| Form 5500 | Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan | OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089 |
|---|---|---|
| Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service<br>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration<br>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation | 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>▶ **Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.** | **2023**<br>**This Form is Open to Public Inspection** |

## 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.)
- [X] 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:
- [X] 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
BANKWELL FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES AND AFFILIATES 401(K) PLAN

**1b** Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

**1c** Effective date of plan 01/01/2002

**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)
BANKWELL FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

258 ELM STREET
NEW CANAAN, CT 06840

**2b** Employer Identification Number (EIN) 20-8251355

**2c** Plan Sponsor's telephone number 203-652-2940

**2d** Business code (see instructions) 522120

**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. | 10/03/2024 | GAUDI HERNANDEZ |
| | **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 [X] 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:<br>**a** Sponsor's name<br>**c** Plan Name | **4b** EIN<br>**4d** PN | |
| **5** Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year | **5** | 207 |
| **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)** | 136 |
| **a(2)** Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year | **6a(2)** | 137 |
| **b** Retired or separated participants receiving benefits | **6b** | 0 |
| **c** Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits | **6c** | 68 |
| **d** Subtotal. Add lines **6a(2)**, **6b**, and **6c**. | **6d** | 205 |
| **e** Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits. | **6e** | 0 |
| **f** Total. Add lines **6d** and **6e**. | **6f** | 205 |
| **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)** | 198 |
| **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)** | 192 |
| **h** Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested | **6h** | 25 |
| **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

**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)** [X] Insurance
- **(2)** [ ] Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
- **(3)** [X] Trust
- **(4)** [ ] General assets of the sponsor

**9b** Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)

- **(1)** [X] Insurance
- **(2)** [ ] Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
- **(3)** [X] Trust
- **(4)** [ ] General assets of the sponsor

**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)** [X] **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)** [X] **H** (Financial Information)
- **(2)** [ ] **I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
- **(3)** [X] **A** (Insurance Information) – Number Attached 1
- **(4)** [X] **C** (Service Provider Information)
- **(5)** [X] **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 A (Form 5500) | Insurance Information | OMB No. 1210-0110 |
|---|---|---|
| Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service<br>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration<br>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation | This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).<br>▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**<br>▶ Insurance companies are required to provide the information pursuant to ERISA section 103(a)(2). | **2023**<br>**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 | **B** Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ |
|---|---|
| BANKWELL FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES AND AFFILIATES 401(K) PLAN | 001 |
| **C** Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 | **D** Employer Identification Number (EIN) |
| BANKWELL FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. | 20-8251355 |

## Part I Information Concerning Insurance Contract Coverage, Fees, and Commissions

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.

**1** Coverage Information:

**(a)** Name of insurance carrier

EMPOWER ANNUITY INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA

| **(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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 84-0467907 | 68322 | 375725-01 | 9 | 01/01/2023 | 12/31/2023 |

**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 |
|---|---|
| | |

**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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

| **(b)** Amount of sales and base commissions paid | Fees and other commissions paid | | **(e)** Organization code |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **(c)** Amount | **(d)** 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.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | Current value of plan's interest under this contract in the general account at year end | 4 | 684269 |
| 5 | Current value of plan's interest under this contract in separate accounts at year end | 5 | |

**6** Contracts With Allocated Funds:

**a** State the basis of premium rates ▶

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| b | Premiums paid to carrier | 6b | |
| c | Premiums due but unpaid at the end of the year | 6c | |
| d | 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. | 6d | |

Specify nature of costs ▶

**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 ▶ GROUP ANNUITY CONTRACT

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| b | Balance at the end of the previous year | | 7b | 621573 |
| c | Additions: (1) Contributions deposited during the year | 7c(1) | 76980 | |
| | (2) Dividends and credits | 7c(2) | 0 | |
| | (3) Interest credited during the year | 7c(3) | 9718 | |
| | (4) Transferred from separate account | 7c(4) | 1149 | |
| | (5) Other (specify below) | 7c(5) | 7959 | |
| | ▶ LOAN REPAYMENT(S), FORFEITURES | | | |
| | (6)Total additions | | 7c(6) | 95806 |
| d | Total of balance and additions (add lines **7b** and **7c(6)**). | | 7d | 717379 |
| e | Deductions: | | | |
| | (1) Disbursed from fund to pay benefits or purchase annuities during year | 7e(1) | 2868 | |
| | (2) Administration charge made by carrier | 7e(2) | -3901 | |
| | (3) Transferred to separate account | 7e(3) | 34143 | |
| | (4) Other (specify below) | 7e(4) | | |
| | ▶ | | | |
| | (5) Total deductions | | 7e(5) | 33110 |
| f | Balance at the end of the current year (subtract line **7e(5)** from line **7d**) | | 7f | 684269 |

## 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: | | | | |
| **a** Premiums: (1) Amount received | **9a(1)** | | | |
| (2) Increase (decrease) in amount due but unpaid | **9a(2)** | | | |
| (3) Increase (decrease) in unearned premium reserve | **9a(3)** | | | |
| (4) Earned (**(1)** + **(2)** - **(3)**) | | | **9a(4)** | 0 |
| **b** Benefit charges (1) Claims paid | **9b(1)** | | | |
| (2) Increase (decrease) in claim reserves | **9b(2)** | | | |
| (3) Incurred claims (add **(1)** and **(2)**) | | | **9b(3)** | 0 |
| (4) Claims charged | | | **9b(4)** | |
| **c** Remainder of premium: (1) Retention charges (on an accrual basis) -- | | | | |
| (A) Commissions | **9c(1)(A)** | | | |
| (B) Administrative service or other fees | **9c(1)(B)** | | | |
| (C) Other specific acquisition costs | **9c(1)(C)** | | | |
| (D) Other expenses | **9c(1)(D)** | | | |
| (E) Taxes | **9c(1)(E)** | | | |
| (F) Charges for risks or other contingencies | **9c(1)(F)** | | | |
| (G) Other retention charges | **9c(1)(G)** | | | |
| (H) Total retention | | | **9c(1)(H)** | 0 |
| (2) Dividends or retroactive rate refunds. (These amounts were ☐ paid in cash, or ☐ credited.) | | | **9c(2)** | |
| **d** Status of policyholder reserves at end of year: (1) Amount held to provide benefits after retirement | | | **9d(1)** | |
| (2) Claim reserves | | | **9d(2)** | |
| (3) Other reserves | | | **9d(3)** | |
| **e** Dividends or retroactive rate refunds due. (Do not include amount entered in line **9c(2)**.) | | | **9e** | |
| **10** Nonexperience-rated contracts: | | | | |
| **a** Total premiums or subscription charges paid to carrier | | | **10a** | |
| **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. | | | **10b** | |

Specify nature of costs.

## 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. ▶

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

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

**A** Name of plan
BANKWELL FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES AND AFFILIATES 401(K) PLAN

**B** Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

**C** Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
BANKWELL FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

**D** Employer Identification Number (EIN)
20-8251355

## 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

EMPOWER ANNUITY INSURANCE

84-0467907

**(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)

THE ANGELL PENSION GROUP, INC.

04-2530412

| (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? |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13 | THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATO | 0 | Yes [X] No [ ] | Yes [ ] No [X] | 10000 | Yes [ ] No [X] |

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

EMPOWER ANNUITY INSURANCE COMPANY

8515 EAST ORCHARD ROAD
GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80111

| (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? |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 64 | RECORDKEEPER | 0 | Yes [X] No [ ] | Yes [X] No [ ] | 0 | Yes [X] 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 |
|---|---|---|
| THE ANGELL PENSION GROUP, INC. | 60 | 10000 |

| **(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. |
|---|---|
| EMPOWER ANNUITY INSURANCE COMPANY<br>8515 EAST ORCHARD ROAD<br>GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80111<br>84-0467907 | TPA ALLOWANCE PAYMENT |

| **(a)** Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2 | **(b)** Service Codes (see instructions) | **(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation |
|---|---|---|
| | | |

| **(d)** Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation | **(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation. |
|---|---|
| | |

| **(a)** Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2 | **(b)** Service Codes (see instructions) | **(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation |
|---|---|---|
| | | |

| **(d)** Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation | **(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation. |
|---|---|
| | |

## Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Part III Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)

(complete as many entries as needed)

| | |
|---|---|
| **a** Name: | **b** EIN: |
| **c** Position: | |
| **d** Address: | **e** Telephone: |

Explanation:

| | |
|---|---|
| **a** Name: | **b** EIN: |
| **c** Position: | |
| **d** Address: | **e** Telephone: |

Explanation:

| | |
|---|---|
| **a** Name: | **b** EIN: |
| **c** Position: | |
| **d** Address: | **e** Telephone: |

Explanation:

| | |
|---|---|
| **a** Name: | **b** EIN: |
| **c** Position: | |
| **d** Address: | **e** Telephone: |

Explanation:

| | |
|---|---|
| **a** Name: | **b** EIN: |
| **c** Position: | |
| **d** Address: | **e** Telephone: |

Explanation:

| SCHEDULE D (Form 5500) | DFE/Participating Plan Information | OMB No. 1210-0110 |
|---|---|---|
| Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service<br>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration | This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).<br>▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.** | **2023**<br>**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
BANKWELL FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES AND AFFILIATES 401(K) PLAN

**B** Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

**C** Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
BANKWELL FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

**D** Employer Identification Number (EIN)
20-8251355

## Part I Information on interests in MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs (to be completed by plans and DFEs)

(Complete as many entries as needed to report all interests in DFEs)

**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: AB MULTI MR RET TRT 2010 FD W SR FE

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

**c** EIN-PN 38-4116843-000 | **d** Entity code C | **e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 0

**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: AB MULTI MR RET TRT 2020 FD W SRFE

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

**c** EIN-PN 38-4116845-000 | **d** Entity code C | **e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1176341

**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: AB MULTI MR RET TRT 2025 FD W SR FE

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

**c** EIN-PN 38-4116846-000 | **d** Entity code C | **e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1009064

**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: AB MULTI MR RET TRT 2030 FD W SR FE

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

**c** EIN-PN 38-4116847-000 | **d** Entity code C | **e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1003477

**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: AB MULTI MR RET TRT 2035 FD W SR FE

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

**c** EIN-PN 38-4116848-000 | **d** Entity code C | **e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1022140

**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: AB MULTI MR RET TRT 2040 FD W SR FE

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

**c** EIN-PN 38-4116849-000 | **d** Entity code C | **e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1316338

**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: AB MULTI MR RET TRT 2045 FD W SR FE

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

**c** EIN-PN 38-4116850-000 | **d** Entity code C | **e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 582965

**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: AB MULTI MR RET TRT 2050 FD W SR FE

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

| **c** EIN-PN | **d** Entity code | **e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) |
|---|---|---|
| 38-4116851-000 | C | 384567 |

**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: AB MULTI MR RET TRT 2055 FD W SR FE

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

| **c** EIN-PN | **d** Entity code | **e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) |
|---|---|---|
| 38-4116852-000 | C | 642554 |

**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: AB MULTI MR RET TRT 2060 FD W SR FE

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

| **c** EIN-PN | **d** Entity code | **e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) |
|---|---|---|
| 38-4116853-000 | C | 113014 |

**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: AB MULTI MR RET ALOC TRT FD W SR FE

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

| **c** EIN-PN | **d** Entity code | **e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) |
|---|---|---|
| 38-4116842-000 | C | 1633 |

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

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

| **c** EIN-PN | **d** Entity code | **e** 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):

| **c** EIN-PN | **d** Entity code | **e** 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):

| **c** EIN-PN | **d** Entity code | **e** 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):

| **c** EIN-PN | **d** Entity code | **e** 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):

| **c** EIN-PN | **d** Entity code | **e** 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, other than DCGs)

(Complete as many entries as needed to report all participating plans. DCGs must report each participating plan using Schedule DCG.)

**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 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 plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

| SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) | Financial Information | OMB No. 1210-0110 |
|---|---|---|
| Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service<br>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration<br>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation | 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>▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.** | **2023**<br>**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
BANKWELL FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES AND AFFILIATES 401(K) PLAN

**B** Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

**C** Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
BANKWELL FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

**D** Employer Identification Number (EIN)
20-8251355

## Part I Asset and Liability Statement

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

| Assets | | (a) Beginning of Year | (b) End of Year |
|---|---|---|---|
| **a** Total noninterest-bearing cash | 1a | | |
| **b** Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts): | | | |
| (1) Employer contributions | 1b(1) | | |
| (2) Participant contributions | 1b(2) | | |
| (3) Other | 1b(3) | | |
| **c** General investments: | | | |
| (1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit) | 1c(1) | | |
| (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) | 198962 | 214053 |
| (9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts | 1c(9) | 7408321 | 7252094 |
| (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) | 4629905 | 5395551 |
| (14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts) | 1c(14) | 621573 | 684269 |
| (15) Other | 1c(15) | | |

| | | (a) Beginning of Year | (b) End of Year |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1d** Employer-related investments: | | | |
| **(1)** Employer securities | 1d(1) | | |
| **(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 | 12858761 | 13545967 |
| **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 through1j) | 1k | 0 | 0 |
| **Net Assets** | | | |
| **l** Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f) | 1l | 12858761 | 13545967 |

## 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) | 289135 | |
| **(B)** Participants | 2a(1)(B) | 1208447 | |
| **(C)** Others (including rollovers) | 2a(1)(C) | 360511 | |
| **(2)** Noncash contributions | 2a(2) | | |
| **(3)** Total contributions. Add lines **2a(1)(A), (B), (C),** and line **2a(2)** | 2a(3) | | 1858093 |
| **b Earnings on investments:** | | | |
| **(1)** Interest: | | | |
| **(A)** Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit) | 2b(1)(A) | | |
| **(B)** U.S. Government securities | 2b(1)(B) | | |
| **(C)** Corporate debt instruments | 2b(1)(C) | | |
| **(D)** Loans (other than to participants) | 2b(1)(D) | | |
| **(E)** Participant loans | 2b(1)(E) | 13905 | |
| **(F)** Other | 2b(1)(F) | 9718 | |
| **(G)** Total interest. Add lines **2b(1)(A)** through **(F)** | 2b(1)(G) | | 23623 |
| **(2)** Dividends: **(A)** Preferred stock | 2b(2)(A) | | |
| **(B)** Common stock | 2b(2)(B) | | |
| **(C)** Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds) | 2b(2)(C) | 119572 | |
| **(D)** Total dividends. Add lines **2b(2)(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)** | 2b(2)(D) | | 119572 |
| **(3)** Rents | 2b(3) | | |
| **(4)** Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: **(A)** Aggregate proceeds | 2b(4)(A) | | |
| **(B)** Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions) | 2b(4)(B) | | |
| **(C)** Subtract line **2b(4)(B)** from line **2b(4)(A)** and enter result | 2b(4)(C) | | 0 |
| **(5)** Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: **(A)** Real estate | 2b(5)(A) | | |
| **(B)** Other | 2b(5)(B) | | |
| **(C)** Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines **2b(5)(A)** and **(B)** | 2b(5)(C) | | 0 |

| | | (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) | | 993039 |
| (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) | | 807458 |
| c Other income | 2c | | 746 |
| d Total income. Add all **income** amounts in column (b) and enter total | 2d | | 3802531 |
| **Expenses** | | | |
| e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits: | | | |
| (1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers | 2e(1) | 3076420 | |
| (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) | | 3076420 |
| f Corrective distributions (see instructions) | 2f | | |
| g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions) | 2g | | 35331 |
| h Interest expense | 2h | | |
| i Administrative expenses: | | | |
| (1) Salaries and allowances | 2i(1) | | |
| (2) Contract administrator fees | 2i(2) | | |
| (3) Recordkeeping fees | 2i(3) | | |
| (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) | 3574 | |
| (12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines **2i(1)** through **(11)** | 2i(12) | | 3574 |
| j Total expenses. Add all **expense** amounts in column (b) and enter total | 2j | | 3115325 |
| **Net Income and Reconciliation** | | | |
| k Net income (loss). Subtract line **2j** from line **2d** | 2k | | 687206 |
| 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)** [X] 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)** [X] 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: CARON & BIETZER, PLLC **(2)** EIN: 04-3499945

**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.) | **4a** | | X | |
| **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.) | **4b** | | X | |
| **c** Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.) | **4c** | | X | |
| **d** Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.) | **4d** | | X | |
| **e** Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond? | **4e** | X | | 500000 |
| **f** Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty? | **4f** | | X | |
| **g** Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser? | **4g** | | X | |
| **h** Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser? | **4h** | | X | |
| **i** Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.) | **4i** | X | | |
| **j** Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.) | **4j** | | X | |
| **k** Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC? | **4k** | | X | |
| **l** Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan? | **4l** | | X | |
| **m** If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.) | **4m** | | X | |
| **n** If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3. | **4n** | | | |

**5a** Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? [ ] Yes [X] 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) | Retirement Plan Information | OMB No. 1210-0110 |
|---|---|---|
| Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service<br>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration<br>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation | 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).<br>▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.** | **2023**<br>**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
BANKWELL FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES AND AFFILIATES 401(K) PLAN

**B** Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

**C** Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
BANKWELL FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

**D** Employer Identification Number (EIN)
20-8251355

## 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): 84-0467907 _____

**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**

## 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): _____

**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) 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

**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 Q703953A .

# BANKWELL FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES AND AFFILIATES 401(k) PLAN

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2023 and 2022 and
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

CARON & BLETZER, PLLC
Certified Public Accountants and Business Consultants

BANKWELL FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES
AND AFFILIATES 401(k) PLAN
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Certain supplemental schedules have been omitted because they are either not required or not applicable.

CARON & BLETZER, PLLC
Certified Public Accountants and Business Consultants

1 Library Lane
Kingston, NH 03848
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# Independent Auditor's Report

To the Plan Administrator of the Bankwell Financial Group, Inc. and its Subsidiaries and Affiliates 401(k) Plan:

## *Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit*

We have performed audits of the financial statements of the Bankwell Financial Group, Inc. and its Subsidiaries and Affiliates 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 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.

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audits of the 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 ("DOL") Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. As permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C), our audits 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 DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA ("qualified institution").

Management has obtained certifications from a qualified institution as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and for the year ended December 31, 2023, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note G to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

## *Opinion*

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

- the amounts and disclosures in the accompanying 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 ("GAAP").

- the information in the accompanying financial statements related to assets which provide benefits under the plan and certified to by a qualified institution and 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 institutions that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

### *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 ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) 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 GAAP, 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 within one year after the date that the financial statements are issued or 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 Financial Statements*

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit 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.

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.

Our audits did not extend to the certified investment information, except for obtaining and reading the certifications, comparing the certified investment information with the related information presented and disclosed in the 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 GAAP.

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 GAAP.

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 Matter - Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA***

The supplemental Schedule H, Line 4(i) - 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 DOL'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 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. 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.

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 DOL'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 DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

- the certified information in the supplemental schedule related to assets which provide benefits under the plan and certified to by a qualified institution and 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 institutions that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Caron & Bletzer, PLLC

Kingston, NH
September 25, 2024

BANKWELL FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES
AND AFFILIATES 401(k) PLAN
STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
December 31, 2023 and 2022

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|
| Investments, at fair value: | | |
| Common collective trusts | $ 7,252,094 | $ 7,408,321 |
| Mutual funds | 5,395,551 | 4,629,905 |
| Total investments at fair value | 12,647,645 | 12,038,226 |
| Investments, at contract value: | | |
| Guaranteed insurance contract | 684,269 | 621,573 |
| Total investments | 13,331,914 | 12,659,799 |
| Receivables: | | |
| Notes receivable from participants | 214,053 | 198,962 |
| Net assets available for benefits | $ 13,545,967 | $ 12,858,761 |

The accompanying notes are an integral
part of the financial statements.

BANKWELL FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES
AND AFFILIATES 401(k) PLAN
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
For the year ended December 31, 2023

| | 2023 |
|---|---|
| Additions: | |
| Investment income: | |
| Net appreciation in fair value of investments | $ 1,800,497 |
| Dividends and interest | 143,941 |
| | 1,944,438 |
| Contributions: | |
| Employer contributions | 289,135 |
| Participant contributions | 1,208,447 |
| Rollover contributions | 360,511 |
| | 1,858,093 |
| Total additions | 3,802,531 |
| Deductions: | |
| Benefits paid to participants | 3,111,751 |
| Administrative expenses | 3,574 |
| Total deductions | 3,115,325 |
| Net increase | 687,206 |
| Net assets available for benefits: | |
| Beginning of year | 12,858,761 |
| End of year | $ 13,545,967 |

The accompanying notes are an integral
part of the financial statements.

A. DESCRIPTION OF PLAN:

The following description of the Bankwell Financial Group, Inc. and its Subsidiaries and Affiliates 401(k) Plan (the "Plan") provides only general information. Participants should refer to the plan document for a complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering substantially all employees of Bankwell Financial Group, Inc. (the "Company"). The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA").

Contributions

Upon meeting eligibility requirements participants may contribute up to 100% of their plan compensation on a pre-tax or after-tax Roth basis, subject to Internal Revenue Code ("IRC") limitations. Participants who are at least 50 may make an additional "catch up" contribution subject to IRC limitations. Participants may also contribute funds from another qualified plan ("rollover contributions"), subject to certain requirements. All new participants are automatically enrolled at a contribution rate of 3% of plan compensation, unless they opt out.

Upon reaching age 21 and 1,000 hours of service in the Plan year, participant contributions may be matched by the Company at a percentage of the participants' contributions, as determined by the Company. For the plan year ended December 31, 2023, the Company matched 50% of each participant's deferral contributions up to 6% of the participant's compensation, for a maximum match of 3% of compensation. The Company may also elect to make a discretionary non-elective contribution. Employees must be employed on the last day of the plan year to be eligible for non-elective contributions. The Company made no non-elective contributions for the 2023 plan year.

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited or charged with contributions, investment income, and administrative expenses. Investment income, including realized and unrealized gains and losses, and expenses are allocated to participants' accounts based on each participant's account balance within each fund. Participants determine the percentage in which contributions are to be invested in each fund. Participants may change their investment options as set forth in the plan document. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is equal to the value of the participant's vested interest in their account.

Vesting

Participants are fully vested in that portion of their account which represents their contributions and the income earned thereon. Participants become 100% vested in the Company's contributions and earnings thereon upon death, total and permanent disability, or attainment of normal retirement age. Otherwise, a participant's interest in the Company's contributions and earnings thereon vests according to the following schedule:

| Completed Years of Service | Percent Vested |
|---|---|
| 0 years | 0% |
| 1 year | 20% |
| 2 years | 40% |
| 3 years | 60% |
| 4 years | 80% |
| 5+ years | 100% |

Forfeitures

When certain terminations of participation in the Plan occur, the nonvested portion of the participant's account represents a forfeiture, as defined by the Plan. Forfeited balances are first used to restore re-employed participants' accounts. Any remaining forfeitures may be used to pay plan expenses or to reduce company contributions. During 2023, $13,946 of forfeitures were used to reduce company contributions.

Unallocated Assets

The Plan holds assets in a plan expense account which receives deposits as a result of a revenue sharing agreement with Empower Trust Company. During 2023, deposits to the account totaled $24,135, which is included in net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments in the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits. Funds in the account are used to pay qualified plan expenses including investment management fees, trustee fees, audit fees, and legal fees. During 2023, no deposits were used to pay plan expenses. Unallocated assets were $48,838 and $19,190 at December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

Distribution of Benefits

Benefits may be distributed to participants upon termination of employment by reason of retirement, disability, death or other separation from service. Distributions under the Plan may be made in lump sums.

A participant may also request a withdrawal upon attainment of age 59 1/2 or upon demonstration by the participant to the plan administrator that the participant is suffering from "hardship", as defined in the plan document. Participants are able to withdraw from their rollover accounts at any time.

Notes Receivable from Participants

Participants may borrow from their fund accounts a minimum of $1,000 up to a maximum equal to the lesser of $50,000 or 50 percent of their vested account balance. The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's account. Loans must bear a rate of interest of the published prime rate in the Wall Street Journal plus one percent. All loans must be repaid within five years unless the proceeds are used to acquire a principal residence, in which case a longer repayment period is allowed. No more than two loans may be outstanding at any time. Principal and interest is generally paid ratably through payroll deductions each pay period.

B. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared using the accrual basis of accounting.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

Investments are reported at fair value (except for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts, which are reported at contract 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 on the measurement date. See Note C 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 (depreciation) includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

Notes Receivable from Participants

Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. No allowance for credit losses has been recorded as of December 31, 2023 or 2022. Delinquent participant loans are reclassified as distributions based upon the terms of the plan document.

Expenses of the Plan

Substantially all of the administrative expenses incurred by the Plan are paid by the Company. Expenses that are paid by the Company are excluded from these financial statements. Certain asset fees and participant transaction fees incurred by the Plan are paid through the Plan. Investment related expenses are included in net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments.

Payment of Benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

C. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS:

The framework for measuring fair value 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) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (level 3). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under FASB ASC 820 are described as follows:

*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.

*Level 2* - Inputs to the valuation methodology include quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets; inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability; inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means. 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.

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

The asset 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.

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used by the Plan. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2023 and 2022.

*Mutual funds* – Valued at the daily closing price as reported by the fund. Mutual funds held by the Plan are open-end mutual funds that are registered with the SEC. These funds are required to publish their daily net asset value (NAV) and to transact at that price. The mutual funds held by the Plan are deemed to be actively traded.

*Common collective trusts* – Valued at the net asset value of units of a collective trust. The net asset value, as provided by the fund manager, is used as a practical expedient to estimate fair value. The net asset value is based on the fair value of the underlying investments held by the fund less its liabilities. This practical expedient would not be used if it is determined to be probable that the fund will sell the investment for an amount different from the reported net asset value.

The following tables set forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets at fair value as of December 31:

| | 2023 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Description | Total | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 |
| Mutual funds | $ 5,395,551 | $ 5,395,551 | $ - | $ - |
| Total investments in the fair value hierarchy | 5,395,551 | $ 5,395,551 | $ - | $ - |
| Investments measured at net asset value(1): | | | | |
| Common collective trusts | 7,252,094 | | | |
| Total investments at fair value | $ 12,647,645 | | | |

| | 2022 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Description | Total | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 |
| Mutual funds | $ 4,629,905 | $ 4,629,905 | $ - | $ - |
| Total investments in the fair value hierarchy | 4,629,905 | $ 4,629,905 | $ - | $ - |
| Investments measured at net asset value(1): | | | | |
| Common collective trusts | 7,408,321 | | | |
| Total investments at fair value | $ 12,038,226 | | | |

(1) In accordance with Subtopic 820-10, certain investments that were measured at net asset value 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.

Redemptions of common collective trusts are allowed daily for participants; however the Plan is subject to a five day notification period. There are no unfunded commitments.

D. INVESTMENT CONTRACT WITH INSURANCE COMPANY:

The Plan holds a traditional investment contract issued by Great-West Life & Annuity Insurance Company ("the contract issuer"). The contract meets the fully benefit-responsive investment contract criteria and therefore is reported at contract value. Contract value is the relevant measure for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts because this is the amount received by participants if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the Plan. Contract value represents contributions made under the contract, plus earnings, less participant withdrawals and administrative expenses.

With traditional investment contracts, the Plan owns only the contract itself. These contracts are designed to accrue interest based on crediting rates established by the contract issuers.

The traditional investment contract held by the Plan is a guaranteed investment contract. The contract issuer is contractually obligated to repay the principal and interest at a specified interest rate that is guaranteed to the Plan. The crediting rate is based on a formula established by the contract issuer but may not be less than zero percent. Such interest rates are reviewed on a quarterly basis for resetting. The contract does not have a maturity date.

The Plan must provide 60 days notice to the contract issuer to redeem its interest in this investment at contract value.

The Plan's ability to receive amounts due in accordance with fully benefit-responsive investment contracts is dependent on the third-party issuer's ability to meet its financial obligations. The issuer's ability to meet its contractual obligations may be affected by future economic and regulatory developments.

Certain events might limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value with the contract issuer. Such events include the following: (1) amendments to the plan documents (including complete or partial plan termination or merger with another plan), (2) changes to the Plan's prohibition on competing investment options or deletion of equity wash provisions, (3) bankruptcy of the plan sponsor or other plan sponsor events (for example, divestitures or spin-offs of a subsidiary) that cause a significant withdrawal from the Plan, or (4) the failure of the trust to qualify for exemption from federal income taxes or any required prohibited transaction exemption under ERISA.

No events are probable of occurring that might limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value with the contract issuer and that would also limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value with the participants.

E. PARTIES-IN-INTEREST:

Section 3(14) of ERISA defines a party-in-interest to include, among others, fiduciaries or employees of the Plan, any person who provides services to the Plan or an employer whose employees are covered by the Plan. Accordingly, loans to participants and the management of investments held by the custodian and trustee are considered party-in-interest transactions.

F. TAX STATUS:

The Company has adopted a restated pre-approved plan document of The Angell Pension Group, Inc., and the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") has determined and informed the sponsor of the pre-approved plan document by a letter dated June 30, 2020 that the pre-approved plan document is designed in accordance with applicable sections of the IRC. Although the Plan has been amended since receiving the opinion letter, the plan administrator believes that the Plan is designed and is currently being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC and therefore believes that the Plan is qualified and the related trust is tax-exempt.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the IRS. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

G. CERTIFIED INVESTMENTS:

Certain information related to investments and notes receivable from participants disclosed in the accompanying financial statements and ERISA-required supplemental schedule, including investments and notes receivable from participants held at December 31, 2023 and 2022, and net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments, and dividends and interest for the year ended December 31, 2023, was obtained by management and agreed to or derived from information certified as complete and accurate by Empower Annuity Insurance Company of America and Empower Trust Company, LLC, the custodian and trustee of the Plan.

H. PLAN TERMINATION:

Although the Plan was established with the intention that it will continue indefinitely, the Company retains the right to discontinue its contributions at any time or to terminate the Plan, subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of plan termination, all participants will become 100% vested in their accounts.

I. RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES:

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market, and credit risks. Market risks include global events which could impact the value of investment securities. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the value of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

J. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS:

The Company has evaluated subsequent events through September 25, 2024, the date these financial statements were available for issuance.

BANKWELL FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES
AND AFFILIATES 401(k) PLAN
EIN: 20-8251355
Plan Number: 001

SCHEDULE H, LINE 4(i) - SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR)
December 31, 2023

| (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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Investments, at fair value: | | | |
| | AB Bond Infl Strategy K | Mutual fund | ** | $ 24,954 |
| | AB Core Opportunities K | " | ** | 103,602 |
| | AB Discovery Growth K | " | ** | 148,674 |
| | AB Discovery Value K | " | ** | 43,443 |
| | AB Global Real Estate Investment K | " | ** | 103,054 |
| | AB Global Bond K | " | ** | 169,065 |
| | AB Global Core Equity A | " | ** | 40,034 |
| | AB High Income K | " | ** | 126,688 |
| | AB Large Cap Growth K | " | ** | 591,908 |
| | AB Value K | " | ** | 92,200 |
| | American Funds Europacific Gr R3 | " | ** | 131,576 |
| | Bernstein Intermediate Duration | " | ** | 217,687 |
| | Bernstein Short Duration Plus Fund | " | ** | 223,058 |
| | Delaware Small Cap Core A | " | ** | 74,881 |
| | Vanguard 500 Index Admiral | " | ** | 2,357,927 |
| | Vanguard Developed Markets Index Admiral | " | ** | 392,199 |
| | Vanguard Emerging Mkts Stock Idx Adm | " | ** | 102,022 |
| | Vanguard Interm-Term Bond Index Admiral | " | ** | 452,579 |
| | Multi-Manager Retirement Allocation Trust Fund W Series Cl K | Common collective trust | ** | 1,633 |
| | Multi-Manager Retirement Trust 2020 Fund W Series Cl K | " | ** | 1,176,341 |
| | Multi-Manager Retirement Trust 2025 Fund W Series Cl K | " | ** | 1,009,064 |
| | Multi-Manager Retirement Trust 2030 Fund W Series Cl K | " | ** | 1,003,477 |
| | Multi-Manager Retirement Trust 2035 Fund W Series Cl K | " | ** | 1,022,140 |
| | Multi-Manager Retirement Trust 2040 Fund W Series Cl K | " | ** | 1,316,338 |
| | Multi-Manager Retirement Trust 2045 Fund W Series Cl K | " | ** | 582,965 |
| | Multi-Manager Retirement Trust 2050 Fund W Series Cl K | " | ** | 384,568 |
| | Multi-Manager Retirement Trust 2055 Fund W Series Cl K | " | ** | 642,554 |
| | Multi-Manager Retirement Trust 2060 Fund W Series Cl K | " | ** | 113,014 |
| | Total investments, at fair value | | | 12,647,645 |
| | Investments, at contract value: | | | |
| * | Guaranteed Interest Fund | Guaranteed account | ** | 684,269 |
| | Total investments on the statement of net assets available for benefits | | | 13,331,914 |
| * | Participant Loans | (4.25% - 9.50%) | - | 214,053 |
| | Total investments on the Form 5500 | | | $ 13,545,967 |

** Cost omitted for participant directed investments.
* Denotes party-in-interest to the Plan.

| Form 5500 | Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan | OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089 |
|---|---|---|
| Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service<br>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration<br>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation | 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>▶ **Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.** | **2023**<br>**This Form is Open to Public Inspection** |

## 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.)
- [x] 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:
- [x] 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
BANKWELL FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES AND AFFILIATES 401 (K) PLAN

**1b** Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

**1c** Effective date of plan 01/01/2002

**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)

Bankwell Financial Group, Inc.

258 Elm Street

New Canaan CT 06840

**2b** Employer Identification Number (EIN) 20-8251355

**2c** Plan Sponsor's telephone number 203-652-2940

**2d** Business code (see instructions) 522120

**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 | Gaudi Hernandez | 10-3-24 | GAUDI HERNANDEZ |
| | **Signature of plan administrator** | Date | Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator |
| SIGN HERE | Gaudi Hernandez | 10-3-24 | GAUDI HERNANDEZ |
| | **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.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **3a** Plan administrator's name and address [X] 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:<br>**a** Sponsor's name<br>**c** Plan Name | **4b** EIN<br>**4d** PN | |
| **5** Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year | **5** | 207 |
| **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)** | 136 |
| **a(2)** Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year | **6a(2)** | 137 |
| **b** Retired or separated participants receiving benefits | **6b** | 0 |
| **c** Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits | **6c** | 68 |
| **d** Subtotal. Add lines **6a(2)**, **6b**, and **6c** | **6d** | 205 |
| **e** Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits. | **6e** | 0 |
| **f** Total. Add lines **6d** and **6e**. | **6f** | 205 |
| **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)** | 198 |
| **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)** | 192 |
| **h** Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested | **6h** | 25 |
| **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

**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)** [X] Insurance
- **(2)** [ ] Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
- **(3)** [X] Trust
- **(4)** [ ] General assets of the sponsor

**9b** Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)
- **(1)** [X] Insurance
- **(2)** [ ] Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
- **(3)** [X] Trust
- **(4)** [ ] General assets of the sponsor

**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)** [X] **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)** [X] **H** (Financial Information)
- **(2)** [ ] **I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
- **(3)** [X] **A** (Insurance Information) – Number Attached 1
- **(4)** [X] **C** (Service Provider Information)
- **(5)** [X] **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_____

BANKWELL FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES
AND AFFILIATES 401(k) PLAN
EIN: 20-8251355
Plan Number: 001

SCHEDULE H, LINE 4(i) - SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR)
December 31, 2023

| (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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
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