X  |         |
| <b>i</b> Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.) .....                                                                                                                                                   | X   |    |         |
| <b>4i</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | X   |    |         |
| <b>j</b> 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.) .....                                                                                     |     | X  |         |
| <b>4j</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |     | X  |         |
| <b>k</b> Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC? .....                                                                                                                                              |     | X  |         |
| <b>4k</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |     | X  |         |
| <b>l</b> Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan? .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |     | X  |         |
| <b>4l</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |     | X  |         |
| <b>m</b> If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.) .....                                                                                                                                                                                     |     | X  |         |
| <b>4m</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |     | X  |         |
| <b>n</b> 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. ....                                                                                                                         |     |    |         |
| <b>4n</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |     |    |         |

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

**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** Was the plan a defined benefit plan covered under the PBGC insurance program at any time during this plan year? (See ERISA section 4021 and instructions.) ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not determined  
If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year \_\_\_\_\_.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div>SCHEDULE R<br/>(Form 5500)<br/><br/>Department of the Treasury<br/>Internal Revenue Service<br/><br/>Department of Labor<br/>Employee Benefits Security Administration<br/><br/>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</div>                                                                                                                            | <div>Retirement Plan Information</div> <div>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).</div> <div>► File as an attachment to Form 5500.</div> | <div>OMB No. 1210-0110</div> <div>2021</div> <div>This Form is Open to Public Inspection.</div> |
| For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2021 and ending 12/31/2021                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                 |
| A Name of plan<br>FIRST WESTERN BANCSHARES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP AND 401(K) PLAN                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | B Three-digit plan number (PN) ► 002                                                            |
| C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500<br>FIRST WESTERN BANCSHARES, INC.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | D Employer Identification Number (EIN)<br>71-0605306                                            |
| 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                                                                                               |
| 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):<br><br>EIN(s): 43-6362791 01-0233346                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                 |
| 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)? ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A<br>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 _____<br>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? ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> 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? ..... <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                 |
| Part III                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Amendments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                 |
| 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..... <input type="checkbox"/> Increase <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> No          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                 |
| 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.                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                 |
| 10 Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan? .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No                             |
| 11 a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock? .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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.) .....                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No                             |
| 12 Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market? .....                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No                             |
| For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                 |
| Schedule R (Form 5500) 2021 v. 201209                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                 |

**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 deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for:

**a** The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: ☐ last contributing employer ☐ alternative ☐ reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment).....

**14a**

**b** The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment).....

**14b**

**c** The second preceding plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment).....

**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**

- 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): \_\_\_\_\_

- 20 PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements.** If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20.

**a** Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero? ☐ Yes ☒ No

**b** If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box:

☐ Yes.

☐ No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. Other. Provide explanation \_\_\_\_\_



**First Western Bancshares, Inc.  
Employee Stock Ownership and 401(k) Plan**

**Financial Statements  
and  
Supplemental Information  
December 31, 2021 and 2020**

**(With Independent Auditor's Report Thereon)**

**First Western Bancshares, Inc.  
Employee Stock Ownership and 401(k) Plan**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

|                                                            | <u>Page</u> |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT</b>                        | 1           |
| <b>FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</b>                                |             |
| Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits            | 6           |
| Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits  | 8           |
| Notes to Financial Statements                              | 9           |
| <b>SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION</b>                            |             |
| Schedule H, line 4i-Schedule of Assets Held at End of Year | 21          |



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Trustees and Participants  
**First Western Bancshares, Inc.**  
**Employee Stock Ownership and 401(k) Plan**  
Booneville, Arkansas

### Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit for the 2021 Financial Statements

We have performed an audit of the financial statements of **First Western Bancshares, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership and 401(k) Plan** (the Plan), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) (ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit). The financial statements comprise the statement of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2021, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements (2021 Financial Statements).

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audit of the 2021 financial statements performed in accordance with ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. As permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C), our audit need not extend to any statements or information related to assets held for investment of the Plan (investment information) by a bank or similar institution or insurance carrier that is regulated, supervised, and subject to periodic examination by a state or federal agency, provided that the statements or information regarding assets so held are prepared and certified to by the bank or similar institution or insurance carrier in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA (qualified institution).

Management has obtained a certification from a qualified institution as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 3 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

### Opinion on the 2021 Financial Statements

In our opinion, based on our audit and on the procedures performed as described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the 2021 Financial Statements section:

- The amounts and disclosures in the accompanying 2021 financial statements, other than those agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
- The information in the accompanying 2021 financial statements related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

### **Basis for Opinion on the 2021 Financial Statements**

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the 2021 Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Plan 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 ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit opinion.

### **Responsibilities of Management for the 2021 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. Management's election of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit does not affect management's responsibility for the financial statements.

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 Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Management is also responsible for maintaining a current plan instrument, including all plan amendments, administering the Plan, and determining that the Plan's transactions that are presented and disclosed in the financial statements are in conformity with the Plan's provisions, including maintaining sufficient records with respect to each of the participants, to determine the benefits due or which may become due to such participants.

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the 2021 Financial Statements**

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit of the 2021 Financial Statements section of our report, 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 GAAS 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.

Trustees and Participants  
**First Western Bancshares, Inc.**  
**Employee Stock Ownership and 401(k) Plan**

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, 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 Plan'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 Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our audit did not extend to the certified investment information, except for obtaining and reading the certification, comparing the certified investment information with the related information presented and disclosed in the 2021 financial statements, and reading the disclosures relating to the certified investment information to assess whether they are in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Accordingly, the objective of an ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit is not to express an opinion about whether the financial statements as a whole are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

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 Matters**

##### **2021 Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA**

The supplemental Schedule of Assets Held at End of Year as of December 31, 2021 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information included in the supplemental schedule, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS. For information included in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, we compared such information to the related certified investment information.

Trustees and Participants  
**First Western Bancshares, Inc.**  
**Employee Stock Ownership and 401(k) Plan**

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedule, other than the information agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion:

- The form and content of the supplemental schedule, other than the information in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, are presented, in all material respects, in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.
- The information in the supplemental schedule related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

**Auditor's Report on the 2020 Financial Statements**

We were engaged to audit the 2020 financial statements of **First Western Bancshares, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership and 401(k) Plan**. As permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA, the plan administrator instructed us not to perform and we did not perform any auditing procedures with respect to the information certified by a qualified institution. In our report dated October 11, 2021, we indicated that (a) because of the significance of the information that we did not audit, we were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion and accordingly, we did not express an opinion on the 2020 financial statements, and (b) the form and content of the information included in the 2020 financial statements other than that derived from the certified information were presented in compliance with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Landmark PLC". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fort Smith, Arkansas  
September 26, 2022

## Financial Statements

**First Western Bancshares, Inc.  
Employee Stock Ownership and 401(k) Plan**

**Statement of Net Assets Available for Benefits  
December 31, 2021**

|                                                                     | <b>Nonparticipant<br/>Directed<br/>Investments</b> | <b>Participant<br/>Directed<br/>Investments</b> | <b>Total</b>  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                                                       |                                                    |                                                 |               |
| Cash                                                                | \$ 103,705                                         | \$ -                                            | \$ 103,705    |
| Investments, at fair value                                          |                                                    |                                                 |               |
| Pooled separate accounts                                            | -                                                  | 3,836,956                                       | 3,836,956     |
| First Western Bancshares, Inc.<br>common stock (\$318.25 per share) | 10,460,878                                         | -                                               | 10,460,878    |
| <b>Total Investments, at fair value</b>                             | 10,460,878                                         | 3,836,956                                       | 14,297,834    |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                                                 | 10,564,583                                         | 3,836,956                                       | 14,401,539    |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                                                  | -                                                  | -                                               | -             |
| <b>NET ASSETS AVAILABLE<br/>FOR BENEFITS</b>                        | \$ 10,564,583                                      | \$ 3,836,956                                    | \$ 14,401,539 |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**First Western Bancshares, Inc.**  
**Employee Stock Ownership and 401(k) Plan**

**Statement of Net Assets Available for Benefits**  
**December 31, 2020**

|                                                                     | <b>Nonparticipant<br/>Directed<br/>Investments</b> | <b>Participant<br/>Directed<br/>Investments</b> | <b>Total</b>  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                                                       |                                                    |                                                 |               |
| Cash                                                                | \$ 25,234                                          | \$ -                                            | \$ 25,234     |
| Investments, at fair value                                          |                                                    |                                                 |               |
| Pooled separate accounts                                            | -                                                  | 3,201,320                                       | 3,201,320     |
| First Western Bancshares, Inc.<br>common stock (\$242.25 per share) | 7,962,758                                          | -                                               | 7,962,758     |
| <b>Total Investments, at fair value</b>                             | 7,962,758                                          | 3,201,320                                       | 11,164,078    |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                                                 | 7,987,992                                          | 3,201,320                                       | 11,189,312    |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                                                  | -                                                  | -                                               | -             |
| <b>NET ASSETS AVAILABLE<br/>FOR BENEFITS</b>                        | \$ 7,987,992                                       | \$ 3,201,320                                    | \$ 11,189,312 |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**First Western Bancshares, Inc.**  
**Employee Stock Ownership and 401(k) Plan**

**Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits**  
**Year ended December 31, 2021**

|                                    | <b>Nonparticipant<br/>Directed<br/>Investments</b> | <b>Participant<br/>Directed<br/>Investments</b> | <b>Total</b>         |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>ADDITIONS TO NET ASSETS</b>     |                                                    |                                                 |                      |
| <b>ATTRIBUTED TO:</b>              |                                                    |                                                 |                      |
| Investment income                  |                                                    |                                                 |                      |
| Net appreciation                   |                                                    |                                                 |                      |
| in fair value of investments       |                                                    |                                                 |                      |
| Pooled separate accounts           | \$ -                                               | \$ 381,306                                      | \$ 381,306           |
| First Western Bancshares, Inc.     |                                                    |                                                 |                      |
| common stock                       | 2,498,120                                          | -                                               | 2,498,120            |
| Dividends                          | 65,740                                             | -                                               | 65,740               |
|                                    | <u>2,563,860</u>                                   | <u>381,306</u>                                  | <u>2,945,166</u>     |
| Contributions                      |                                                    |                                                 |                      |
| Employer                           | 562,816                                            | -                                               | 562,816              |
| Participants                       | -                                                  | 349,226                                         | 349,226              |
| Rollovers                          | -                                                  | 3,985                                           | 3,985                |
|                                    | <u>562,816</u>                                     | <u>353,211</u>                                  | <u>916,027</u>       |
| <b>Total Additions</b>             | <u>3,126,676</u>                                   | <u>734,517</u>                                  | <u>3,861,193</u>     |
| <b>DEDUCTIONS FROM NET ASSETS</b>  |                                                    |                                                 |                      |
| <b>ATTRIBUTED TO:</b>              |                                                    |                                                 |                      |
| Benefits paid to participants      | 337,015                                            | 269,393                                         | 606,408              |
| Administrative expenses            | 41,235                                             | 1,323                                           | 42,558               |
|                                    | <u>378,250</u>                                     | <u>270,716</u>                                  | <u>648,966</u>       |
| <b>Total Deductions</b>            | <u>378,250</u>                                     | <u>270,716</u>                                  | <u>648,966</u>       |
| Transfer of assets                 | <u>(171,835)</u>                                   | <u>171,835</u>                                  | <u>-</u>             |
| <b>NET CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>    |                                                    |                                                 |                      |
| <b>AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS</b>      | 2,576,591                                          | 635,636                                         | 3,212,227            |
| <b>NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR</b>    |                                                    |                                                 |                      |
| <b>BENEFITS, BEGINNING OF YEAR</b> | <u>7,987,992</u>                                   | <u>3,201,320</u>                                | <u>11,189,312</u>    |
| <b>NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR</b>    |                                                    |                                                 |                      |
| <b>BENEFITS, END OF YEAR</b>       | <u>\$ 10,564,583</u>                               | <u>\$ 3,836,956</u>                             | <u>\$ 14,401,539</u> |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# **First Western Bancshares, Inc.**

## **Employee Stock Ownership and 401(k) Plan**

**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**December 31, 2021 and 2020**

### ***NOTE 1: DESCRIPTION OF PLAN AND BASIS OF PRESENTATION***

The following description of the First Western Bancshares, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership and 401(k) Plan (the Plan) only provides general information. Participants should refer to the Plan agreements for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

#### **General**

First Western Bancshares, Inc. and its affiliates (the Employer) established the Plan effective January 1, 1976. The Plan contains both employee stock ownership (ESOP) and 401(k) portions. It is designed to comply with Sections 401(a) and 4975(e)(7) and the regulations thereunder of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (IRC), as amended. The Plan is also subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as amended. The ESOP portion of the Plan is administered by the First Western Bancshares, Inc. ESOP trustees. John Hancock Life Insurance Company (John Hancock) is the Plan's custodian and third party administrator of the 401(k) portion of the Plan.

#### **Eligibility**

Each employee of the Employer, who is not a nonresident alien, an independent contractor or a member of a collective bargaining unit (unless agreed upon by the Employer and the collective bargaining unit) is eligible to participate in the Plan after meeting the eligibility requirements noted below.

For purposes of making participant contributions, an employee may choose to participate in the Plan as soon as administratively practicable following the employee's date of hire. For purposes of the Employer discretionary contribution, an employee is eligible to participate in the Plan at the next entry date upon the latter of attaining age 21 and completing 12 months of continuous service during which 1,000 or more hours of service are earned. Entry dates are January 1 and July 1 for Employer discretionary contributions.

#### **Participant Accounts**

For the ESOP portion of the Plan, each eligible participant's account is credited as of the last day of each Plan year with an allocation of any Employer contributions, share of Employer common stock bought back from participants receiving distributions and forfeitures of terminated participants' nonvested accounts. These allocations are based on account balances or compensation, as defined in the Plan document. Earnings and administrative expenses pertaining to the ESOP portion of the Plan are allocated to each participant's account based on the ratio of the participant's ESOP account balance to total ESOP account balances.

For the 401(k) portion of the Plan, each participant's account is credited with the participant's contribution and 401(k) investment earnings and charged with an allocation of 401(k) administrative expenses. Such allocations are based on participant's elections or account balances, as defined. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

# **First Western Bancshares, Inc.**

## **Employee Stock Ownership and 401(k) Plan**

### **Notes to Financial Statements** **December 31, 2021 and 2020**

#### **Contributions**

Each year, a participant's elective contribution may be any amount or percentage up to certain Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and Plan limitations. Participants may also contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified plans. In addition, participants who have attained age 50 before the end of the Plan year are eligible to make catch-up contributions. Participants direct the investment of their contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan. The Plan currently offers numerous pooled separate accounts from which the participants may choose for investment.

The Employer is obligated to make contributions in cash to the Plan which, when aggregated with Employer stock dividends, if applicable, equal the amount necessary to enable the Plan to make its regularly scheduled payments of principal and interest due on any Plan loan outstanding. The Employer may make additional discretionary contributions to be determined each year by the Employer's Board of Directors. These additional contributions are to be allocated among eligible participants who worked at least 1,000 hours during the Plan year and are employed on the last day of the Plan year. If a participant terminates in the current year because of death, disability, or retirement, these requirements are waived. With few exceptions, employees who receive commission-based income are limited to a maximum employer discretionary contribution of three percent (3%) of employee compensation. Employer discretionary contributions to the Plan may be made in cash or shares of common stock and are allocated among eligible participants in proportion to their respective eligible compensation for the Plan year.

Employer discretionary contributions are primarily invested in common stock of the Employer and are not participant directed.

#### **Optional Diversification**

Diversification is offered to participants close to retirement so that they have the opportunity to move part of the value of their investment in Employer common stock into investments which are more diversified. Participants who are at least age 55 with at least 10 years of participation in the Plan may elect to diversify a portion of their account. Diversification is offered to each eligible participant over a 6-year period. In each of the first 5 years, a participant may diversify up to 25 percent of the post-1986 shares allocated to his or her account, less any shares previously diversified. In the sixth year, the percentage changes to 50 percent. Participants who elect to diversify can receive a cash or common stock distribution.

#### **Mandatory Diversification**

In the year after the Plan year a participant has a separation from service, participants who terminate employment prior to their early retirement or normal retirement dates, are mandatorily diversified out of the Employer common stock. The participants' account balance will be re-invested in the John Hancock managed investments. The participant's account will be invested in the same investment options and in the same allocation method as the participant's 401(k) account. Yearly application of the mandatory diversification is at the trustee's discretion based upon the cash liquidity of the Plan.

# **First Western Bancshares, Inc.**

## **Employee Stock Ownership and 401(k) Plan**

### **Notes to Financial Statements** **December 31, 2021 and 2020**

#### **Vesting**

Participants are immediately vested in their voluntary contributions plus actual earnings thereon. Participants vest in the Employer contribution portions of their accounts at 20% per year after two years of service and each subsequent year after that are fully vested after six years of continuous service.

#### **Payment of Benefits**

For the ESOP portion of the Plan, distributions upon death, disability or retirement shall be paid not later than one year after the close of the Plan year in which the participant separated from service unless the participant or the participant's beneficiary elects to defer payment. Distributions for other separations from service commence in the fifth Plan year following the separation from service unless the participant elects to defer payment. If a participant terminates prior to either the early retirement date or normal retirement date, the balance of their ESOP account is mandatorily diversified out of Employer stock and credited to their participant directed investments. Distributions of the ESOP portion of the Plan shall be made in either a lump sum or in substantially equal periodic payments (not less frequently than annually) over a period not longer than five years unless the participant's vested balance is over \$800,000, in which case the participant may elect a longer distribution period. Participants may elect to receive an in-service withdrawal from his or her Employer common stock account once the participant has completed twenty (20) years of service and has reached age 69. Participants have the ability to select an in-service distribution to be paid out over a five or a ten year period or the participant can make an annual election for an in-service distribution. If by the end of the five or ten year period, the participant has not incurred a severance from employment, the balance of their ESOP account will be distributed to them annually. ESOP distributions can be made in either cash, Employer common stock or both.

Under the provisions of the Plan, the Employer is obligated to repurchase participant shares which have been distributed under the terms of the Plan if the shares are not publicly traded or if the shares are subject to trading limitations. No such shares were repurchased during the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020.

For the 401(k) portion of the Plan, upon separation of service a participant may elect to receive a lump-sum amount equal to the value of the participant's 401(k) account, or rollover the account balance to an individual retirement account or to another qualified employer retirement plan. In-service withdrawals from the participant's 401(k) account are available to participants who have reached age 62. In addition, in-service withdrawals from their 401(k) account are available to participants meeting certain hardship requirements. There are no eligibility requirements related to taking a withdrawal from the participant's rollover account.

Accounts of terminated participants, both ESOP and 401(k), under certain amounts can be automatically distributed without the participant's election.

# **First Western Bancshares, Inc.**

## **Employee Stock Ownership and 401(k) Plan**

### **Notes to Financial Statements** **December 31, 2021 and 2020**

#### **Forfeitures**

Plan forfeitures are allocated to each eligible participant's account based upon the relation of the participant's compensation to total compensation for the Plan year; unless forfeitures are first used to reinstate previously forfeited account balances of former participants. During the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020, \$9,795 and \$7,428, respectively, in forfeited nonvested accounts were allocated among remaining participants.

#### **Voting Rights**

If the Employer does not have a registration-type class of securities, each Participant or beneficiary in the Plan shall be entitled to direct the trustee as to the manner rights to the Employer stock are to be exercised with respect to any corporate matter which involves the voting of such shares with respect to the approval or disapproval of any corporate merger or consolidation, recapitalization, reclassification, liquidation, dissolution, sale of substantially all assets of a trade or business, or such similar transaction as prescribed in regulations. The term registration-type class of securities means: (A) a class of securities required to be registered under Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and (B) a class of securities which would be required to be so registered except for the exemption from registration provided therein.

The trustee is required, however, to vote any unallocated shares pledged as security for any obligation of the Plan in accordance with the agreement the securities are pledged under.

#### **Put Option**

Under federal income tax regulations, the Employer stock that is held by the Plan and its participants and is not readily tradable on an established market, or is subject to trading limitations includes a put option. The put option is a right to demand that the Employer buy any shares of its stock distributed to participants for which there is no market. The put price is representative of the fair market value of the stock. The Employer can pay for the purchase with interest over a period not to exceed five years. The purpose of the put option is to ensure that the participant has the ability to ultimately obtain cash.

### **NOTE 2: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

#### **Basis of Accounting**

The accompanying financial statements of the Plan are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

#### **Use of Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires the Plan's management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

# **First Western Bancshares, Inc.**

## **Employee Stock Ownership and 401(k) Plan**

### **Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2021 and 2020**

#### **Investment Valuation and Income Recognition**

Investments are reported at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The Plan's management determines the Plan's valuation policies utilizing information provided by John Hancock for the 401(k) investments and an independent appraiser for the ESOP investment. See Note 5 for discussion of fair value measurements. Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation in fair value of investments includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

#### **Administrative Expenses**

Investment related expenses of the John Hancock pooled separate accounts are included in net appreciation in fair value of investments. Expenses of the Plan for the investment management services or recordkeeping of the ESOP portion of the Plan provided by the recordkeeper are paid proportionately from participant's ESOP account balances. Certain administrative functions are performed by officers or employees of the Employer or its Affiliates. No such officer or employee receives compensation from the Plan. Some administrative expenses for trustee's fees are paid directly by the Employer. See Note 11.

#### **Expenses Offset Arrangements**

Fees incurred by the Plan for the investment management services or recordkeeping provided by John Hancock are included in net appreciation in fair value of investments, as they are paid through revenue sharing, rather than a direct payment.

#### **Payment of Benefits**

Benefits are recorded when paid.

### **NOTE 3: INFORMATION CERTIFIED BY THE PLAN'S CUSTODIAN**

The Plan administrator has elected the method of annual reporting compliance permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Accordingly, John Hancock Life Insurance Company has certified that the following data included in the accompanying financial statements and supplemental schedule are complete and accurate.

- Investments in pooled separate accounts, as shown in the Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits as of December 31, 2021 and 2020,
- Net appreciation in fair value of the pooled separate accounts, as shown in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits for the year ended December 31, 2021, and
- The pooled separate accounts as shown on the Schedule of Assets Held at End of Year as of December 31, 2021.

# First Western Bancshares, Inc.

## Employee Stock Ownership and 401(k) Plan

### Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2021 and 2020

The Plan's independent public accountants did not perform auditing procedures with respect to this information, except for comparing such information to the related information included in the financial statements and supplemental schedule.

#### **NOTE 4: EMPLOYER COMMON STOCK**

The Plan's investment in Employer common stock as of December 31, 2021 and 2020 is as follows:

|                  | <u>2021</u>   | <u>2020</u>  |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Number of shares | 32,870        | 32,870       |
| Cost             | \$ 1,295,815  | \$ 1,295,815 |
| Fair value       | \$ 10,460,878 | \$ 7,962,758 |

#### **NOTE 5: FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS**

FASB Codification Topic *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*, establishes a framework for measuring fair value. That framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure 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 unobservable inputs (level 3 measurements). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under FASB Codification Topic *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures* are described as:

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|         |                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Level 1 | Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Plan has the ability to access. |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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|         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Level 2 | Inputs to the valuation methodology include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets;</li> <li>• quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets</li> <li>• inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability;</li> <li>• inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.</li> </ul> If the asset or liability has a specified (contractual) term, the level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability. |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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|         |                                                                                                     |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Level 3 | Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement. |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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The asset's or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

# First Western Bancshares, Inc.

## Employee Stock Ownership and 401(k) Plan

### Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2021 and 2020

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2021 and 2020.

*Pooled separate accounts:* Valued at the net asset value (NAV) of the units of the pooled separate account. The NAV, as provided by the custodian, is used as a practical expedient to estimate fair value. The NAV is based on the fair value of the underlying investments held by the account less liabilities. This practical expedient is not used when it is determined to be probable that the account will sell the investment for an amount different than reported NAV. Participant transactions (purchases and sales) may occur daily.

*Employer common stock:* Valued at the fair value based upon an independent appraiser. This appraisal was based upon a combination of the market and income valuation techniques consistent with prior years. The appraiser took into account historical and projected cash flow and net income, return on assets, return on equity, market comparables and estimated fair value of Employer's assets and liabilities.

The valuation process for the common stock involves Plan trustee's selection of an independent appraiser under an annual contract. Plan management accumulates the data for the appraiser from the audited financial statements of the Employer and other documentation. The appraiser prepares a preliminary report which Plan management, along with the ESOP trustees, reviews in detail, discusses and approves.

The preceding methods described may produce a fair value calculation 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.

The following tables set forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets at fair value as of December 31, 2021 and 2020. In accordance with the FASB Codification Topic, certain investments that were measured at NAV per share (or its equivalent) have not been classified in the fair value hierarchy. The fair value amounts presented in this table are intended to permit reconciliation of the fair value hierarchy to the line items presented in the Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits.

#### Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2021

|                                          | <u>Level 1</u> | <u>Level 2</u> | <u>Level 3</u>       | <u>Total</u>         |
|------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Employer common stock                    | \$ -           | \$ -           | \$ 10,460,878        | \$ 10,460,878        |
| Total assets in the fair value hierarchy | <u>\$ -</u>    | <u>\$ -</u>    | <u>\$ 10,460,878</u> | 10,460,878           |
| Investments measured at net asset value  |                |                |                      | <u>3,836,956</u>     |
| Total investments                        |                |                |                      | <u>\$ 14,297,834</u> |

# First Western Bancshares, Inc.

## Employee Stock Ownership and 401(k) Plan

### Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2021 and 2020

#### Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2020

|                                          | <u>Level 1</u> | <u>Level 2</u> | <u>Level 3</u>      | <u>Total</u>         |
|------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Employer common stock                    | \$ -           | \$ -           | \$ 7,962,758        | \$ 7,962,758         |
| Total assets in the fair value hierarchy | <u>\$ -</u>    | <u>\$ -</u>    | <u>\$ 7,962,758</u> | 7,962,758            |
| Investments measured at net asset value  |                |                |                     | <u>3,201,320</u>     |
| Total investments                        |                |                |                     | <u>\$ 11,164,078</u> |

The following table summarizes investments measured at fair value based on NAV per share as of December 31, 2021 and 2020, respectively. There are no participant redemption restrictions for these investments; the redemption notice period is applicable only to the Plan.

|                          | <u>Fair Value</u>   | <u>Unfunded Commitments</u> | <u>Redemption Frequency (if currently eligible)</u> | <u>Redemption Notice Period</u> |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>December 31, 2021</b> |                     |                             |                                                     |                                 |
| Pooled separate accounts | <u>\$ 3,836,956</u> | <u>\$ -</u>                 | Daily                                               | None                            |
| <b>December 31, 2020</b> |                     |                             |                                                     |                                 |
| Pooled separate accounts | <u>\$ 3,201,320</u> | <u>\$ -</u>                 | Daily                                               | None                            |

Each portfolio included in the pooled separate accounts has different investment objectives and risks. The portfolio prospectuses contain more detailed information on each portfolio's investment strategy. The majority of the pooled separate accounts invested in are the Lifestyle Portfolio funds. These funds invest solely in the John Hancock Funds II – Multimanager Lifestyle Portfolio stock. The portfolios are invested in a variety of investments that balance between a high level of current income and growth of capital with the emphasis changing based on the participant's risk preferences.

#### Changes in Fair Value of Level 3 Assets

The Employer common stock is a level 3 investment. During the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020, there were no transfers into or out of level 3 in the fair value hierarchy. In addition, there were no purchases or issues of level 3 assets or liabilities.

# First Western Bancshares, Inc.

## Employee Stock Ownership and 401(k) Plan

### Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2021 and 2020

The following table sets forth the valuation techniques and significant unobservable inputs used to determine the fair value of the Employer common stock as of December 31, 2021 and 2020:

| Type                     | Fair Value    | Valuation<br>Technique | Significant Unobservable Inputs                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------|---------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| December 31, 2021        |               |                        |                                                                                                                                                                |
| Employer<br>common stock | \$ 10,460,878 | Income                 | Future Cash Flows;<br>Dividend Discount                                                                                                                        |
|                          |               | Market value           | Net Income from Continuing Operations;<br>Forecasted current year earnings per share;<br>Five-Year Weighted Average Earnings;<br>Tangible Book Value per Share |
| December 31, 2020        |               |                        |                                                                                                                                                                |
| Employer<br>common stock | \$ 7,962,758  | Income                 | Sustained earnings;<br>Capitalization factor                                                                                                                   |
|                          |               | Market value           | Market value adjustments;<br>Discount for lack of marketability                                                                                                |

#### **NOTE 6: PLAN TERMINATION**

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Employer has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA. Upon termination of the Plan, the trustees shall pay all liabilities and expenses of the Plan and shall sell shares of financial common stock held in the loan suspense account (if applicable) to the extent such sale is determined necessary in order to repay any ESOP loan. In the event of a plan termination, participants will become one hundred percent (100%) vested in their employer accounts.

#### **NOTE 7: RELATED PARTY AND PARTIES-IN-INTEREST TRANSACTIONS**

The Plan invests in Employer common stock. This is a related party and party-in-interest transaction. The Employer also performs certain administrative functions at no cost to the Plan. The Employer does not expect reimbursement for these expenses.

Certain Plan investments are in pooled separate accounts managed by John Hancock. John Hancock is the custodian as defined by the Plan and, therefore, these investments and the related transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions. Certain fees incurred by the Plan for the investment

# **First Western Bancshares, Inc.**

## **Employee Stock Ownership and 401(k) Plan**

### **Notes to Financial Statements** **December 31, 2021 and 2020**

management services are included in net appreciation in fair value of the investment, as they are paid through revenue sharing, rather than a direct payment. To the extent that revenue sharing is insufficient to cover these fees, they will be deducted pro rata from the participants' account.

The Plan is charged fees and expenses through expense ratios charged by John Hancock to the Plan's various investment options. The investment expense ratios vary by fund and are reflected in the value of the investments held by the Plan. Investment related expenses are included in net appreciation in fair value of investments.

#### **NOTE 8: TAX STATUS AND UNCERTAIN TAX POSITIONS**

The Plan has adopted an individually designed plan document. This plan document was amended and restated effective January 1, 2017. The Internal Revenue Service has determined and informed the Employer in a letter dated January 19, 2018, that the Plan and the related trust are designed in accordance with applicable sections of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). Once qualified, the Plan is required to operate in conformity with the IRC to maintain its qualification. Although the Plan has been amended since receiving the determination letter, Plan management believes that the Plan is currently designed, and being operated, in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC. Therefore, they believe the Plan was qualified, and the related trust was tax-exempt as of the financial statement date.

The Plan accounts for uncertain tax positions in accordance with the provisions of the FASB Codification Topic *Income Taxes*. FASB Codification Topic *Income Taxes* clarifies the accounting for uncertainty in income taxes and requires the Plan to recognize in their financial statements the impact of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return, if that position more likely than not would not to be sustained under audit, based on the technical merits of the position. The Plan administrator has assessed the tax positions taken by the Plan, and determined that no positions exist that require adjustment or disclosure under the provisions of FASB Codification Topic *Income Taxes*.

The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

#### **NOTE 9: RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES**

The Plan provides for investments in various income securities, which, in general, are exposed to certain risks, such as interest rate, credit and overall market volatility risks, as well as valuation assumptions based on earnings, cash flows, and other such techniques pertaining to the Plan's investment in Employer common stock. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, including the Employer's common stock, and to uncertainties inherent in the estimations and assumptions process, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits.

# **First Western Bancshares, Inc.**

## **Employee Stock Ownership and 401(k) Plan**

### **Notes to Financial Statements** **December 31, 2021 and 2020**

As of the date of the Independent Auditor's Report, the COVID-19 pandemic has had an adverse impact on both domestic and global financial markets and operations. Plan management is unable to accurately predict how the COVID-19 pandemic will affect the results of the Plan's operations due to uncertainties surrounding the severity of the disease and the duration of the outbreak.

Market disruptions associated with current geopolitical events have had a global impact, and uncertainty exists as to their implications. Such disruptions adversely affect investment assets and thus performance of the investment assets; at this time, an aggregate effect on the Plan's investment assets and their performance cannot be reasonably estimated.

#### ***NOTE 10: CONCENTRATIONS***

The Plan has a concentration of assets invested in the Employer common stock. This investment accounted for 73% and 71%, respectively, of total investments as of December 31, 2021 and 2020.

#### ***NOTE 11: ADMINISTRATION OF PLAN ASSETS***

The Plan's assets related to the ESOP portion of the Plan, which consist principally of Employer common stock, are held by the trustees of the Plan. Employer contributions are held and managed by the trustees, which invests cash received, interest, and dividend income and makes distributions to participants. John Hancock performs such functions (as applicable) for, and is the custodian of, the 401(k) portion of the Plan's assets.

#### ***NOTE 12: SUBSEQUENT EVENTS***

Plan management has evaluated subsequent events through September 26, 2022, the date that the financial statements were available to be issued.

## **Supplemental Information**

# First Western Bancshares, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership and 401(k) Plan

Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets Held at End of Year  
EIN 71-0605306 PN 002  
December 31, 2021

|                                       |                                                             | (c) DESCRIPTION OF INVESTMENT INCLUDING MATURITY<br>DATE, RATE OF INTEREST, COLLATERAL, PAR, OR<br>MATURITY VALUE | (d) COST            | (e) CURRENT<br>VALUE |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| (a)                                   | (b) IDENTITY OF ISSUE, BORROWER,<br>LESSOR OR SIMILAR PARTY |                                                                                                                   |                     |                      |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | JH Multimanager - Conservative LifeStyle Portfolio                                                                | N/A                 | \$ 39,573            |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | JH Multimanager - Moderate LifeStyle Portfolio                                                                    | N/A                 | 687,650              |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | JH Multimanager - Balanced LifeStyle Portfolio                                                                    | N/A                 | 520,807              |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | JH Multimanager - Growth LifeStyle Portfolio                                                                      | N/A                 | 769,893              |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | JH Multimanager - Aggressive LifeStyle Portfolio                                                                  | N/A                 | 261,416              |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | Vanguard Short-Term Federal Fund                                                                                  | N/A                 | 9,328                |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | Pimco Real Return Fund                                                                                            | N/A                 | 4,440                |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | Total Stock Market Index Fund                                                                                     | N/A                 | 362                  |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | Fidelity Advisor Total Bond                                                                                       | N/A                 | 25,482               |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | John Hancock Bond Fund                                                                                            | N/A                 | 110,697              |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | T. Rowe Price New Era Fund                                                                                        | N/A                 | 6,120                |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | Global Bond Fund                                                                                                  | N/A                 | 396                  |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | High Yield Fund                                                                                                   | N/A                 | 13,265               |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | American Balanced Fund                                                                                            | N/A                 | 177,564              |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | BlackRock Global Allocation Fund                                                                                  | N/A                 | 9,057                |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | Washington Mutual Investors                                                                                       | N/A                 | 1,105                |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | The Investment Company of America                                                                                 | N/A                 | 3,694                |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | 500 Index Fund                                                                                                    | N/A                 | 83,406               |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | Equity Income Fund                                                                                                | N/A                 | 44,705               |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | Utilities Fund                                                                                                    | N/A                 | 15,493               |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | JPMorgan US Equity Fund                                                                                           | N/A                 | 21,787               |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | Fundamental Investors                                                                                             | N/A                 | 109,227              |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | The Growth Fund of America                                                                                        | N/A                 | 45,355               |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | Mid Value Fund                                                                                                    | N/A                 | 16,312               |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | Capital Appreciation Fund                                                                                         | N/A                 | 64,807               |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | Blue Chip Growth Fund                                                                                             | N/A                 | 323,045              |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | Small Cap Value Fund                                                                                              | N/A                 | 4,167                |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | Mid Cap Index Fund                                                                                                | N/A                 | 10,869               |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | Financial Industries Fund                                                                                         | N/A                 | 7,746                |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | T. Rowe Price Health Sciences Fund                                                                                | N/A                 | 24,901               |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | American Century Heritage                                                                                         | N/A                 | 1,235                |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | Disciplined Value Intl Fund                                                                                       | N/A                 | 7,220                |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | EuroPacific Growth Fund                                                                                           | N/A                 | 95,115               |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | Templeton World Fund                                                                                              | N/A                 | 24,446               |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | Science & Technology Fund                                                                                         | N/A                 | 95,674               |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | John Hancock Mid Cap Growth Fund                                                                                  | N/A                 | 135,633              |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | International Equity Index Fund                                                                                   | N/A                 | 12,439               |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | Invesco Small Cap Growth Fund                                                                                     | N/A                 | 620                  |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | Small Cap Growth Index Fund                                                                                       | N/A                 | 9,217                |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | International Small Cap Fund                                                                                      | N/A                 | 565                  |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | John Hancock US Quality Growth                                                                                    | N/A                 | 11,329               |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | Real Estate Securities Fund                                                                                       | N/A                 | 1,655                |
| *                                     | John Hancock                                                | New Opportunities Fund                                                                                            | N/A                 | 29,139               |
| <b>Total pooled separate accounts</b> |                                                             |                                                                                                                   | <u>N/A</u>          | <u>\$ 3,836,956</u>  |
| *                                     | First Western Bancshares, Inc.                              | 32,870 shares of First Western Bancshares, Inc. Common Stock; \$.01 par value per share                           | <u>\$ 1,295,815</u> | <u>\$ 10,460,878</u> |
| *                                     | Party-in-interest                                           |                                                                                                                   |                     |                      |

**NOTE: HISTORICAL COST INFORMATION**

Disclosure of historical cost information with regard to certain plan investments is normally required to be presented in the Schedule of Assets Held at End of Year in accordance with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. This disclosure requirement, however, does not apply to Plans whose investments are 100% participant directed; therefore, no cost information is reported in the above referenced schedule for participant directed investments.

**See Independent Auditor's Report.**