

Form 5500 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.	OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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Part I	Annual Report Identification Information
For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023	
A	This return/report is for: ☐ a multiemployer plan ☐ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.) ☒ a single-employer plan ☐ a DFE (specify) _____
B	This return/report is: ☐ the first return/report ☐ the final return/report ☐ an amended return/report ☐ a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)
C	If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. ▶ ☐
D	Check box if filing under: ☐ Form 5558 ☐ automatic extension ☐ the DFVC program ☐ special extension (enter description)
E	If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here. ▶ ☐

Part II	Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information
1a	Name of plan LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORPORATION 401(K) PLAN
1b	Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 004
1c	Effective date of plan 01/01/1984
2a	Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan) Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions) LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORPORATION 109 S. BUFFALO STREET WARSAW, IN 46580
2b	Employer Identification Number (EIN) 35-1559596
2c	Plan Sponsor's telephone number 574-267-6144
2d	Business code (see instructions) 522110

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

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

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	07/23/2024	KYRA CLARK
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

3a Plan administrator's name and address ☒ Same as Plan Sponsor	3b Administrator's EIN 3c Administrator's telephone number
4 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: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name	4b EIN 4d PN
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5 855
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d). a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	6a(1) 643 6a(2) 649 6b 6 6c 161 6d 816 6e 0 6f 816 6g(1) 818 6g(2) 780 6h 73
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	7

8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

2E 2F 2G 2J 2K 2T 3D 3H 3I

b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

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

a Pension Schedules

- (1)** ☒ **R** (Retirement Plan Information)
- (2)** ☐ **MB** (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- (3)** ☐ **SB** (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- (4)** ☐ **DCG** (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____
- (5)** ☐ **MEP** (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)

b General Schedules

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

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

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

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

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

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2023 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2023 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code _____

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Service Provider Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110
		2023
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023

A Name of plan LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORPORATION 401(K) PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 004
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORPORATION	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 35-1559596

Part I

Service Provider Information (see instructions)

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).....

X

Yes

No
- b

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

(b)	Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	
04-2647786	

(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)

FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL

04-2647786

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
60 64 65 71	RECORDKEEPER	2838	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☒ No ☐	0	Yes ☒ No ☐

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

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

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

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

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

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

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0
(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.	
MFS NEW DISC VAL R4 - MFS SERVICE 04-2865649	0.15%	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0
(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.	
ARTISAN MID CAP INV - SS&C GLOBAL 2000 CROWN COLONY DRIVE QUINCY, MA 02169	0.40%	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0
(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.	
BAIRD SH TM BOND IS - US BANCORP F 39-0281260	0.02%	

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

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

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0

(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.
VICTORY S ESTB VAL Y - FIS INVESTO FAITH INVESTOR SERVICES, LLC DALLAS, TX 75254	0.25%

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0

(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.
MFS VALUE R3 - MFS SERVICE CENTER 04-2865649	0.50%

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0

(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.
TRP QM US SMCPGR ADV - T ROWE PRICE 52-2269240	0.40%

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

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

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

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

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

Explanation:

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

Explanation:

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

Explanation:

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

Explanation:

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

Explanation:

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Financial Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ► File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110
		2023
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORPORATION 401(K) PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►	004
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORPORATION	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 35-1559596	

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

Assets		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a		
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	1329761	904195
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)		
(3) Other	1b(3)	0	46679
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)	6053394	4305501
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)		
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)		
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)		
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)		
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)		
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)		
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)		
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)		
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)		
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	57114644	68428169
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)		
(15) Other	1c(15)		

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)	51949105	45437069
(2) Employer real property	1d(2)		
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e		
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	116446904	119121613
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable	1g		
h Operating payables	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness	1i		
j Other liabilities	1j		
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j)	1k	0	0
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	116446904	119121613

Part II Income and Expense Statement

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

Income		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a Contributions:			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers	2a(1)(A)	2007318	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	3520928	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	120341	
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		5648587
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)	244981	
(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)		
(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)		
(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)		
(E) Participant loans	2b(1)(E)		
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		244981
(2) Dividends: (A) Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)	1294055	
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)	1793028	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		3087083
(3) Rents	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: (A) Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)	5655641	
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)	6832453	
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result	2b(4)(C)		-1176812
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: (A) Real estate	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)	-3983195	
(C) 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)		
(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)		9574300
c Other income	2c		
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		13394944

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	10717254	
(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)		10717254
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		
h Interest expense	2h		
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees.....	2i(2)		
(3) Recordkeeping fees.....	2i(3)	2981	
(4) IQPA audit fees.....	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)		
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)		
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)		
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)		
(11) Other expenses	2i(11)		
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11)	2i(12)		2981
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		10720235

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		2674709
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: **CROWE LLP**

(2) EIN: **35-0921680**

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** as part of Schedule H because:

(1) ☐ This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, DCG 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. DCGs do not complete lines 4e, 4f, 4k, 4l, and 5, and DCGs generally complete the rest of Part IV collectively for all plans in the DCG, except as otherwise provided (see instructions).

During the plan year:

	Yes	No	Amount
a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)		☒	
b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)		☒	
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)		☒	
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)		☒	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	☒		5000000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		☒	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		☒	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		☒	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	☒		
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)		☒	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?		☒	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?		☒	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)		☒	
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.			

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 _____.

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation		Retirement Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.		OMB No. 1210-0110 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.	
For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023					
A Name of plan LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORPORATION 401(K) PLAN				B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	004
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORPORATION				D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 35-1559596	
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	0
2 Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits): EIN(s): 04-6568107					
Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.					
3 Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year				3	
Part II Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part.)					
4 Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A					
If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.					
5 If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. Date: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____					
If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.					
6 a Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)				6a	
b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year.....				6b	
c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount)				6c	
If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.					
7 Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A					
8 If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A					
Part III Amendments					
9 If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box. ☐ Increase ☐ Decrease ☐ Both ☐ No					
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?..... ☐ Yes ☐ No					
11 a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock? ☐ Yes ☐ No					
b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.) ☐ Yes ☐ No					
12 Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market? ☐ Yes ☐ No					
For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.				Schedule R (Form 5500) 2023 v. 230707	

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that (1) contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year or (2) was one of the top-ten highest contributors (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
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18 If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment..... ☐

19 If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) and (b):

a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:

Public Equity: _____% Private Equity: _____% Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: _____%

High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Assets: _____% Cash or Cash Equivalents: _____% Other: _____%

b Provide the average duration of the Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets:

☐ 0-5 years ☐ 5-10 years ☐ 10-15 years ☐ 15 years or more

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. _____

Part VII	IRS Compliance Questions
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21a Does the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination tests of Code sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) by combining this plan with any other plans under the permissive aggregation rules? ☐ Yes ☒ No

21b If this is a Code section 401(k) plan, check all boxes that apply to indicate how the plan is intended to satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals and employer matching contributions (as applicable) under Code sections 401(k)(3) and 401(m)(2).

☐ Design-based safe harbor method

☐ "Prior year" ADP test

☒ "Current year" ADP test

☐ N/A

22 If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved plan that received a favorable IRS Opinion Letter, enter the date of the Opinion Letter 06 / 30 / 2020 (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number Q702438A.

**LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORPORATION
401(K) PLAN**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2023 and 2022

LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORPORATION 401(K) PLAN
Warsaw, Indiana

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2023 and 2022

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Retirement Plan Committee, Plan Administrators, and Plan Participants
Lakeland Financial Corporation 401(k) Plan
Warsaw, Indiana

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Lakeland Financial Corporation 401(k) Plan (the "Plan"), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), which comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2023, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits 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 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 audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for one year from the date 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.

(Continued)

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with 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.

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 the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Supplemental Schedules Required by ERISA

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The supplemental schedule of Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) as of December 31, 2023 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 has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits 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.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedule, 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 information in the accompanying schedule is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole, and the form and content are presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

Crowe LLP.
Crowe LLP

Oakbrook, Illinois
June 25, 2024

LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORPORATION 401(K) PLAN
STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
December 31, 2023 and 2022

	2023	2022
Assets		
Investments, at fair value	\$ 118,170,739	\$ 115,117,143
Receivables		
Employer contributions	904,195	1,329,761
Other	46,679	0
Total receivables	950,874	1,329,761
Net assets available for benefits	\$ 119,121,613	\$ 116,446,904

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORPORATION 401(K) PLAN
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
Year Ended December 31, 2023

Additions to net assets attributed to:	
Investment income	
Interest and dividends income	\$ 3,330,708
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	4,415,649
Total investment income	<u>7,746,357</u>
Contributions	
Employer	2,007,318
Participants	3,520,928
Rollover	120,341
Total contributions	<u>5,648,587</u>
Total additions	<u>13,394,944</u>
Deductions from net assets attributed to:	
Benefits paid directly to participants	10,717,254
Administrative expenses	2,981
Total deductions	<u>10,720,235</u>
Net increase	2,674,709
Net assets available for benefits	
Beginning of year	<u>116,446,904</u>
End of year	<u><u>\$ 119,121,613</u></u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORPORATION 401(K) PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF PLAN

The following description of the Lakeland Financial Corporation 401(k) Plan (the "Plan") is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to the Plan agreement for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General: The Plan is a defined contribution 401(k) profit sharing plan covering substantially all employees of Lakeland Financial Corporation ("LFC") and its subsidiary, Lake City Bank (collectively, "employer"). An employee becomes eligible to enter the Plan on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 following attainment of age 18 and completion of one month of service.

The Plan was originally adopted December 13, 1983 and has been amended and restated, including adopting statutory changes pursuant to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. Participants should refer to the amended and restated Plan agreement for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions. The Plan provides for retirement, death, disability and termination benefits, and it is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

Investment Funds: The Plan consists of 30 funds, or investment options, one of which is invested in LFC common stock. Fourteen of the funds are "Fidelity Freedom" funds that are targeted retirement funds consisting of blends of equities and fixed income securities. The "Artisan Mid-Cap Fund", "Victory Sycamore Established Value Fund", "MFS Value R3 Fund", "Fidelity Contrafund", "T. Rowe Price QM Small-Cap Fund", "MFS New Discovery Value Fund", "Fidelity Spartan 500 Index Advantage Fund", "Fidelity Small-Cap Index Fund" and "Fidelity Mid-Cap Index Fund" are invested primarily in common and preferred stock. The "Fidelity Spartan US Bond Index Fund" and "Baird Short-Term Bond Fund" are invested primarily in fixed income securities. The "Fidelity Retirement Money Market Fund" is invested primarily in short-term fixed income investments having maturities of one year or less, and the "Fidelity Diversified International Fund" and "Fidelity Spartan Emerging Markets Index Advantage Fund" are invested primarily in foreign common stocks. The "PIMCO All Asset Fund Institutional Class" is invested primarily in mutual funds. A participant's salary redirection is invested in any of the funds offered at the participant's discretion. Employer matching contributions are invested in the same funds as the participant's salary redirection, and in the same proportions.

Participant Accounts: Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contribution and allocation of (a) the employer's contributions, (b) Plan earnings and (c) forfeitures of non-vested balances of account of participants who have left the Plan and charged with his or her withdrawals. Allocations are based on participant earnings or account balances, as defined. The benefit to which a participant, or beneficiary, is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

Contributions: The Plan provides that participants may make voluntary pre-tax or Roth contributions to the Plan in amounts up to 80% of eligible compensation or to the maximum amount allowable under the Internal Revenue Code (\$22,500 in 2023). Catch up contributions are permitted for those eligible employees over the age of 50 years and are limited to \$7,500 in 2023. Each year the employer may set a matching percentage of a participant's compensation, as well as make discretionary contributions. For 2023, the matching percentage was set at 85% of the first 6% of compensation an employee contributes to the Plan as a voluntary contribution. In addition, no discretionary contributions were made. All contributions were cash contributions.

The Plan includes an auto-enrollment provision whereby all newly eligible employees are automatically enrolled in the Plan unless they affirmatively elect not to participate in the Plan. Automatically enrolled

LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORPORATION 401(K) PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Year Ended December 31, 2023

participants have their deferral rate set at 6% of eligible compensation and their contributions invested in a default target date fund based on the participant's age until changed by the participant.

Death, Disability or Retirement Benefits: Under the Plan, participants, or their beneficiaries, are entitled to 100% of their account balance upon death, disability, or retirement.

Vesting: Participants are 100% vested in salary deferral contributions. Employer contributions vest according to a five-year graded schedule.

Forfeitures: Upon termination of employment, participants with less than five years of credited service will forfeit their non-vested balances. Forfeitures of non-vested terminated participants' accounts are used to pay Plan expenses and/or offset employer contributions. Unallocated forfeitures amounted to \$140,558 and \$107,852 as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. Forfeitures of \$111,944 were used to pay Plan expenses and to offset employer contributions for 2023.

Payments of Benefits: On termination of service, a participant may elect to receive either a lump sum or direct rollover amount equal to the value of his or her vested interest in the account. The Plan also permits in-serve withdrawals for participants upon attainment of age 59 ½ years or for participants with a hardship, subject to certain criteria and a \$500 minimum amount. Prior to July 25, 2023, distributions of LFC common stock were made in stock or cash at the participant's option. Effective July 25, 2023, distributions of LFC common stock were made in cash. Distributions out of the other funds are made in cash.

Administrative and Investment Management Expenses: Substantially all administrative expenses are paid by the employer. Investment management fees are charged to the Plan as a reduction of investment return and included in the investment income reported by the Plan.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The policies and principles, which significantly affect the determination of net assets and changes in net assets, are summarized below.

Basis of Accounting: The accounting practices and principles followed by the Plan and the methods of applying those principles conform to U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. The financial statements of the Plan are prepared under the accrual basis of accounting.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition: The Plan's investments are reported at fair value. 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.

Fair value is the price that would be received by the Plan for an asset or paid by the Plan to transfer a liability (an exit price) in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date in the Plan's principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability. Fair value measurements are determined by maximizing the use of observable inputs and minimizing the use of unobservable inputs. The hierarchy places the highest priority on unadjusted quoted market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurements) and gives the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements). The three levels of inputs within the fair value hierarchy are defined as follows:

Level 1: Quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Plan has the ability to access as of the measurement date.

LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORPORATION 401(K) PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year Ended December 31, 2023

Level 2: Significant other observable inputs other than Level 1 prices such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities; quoted prices in markets that are not active; or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data.

Level 3: Significant unobservable inputs that reflect the Plan's own assumptions about the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing an asset or liability.

In some cases, a valuation technique used to measure fair value may include inputs from multiple levels of the fair value hierarchy. The lowest level of significant input determines the placement of the entire fair value measurement in the hierarchy.

The fair values of LFC common stock and mutual fund investments are determined by obtaining quoted prices on nationally recognized securities exchanges (Level 1 inputs). Investments measured at fair value on a recurring basis are summarized below:

Fair Value Measurements at December 31, 2023			
Using			
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
Lakeland Financial Corp Common Stock	\$ 45,437,069	\$ 0	\$ 0
Mutual Funds	72,733,670	0	0
Fair Value Measurements at December 31, 2022			
Using			
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
Lakeland Financial Corp Common Stock	\$ 51,949,105	\$ 0	\$ 0
Mutual Funds	63,168,038	0	0

Net Appreciation In Fair Value of Investments: In accordance with the policy of stating investments at fair value, net unrealized appreciation for the year along with gains and losses on sales of investments are reflected in the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits as net appreciation in fair value of investments. Unrealized appreciation for investments held as of the end of the current fiscal year is the difference between the current value of those investments and the value of those investments as of the end of the prior fiscal year or the purchase date for investments purchased during the year.

Estimates: The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires the plan administrator to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures, and actual results may differ from these estimates.

LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORPORATION 401(K) PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year Ended December 31, 2023

Payment of Benefits: Benefits are recorded when paid.

Concentration of Credit Risk: At December 31, 2023 and 2022, 38% and 45% of the Plan's investments were in LFC common stock, respectively.

Risks and Uncertainties: The Plan provides for various investment options including any combination of certain mutual funds and stocks. The investments are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate risk, credit risk, liquidity risk, and overall market volatility risk, among others. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investments and the level of uncertainty related to changes in the value of investments, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investments will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits, and future statements of changes in net assets available for benefits and participants' account balances.

Subsequent Events: Plan management has evaluated subsequent events for recognition and disclosure through June 25, 2024, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

NOTE 3 – PLAN TERMINATION

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, LFC has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA and its related regulations. In the event of termination, participants will become 100% vested in their accounts.

NOTE 4 - PARTIES-IN-INTEREST TRANSACTIONS

Parties-in-interest are defined under Department of Labor Regulations as any fiduciary of the Plan, any party rendering service to the Plan, the employer, and certain others. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, certain investments of the Plan are shares of mutual funds offered by Fidelity Investments. Fidelity Management Trust Company is the Plan trustee and, therefore, these transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions.

The Plan has a revenue sharing program with the Plan trustee whereby a portion of fees charged to participants for certain funds are used to offset administrative expenses incurred by the Plan. Fees paid by the Plan to Fidelity for administrative services amounted to \$2,981 for the year ended December 31, 2023. The Plan also invests in shares of common stock issued by Lakeland Financial Corporation, which qualifies as a party-in-interest investment.

During 2023, the Plan purchased 79,025 shares of Lakeland Financial Corporation common stock at a cost ranging from \$47.04 to \$74.70 per share. In 2023, the Plan sold 42,683 shares of Lakeland Financial Corporation common stock at a sales price ranging from \$43.51 to \$74.02 per share and distributed 50,951 shares of common stock to employees due to termination or retirement. Lakeland Financial Corporation paid cash dividends of \$1,294,055 to the Plan for 2023.

LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORPORATION 401(K) PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year Ended December 31, 2023

At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Plan held the following related party investments (at estimated fair value):

2023:

Lakeland Financial Corporation common stock – 697,315 shares	\$ 45,437,069
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2022:

Lakeland Financial Corporation common stock – 711,924 shares	\$ 51,949,105
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NOTE 5 - TAX STATUS

The Plan was established using a prototype plan document sponsored by Fidelity Management & Research Company. The Internal Revenue Service issued an opinion letter dated June 30, 2020, indicating that the prototype adopted by the Plan, as then designed, was in accordance with applicable sections of the Internal Revenue Code ("IRC"). Plan management believes that the Plan is currently designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan. The plan administrator has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan, and has concluded that as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition of a liability (or asset) or disclosure in the financial statements. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress. The plan administrator believes it is no longer subject to income tax examinations for years prior to 2020.

SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE

LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORPORATION 401(K) PLAN
SCHEDULE H, LINE 4i - SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR)
December 31, 2023

Name of Plan Sponsor	Lakeland Financial Corporation
Employer Identification Number:	35-1559596
Three Digit Plan Number:	004

(a)	(b) Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor, or Similar Party	(c) Description of Investment Including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, Collateral, Par or Maturity Value	(d) Cost	(e) Current Value
		Mutual Funds		
	Artisan Partners	Artisan Mid-Cap Fund 99,548 shares	#	\$ 3,462,269
	Baird Services	Baird Short-Term Bond Fund Institutional Class 137,199 shares	#	1,291,041
*	Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Cash Reserves Fund 3,521 shares	#	3,521
*	Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Contrafund K 564,894 shares	#	9,123,035
*	Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Diversified International Fund K6 131,272 shares	#	1,781,361
*	Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Freedom 2005 K6 1,320 shares	#	14,457
*	Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Freedom 2010 K6 2,373 shares	#	32,130
*	Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Freedom 2015 K6 10,514 shares	#	116,709
*	Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Freedom 2020 K6 114,999 shares	#	1,604,242
*	Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Freedom 2025 K6 416,238 shares	#	5,423,586
*	Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Freedom 2030 K6 253,390 shares	#	4,178,393
*	Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Freedom 2035 K6 367,544 shares	#	5,314,684
*	Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Freedom 2040 K6 462,201 shares	#	4,820,760
*	Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Freedom 2045 K6 212,238 shares	#	2,548,982
*	Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Freedom 2050 K6 234,125 shares	#	2,851,648
*	Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Freedom 2055 K6 176,357 shares	#	2,488,391
*	Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Freedom 2060 K6 125,991 shares	#	1,635,364
*	Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Freedom 2065 K6 51,105 shares	#	609,169
*	Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Freedom Income Fund K6 36,628 shares	#	381,298

(Continued)

LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORPORATION 401(K) PLAN
SCHEDULE H, LINE 4i - SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR)
December 31, 2023

Name of Plan Sponsor	Lakeland Financial Corporation
Employer Identification Number:	35-1559596
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		(c) Description of Investment Including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, Collateral, Par or Maturity Value	(d) Cost	(e) Current Value
(a)	(b) Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor, or Similar Party			
*	Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Mid-Cap Index Fund 10,728 shares	#	321,289
*	Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Retirement Money Market Fund 4,305,501 shares	#	4,305,501
*	Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Small-Cap Index Fund 9,408 shares	#	235,568
*	Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Spartan 500 Index Advantage Fund 59,587 shares	#	9,861,023
*	Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Spartan Emerging Markets Index Fund 66,562 shares	#	668,951
*	Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Spartan US Bond Index Fund 256,357 shares	#	2,673,799
	Massachusetts Financial Services	MFS New Discovery Value Fund R4 94,208 shares	#	1,669,369
	Massachusetts Financial Services	MFS Value Fund R3 36,340 shares	#	1,709,060
	Pacific Investment Management	PIMCO All Asset Fund Institutional Class 8,923 shares	#	98,248
	T. Rowe Price	T. Rowe Price QM Small-Cap Growth Equity Fund 33,113 shares	#	1,334,443
	Victory Sycamore	Victory Sycamore Established Value Fund 46,893 shares	#	2,175,379
				<u>72,733,670</u>
Common Stock				
*	Lakeland Financial Corporation	Common Stock 697,315 shares	#	<u>45,437,069</u>
				<u><u>\$118,170,739</u></u>
*	Denotes party-in-interest			
#	Investments are participant directed, therefore, historical cost information is not required			

Form 5500 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.	OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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Part I Annual Report Identification Information		
For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A This return/report is for:	☐ a multiemployer plan ☐ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.) ☒ a single-employer plan ☐ a DFE (specify) _____	
B This return/report is:	☐ the first return/report ☐ the final return/report ☐ an amended return/report ☐ a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)	
C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here.	▶ ☐	
D Check box if filing under:	☐ Form 5558 ☐ automatic extension ☐ the DFVC program ☐ special extension (enter description)	
E If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here.	▶ ☐	

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information		
1a Name of plan LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORPORATION 401(K) PLAN		1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 004
		1c Effective date of plan 01/01/1984
2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan) Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions) LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORPORATION 109 S. BUFFALO STREET WARSAW IN 46580		2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) 35-1559596 2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number 574-267-6144 2d Business code (see instructions) 522110

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

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

SIGN HERE	Kyra Clark	7/23/24	KYRA CLARK
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE	Kyra Clark	7/23/24	KYRA CLARK
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

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

Form 5500 (2023)
v. 2300728

3a Plan administrator's name and address ☒ Same as Plan Sponsor	3b Administrator's EIN 3c Administrator's telephone number
4 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: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name	4b EIN 4d PN
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5 855
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d).	
a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year	6a(1) 643
a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year	6a(2) 649
b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits	6b 6
c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits	6c 161
d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c	6d 816
e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits.	6e 0
f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e	6f 816
g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item).....	6g(1) 818
g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item).....	6g(2) 780
h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.....	6h 73
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	7
8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions: 2E 2F 2G 2J 2K 2T 3D 3H 3I	

b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

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

a Pension Schedules

- (1) ☒ **R** (Retirement Plan Information)
- (2) ☐ **MB** (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- (3) ☐ **SB** (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- (4) ☐ **DCG** (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____
- (5) ☐ **MEP** (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)

b General Schedules

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

LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORPORATION 401(K) PLAN
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