

Form 5500 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.	OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089 <h1 style="text-align: center;">2024</h1> This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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Part I Annual Report Identification Information
 For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

A This return/report is for: a multiemployer plan a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.)

a single-employer plan a DFE (specify) _____

B This return/report is: the first return/report the final return/report

an amended return/report a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)

C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here.

D Check box if filing under: Form 5558 automatic extension the DFVC program

special extension (enter description)

E If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here.

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

1a Name of plan <u>BACKLUND INVESTMENT CO. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST</u>	1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ <u>004</u>
2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan) Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions) <u>BACKLUND INVESTMENT CO</u> <u>4818 NORTH PROSPECT ROAD</u> <u>PEORIA HEIGHTS, IL 61616</u>	1c Effective date of plan <u>01/01/2015</u> 2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>37-0898008</u> 2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number <u>309-243-1040</u> 2d Business code (see instructions) <u>522110</u>

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

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

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	07/30/2025	STEVE BACKLUND
	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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Plan Sponsor	3b Administrator's EIN	
	3c Administrator's telephone number	
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name	4b EIN	
	4d PN	
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5	245
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d). a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits..... c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits. f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.....	6a(1)	170
	6a(2)	151
	6b	26
	6c	40
	6d	217
	6e	0
	6f	217
	6g(1)	211
6g(2)	213	
6h	0	
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	7	

8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:
2E 2O 2Q 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)	9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)
(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance	(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust	(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor	(4) <input type="checkbox"/> 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	b General Schedules
(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R (Retirement Plan Information)	(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> H (Financial Information)
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> MB (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> I (Financial Information – Small Plan)
(3) <input type="checkbox"/> SB (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary	(3) <input type="checkbox"/> A (Insurance Information) – Number Attached _____
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> DCG (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____	(4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C (Service Provider Information)
(5) <input type="checkbox"/> MEP (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)	(5) <input type="checkbox"/> D (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
	(6) <input type="checkbox"/> 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 2024 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2024 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code _____

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	Service Provider Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small> 2024 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning **01/01/2024** and ending **12/31/2024**

A Name of plan BACKLUND INVESTMENT CO. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	004
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 BACKLUND INVESTMENT CO	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 37-0898008	

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)..... 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

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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)

EPIC RETIREMENT PLAN SERVICES

16-1450952

(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?
15	NONE	13684	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

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

(b) 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 <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

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

(b) 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 <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

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

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

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

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

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

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

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

Explanation:

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

Explanation:

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

Explanation:

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

Explanation:

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

Explanation:

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	Financial Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small> 2024 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024	
A Name of plan BACKLUND INVESTMENT CO. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 004
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 BACKLUND INVESTMENT CO	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 37-0898008

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

		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
Assets			
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a	15250	250
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	285298	302254
(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)	4288650	4842813
(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)	253920	241020
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)		
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)		
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)		
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)		
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)		
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	555385	434754
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts).....	1c(14)		
(15) Other.....	1c(15)		

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities.....	1d(1)	16105206	17219014
(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	21503709	23040105
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable.....	1g		
h Operating payables.....	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness.....	1i		
j Other liabilities.....	1j		
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j).....	1k		
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f).....	1l	21503709	23040105

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)	302254	
(B) Participants.....	2a(1)(B)		
(C) Others (including rollovers).....	2a(1)(C)		
(2) Noncash contributions.....	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		302254
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit).....	2b(1)(A)	185033	
(B) U.S. Government securities.....	2b(1)(B)		
(C) Corporate debt instruments.....	2b(1)(C)		
(D) Loans (other than to participants).....	2b(1)(D)		
(E) Participant loans.....	2b(1)(E)		
(F) Other.....	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		185033
(2) Dividends:			
(A) Preferred stock.....	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock.....	2b(2)(B)	1002743	
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds).....	2b(2)(C)	38641	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		1041384
(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)		
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets:			
(A) Real estate.....	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other.....	2b(5)(B)	661755	
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts	2b(6)		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts	2b(7)		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		45672
c Other income	2c		
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2d		2236098

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers.....	2e(1)	676342	
(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)		676342
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions).....	2g		
h Interest expense.....	2h		
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees	2i(2)		
(3) Recordkeeping fees	2i(3)	2682	
(4) IQPA audit fees	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)	2390	
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)		
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)		
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)	18283	
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)		
(11) Other expenses.....	2i(11)	5	
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11)	2i(12)		23360
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2j		699702

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d.....	2k		1536396
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan.....	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		

Part III Accountant's Opinion

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

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

(1) Unmodified (2) Qualified (3) Disclaimer (4) Adverse

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

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

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

(1) Name: CLIFTONLARSONALLENLLP

(2) EIN: 41-0746749

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.)		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.)		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.)		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.)		X	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	X		6000000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		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?		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?		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.)	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.)		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?		X	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?		X	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)		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.			

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

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

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

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

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	Retirement Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small> 2024 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
--	---	---

For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

A Name of plan <u>BACKLUND INVESTMENT CO. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>004</u>
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>BACKLUND INVESTMENT CO</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>37-0898008</u>	

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

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

1 Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions.....

1		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): 33-6134835

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): _____

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: <input type="checkbox"/> last contributing employer <input type="checkbox"/> alternative <input type="checkbox"/> reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment).....	14a	
b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. <input type="checkbox"/> 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. <input type="checkbox"/> 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 Q703494A.

**BACKLUND INVESTMENT CO. EMPLOYEE STOCK
OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND
ERISA-REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE**

**AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023, AND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**



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BACKLUND INVESTMENT CO. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST
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AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023, AND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Plan Trustees
Backlund Investment Co. Employee Stock
Ownership Plan and Trust
Peoria Heights, Illinois

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Backlund Investment Co. Employee Stock Ownership Plan and Trust, an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), which comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of Backlund Investment Co. Employee Stock Ownership Plan and Trust as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2024, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Backlund Investment Co. Employee Stock Ownership Plan and Trust and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Backlund Investment Co. Employee Stock Ownership Plan and Trust's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements were available to be issued.

Plan Trustees
Backlund Investment Co. Employee Stock
Ownership Plan and Trust

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.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' 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 Backlund Investment Co. Employee Stock Ownership Plan and Trust'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 Backlund Investment Co. Employee Stock Ownership Plan and Trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

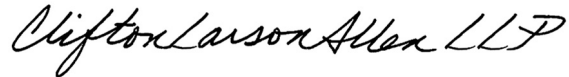
Plan Trustees
Backlund Investment Co. Employee Stock
Ownership Plan and Trust

Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2024 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedule, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

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



CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Oak Brook, Illinois
July 29, 2025

**BACKLUND INVESTMENT CO. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST
STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**

ASSETS	2024	2023
INVESTMENTS (at Fair Value)		
Common Stock:		
Backlund Investment Co.	\$ 17,219,014	\$ 16,105,206
Illinois Credit Life Reinsurance Company, Ltd.	241,020	253,920
Certificates of Deposit	3,459,744	4,138,804
Mutual Funds	434,754	555,385
Interest-Bearing Cash	1,383,069	149,846
Total Investments (at Fair Value)	22,737,601	21,203,161
NONINTEREST-BEARING CASH	250	15,250
COMPANY CONTRIBUTION RECEIVABLE	302,254	285,298
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	\$ 23,040,105	\$ 21,503,709

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

BACKLUND INVESTMENT CO. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

ADDITIONS:

INVESTMENT INCOME (LOSS)

Net Appreciation (Depreciation) in Fair Value of Investments:

Backlund Investment Co.	\$ 661,755
Illinois Credit Life Reinsurance Company, Ltd.	(12,900)
Mutual Funds	58,572

Dividends:

Backlund Investment Co.	1,002,743
Illinois Credit Life Reinsurance Company, Ltd.	15,000
Mutual Funds	23,641

Interest

	185,033
Total Investment Income	<u>1,933,844</u>

COMPANY CONTRIBUTIONS

302,254

Total Additions

2,236,098

DEDUCTIONS:

BENEFITS PAID TO PARTICIPANTS

676,342

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

23,360

Total Deductions

699,702

NET INCREASE

1,536,396

NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

Beginning of Year

21,503,709

End of Year

\$ 23,040,105

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

BACKLUND INVESTMENT CO. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023

NOTE 1 DESCRIPTION OF PLAN

The following description of the Backlund Investment Co. Employee Stock Ownership Plan and Trust (the Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

Backlund Investment Co. (the Company) established the Plan effective January 1, 2015. The Plan is a defined contribution plan intended to constitute an employee stock ownership plan (ESOP) and is designed to comply with Section 4975(e)(7) and the regulations thereunder of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). The Plan covers all employees of Backlund Investment Company and its subsidiaries including Better Banks, State Street Bank & Trust Company, and CFC Insurance, (the Employers) who have completed the eligibility requirements including the completion of one year of service and attainment of age 21. CFC Insurance closed in January 2024. An eligible employee will begin participation on the first day of each Plan year coinciding with the completion of the eligibility requirements. The Plan is designed to invest primarily in securities issued by the Company and is authorized to borrow money for such investments. It is subject to ERISA, as amended.

All assets were fully allocated to participants as of December 31, 2024 and 2023.

Contributions

Each year, the Employers may contribute to the Plan up to 25% of covered compensation as determined annually by the Employers' Board of Directors. Contributions may be in the form of shares of common stock or cash. Contributions for each year are never less than the amount required to enable the Plan to discharge its current obligations, without regard to whether some or all of such contribution may fail to qualify for an income tax deduction by the Employers. During the year ended December 31, 2024, the Employers made a 3% safe harbor contribution. The Employers may also elect to make a discretionary contribution to the Plan. During the year ended December 31, 2024, the Employers did not make a discretionary contribution to the Plan. Contributions are subject to Internal Revenue Service (IRS) limitations.

Participant Accounts

The Plan is a defined contribution plan under which a separate individual account is established for each participant. Each participant's account is credited as of the last day of each Plan year with an allocation of Company safe harbor and discretionary contributions, if any, and forfeitures of terminated participants' nonvested accounts. With regard to discretionary contributions and forfeitures, only those participants who are eligible employees of the Company as of the last day of the Plan year will receive an allocation. Allocations are based on a participant's eligible compensation, relative to total eligible compensation, as defined. Plan earnings or losses are allocated based on each participant's share of the investment at the beginning of the year, less distributions and withdrawals during the year.

BACKLUND INVESTMENT CO. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023

NOTE 1 DESCRIPTION OF PLAN (CONTINUED)

Vesting

Participants are immediately vested in the Company's safe harbor contributions plus actual earnings thereon. Vesting in the Company's discretionary contribution portion of their account, plus actual earnings thereon, is based on years of credited service. A participant is 100% vested after six years of credited service using a graded vesting schedule. Notwithstanding the above, a participant is fully vested upon reaching normal retirement age, death, or permanent disability.

Put Option

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

Diversification

Diversification is offered to participants close to retirement so that they may have the opportunity to move part of the value of their investment in Company common stock into investments which are more diversified. Participants who are at least age 55 with at least 10 years of participation service in the Plan may elect to diversify a portion of their account. Diversification is offered to each eligible participant over a six-year period. In each of the first five years, a participant may diversify up to 25% of the number of post-1986 shares allocated to his or her account, less any shares previously diversified. In the sixth year, the percentage changes to 50%. Participants who elect to diversify receive a rollover distribution to the Backlund Investment Co. Profit Sharing & 401(k) Plan, unless a participant elects otherwise.

Payment of Benefits

Upon termination of service, a participant will receive a lump sum distribution of their account balance without the participants consent if their balance does not exceed \$5,000. For accounts exceeding \$5,000, the distribution will be made in a single lump sum or installments in cash over a period not to exceed the participant's life expectancy or a period of five years. For accounts exceeding \$1,380,000, the five-year period shall be extended one additional year, but not more than five additional years, for each \$275,000 or fraction thereof that the balance exceeds \$1,380,000. The amount to be distributed is based upon the account valuation date immediately preceding the distribution. Distributions are made in cash.

Under the provisions of the Plan, the Company is obligated to repurchase participant shares, which have been distributed under the terms of the Plan if the shares are not publicly traded or if the shares are subject to trading limitations.

BACKLUND INVESTMENT CO. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023

NOTE 1 DESCRIPTION OF PLAN (CONTINUED)

Forfeited Accounts

Plan forfeitures are used for Plan expenses and reduction of Employer contributions. There were no forfeitures used to pay administrative expenses for the year ended December 31, 2024. There were \$297 of forfeitures used to reduce Employer contributions during the year ended December 31, 2024. There were no forfeited nonvested account balances as of December 31, 2024 and 2023.

NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting

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

Use of Estimates

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

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

The shares of Company and Illinois Credit Life Reinsurance Company, Ltd. common stock are valued at estimated fair value. The mutual funds, certificates of deposit, and interest-bearing cash are reported at fair value. See Note 4 for discussion of fair value measurements.

Purchases and sales are recorded on a trade-date basis. Investment income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Realized gains and losses from security transactions are reported on the average cost method. Net appreciation (depreciation) includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

Benefit Payments

Benefits are recorded when paid.

Administrative Expenses

The Plan's expenses are paid either by the Plan or the Company, as provided by the Plan document. Expenses paid directly by the Company are excluded from these financial statements. Certain expenses incurred in connection with the general administration of the Plan that are paid by the Plan are recorded as deductions in the accompanying statement of changes in net assets available for benefits.

**BACKLUND INVESTMENT CO. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**

NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Subsequent Events

The Plan has evaluated subsequent events through July 29, 2025, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

NOTE 3 INVESTMENTS

The Plan's investments in Company common stock at December 31, is presented in the following table:

	2024	2023
Common Shares:		
Backlund Investment Co.		
Number of Shares	133,688	130,038
Estimated Fair Value	\$ 17,219,014	\$ 16,105,206

It is not practical to determine the cost basis of the Company common stock.

NOTE 4 FAIR VALUE OF INVESTMENTS

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 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy 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 other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, such as:

- 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.

BACKLUND INVESTMENT CO. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023

NOTE 4 FAIR VALUE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

Level 3 – Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair market 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. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value. There have been no changes in the valuation methodologies used at December 31, 2024 and 2023.

Backlund Investment Co. Common Stock: The fair value of the Company common stock held by the Plan is based on an independent third-party appraisal. This appraisal is based upon a combination of the market and income valuation techniques. The appraiser took into account historical return on assets and market comparables and estimated fair value of Company assets and liabilities. Plan management has concluded that a market participant would also recognize a discount for lack of marketability.

Illinois Credit Life Reinsurance Company, Ltd. Common Stock: Valued based on book value of Illinois Credit Life Reinsurance Company, Ltd., which is considered to approximate fair value.

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 Securities and Exchange Commission. 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.

Certificates of Deposit and Interest-bearing Cash: Valued based on cost, which approximates fair value in a noninflationary economy and is protected up to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation limit. Certain certificates of deposit are valued based on fair value by discounting the related cash flows based on current yields of similar instruments with comparable durations considering the credit worthiness of the issuer.

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

BACKLUND INVESTMENT CO. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023

NOTE 4 FAIR VALUE OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

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

	2024			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Common Stock:				
Backlund Investment Co.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,219,014	\$ 17,219,014
Illinois Credit Life Reinsurance Company, Ltd.	-	-	241,020	241,020
Certificates of Deposit	3,459,744	-	-	3,459,744
Mutual Funds	434,754	-	-	434,754
Interest-Bearing Cash	1,383,069	-	-	1,383,069
Total Investments at Fair Value	<u>\$ 5,277,567</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 17,460,034</u>	<u>\$ 22,737,601</u>
	2023			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Common Stock:				
Backlund Investment Co.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,105,206	\$ 16,105,206
Illinois Credit Life Reinsurance Company, Ltd.	-	-	253,920	253,920
Certificates of Deposit	4,138,804	-	-	4,138,804
Mutual Funds	555,385	-	-	555,385
Interest-Bearing Cash	149,846	-	-	149,846
Total Investments at Fair Value	<u>\$ 4,844,035</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 16,359,126</u>	<u>\$ 21,203,161</u>

The following table represents changes in the Plan's Level 3 financial instruments attributable to for the year ended December 31, 2024:

	Backlund Investment Co.	Illinois Credit Life Reinsurance Company, Ltd.
Purchases	\$ 452,053	\$ -
Issuances	-	-
Transfers In	-	-
Transfers Out	-	-

NOTE 5 PLAN TERMINATION

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

BACKLUND INVESTMENT CO. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023

NOTE 6 PLAN TAX STATUS

The Plan is placing reliance on an opinion letter from the IRS on the prototype plan indicating that the Plan is designed in accordance with the applicable section of the IRC. The Plan has been amended since received the opinion letter. However, the Plan administrator believes that the Plan is designed and 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 (or asset) 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.

NOTE 7 RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Plan investments consist primarily of privately held common stock, which is exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit risks, as well as valuation assumptions based on earnings, cash flows and/or other such techniques. Due to the level of risk associated with the investment in the common stock and to uncertainties inherent in the estimations and assumption process, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the value of common stock will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

NOTE 8 RELATED PARTY AND PARTY-IN-INTEREST TRANSACTIONS

The Plan's assets, which consist primarily of Company common stock, are held by the Plan Trustees.

Company contributions are held and managed by the Plan Trustees, which invests cash received, interest and dividends income and makes distributions to participants. Certain administrative functions are performed by officers or employees of the Company. No such officer or employee receives compensation from the Plan.

The Plan invests in Company common stock as well as certificates of deposit and interest-bearing cash accounts of the Company's subsidiary banks. These are related party and party-in-interest transactions. As the Company is the Plan Sponsor, transactions involving Company common stock qualify as party-in-interest transactions. As of December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Plan held 133,688 and 130,038 shares of Company common stock, respectively. The Plan received \$1,002,743 in dividends from this stock for the year ended December 31, 2024. All these party-in-interest transactions are exempt from the prohibited transaction rules of ERISA.

BACKLUND INVESTMENT CO. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST
E.I.N. 37-0898008 PLAN NO. 004
SCHEDULE H, LINE 4i—SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR)
DECEMBER 31, 2024

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor, or Similar Party	Description of Investment	Cost	Current Value	
	<u>Common Stock:</u>			
*	Backlund Investment Co.	133,688 Shares	**	\$ 17,219,014
	Illinois Credit Life Reinsurance Company, Ltd.	3,000 Shares	**	<u>241,020</u>
	Total Common Stock			17,460,034
	<u>Certificates of Deposit:</u>			
	Capital One	Rate - 3.35%; Matures 6/30/25	\$ 200,001	199,218
	Capital One	Rate - 3.45%; Matures 8/4/25	250,000	252,461
	Discover Bank	Rate - 4.40%; Matures 10/10/25	250,000	252,999
	Discover Bank	Rate - 4.65%; Matures 9/18/28	350,000	362,464
	Enterprise Bank	Rate - 4.35%; Matures 3/03/28	250,003	256,687
	First Business Bank	Rate - 4.00%; Matures 8/17/26	250,002	253,569
	Morgan Stanley Bank	Rate - 3.55%; Matures 9/15/25	200,000	201,267
	Morgan Stanley Bank	Rate - 4.60%; Matures 3/15/27	200,004	205,566
	Open Bank Los Angeles	Rate - 4.35%; Matures 8/22/25	250,000	250,591
	State Bank of India NY	Rate - 2.00%; Matures 1/22/25	159,011	160,180
	US Bank Salt Lake City	Rate - 4.25%; Matures 2/22/28	250,000	252,160
	US Bank Salt Lake City	Rate - 4.55%; Matures 11/29/28	300,000	306,043
	Wells Fargo Bank	Rate - 4.40%; Matures 2/22/27	250,000	252,321
	Wells Fargo Bank	Rate - 4.55%; Matures 12/20/27	<u>250,000</u>	<u>254,218</u>
	Total Certificates of Deposit		<u>\$ 3,409,021</u>	3,459,744

BACKLUND INVESTMENT CO. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST
E.I.N. 37-0898008 PLAN NO. 004
SCHEDULE H, LINE 4i—SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR) (CONTINUED)
DECEMBER 31, 2024

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor, or Similar Party	Description of Investment	Cost	Current Value	
	<u>Mutual Funds:</u>			
Guggenheim	Limited Duration Fund	\$ 160,000	\$ 153,260	
Hartford	Strategic Income Fund	159,881	133,936	
Pimco	Low Duration Income Fund	160,000	147,558	
	Total Mutual Funds	<u>\$ 479,881</u>	<u>434,754</u>	
	<u>Interest-Bearing Cash:</u>			
* State Street Bank & Trust Company	Rate - 0.15%	\$ 5,002	5,002	
* Better Banks	Rate - 4.00%	1,365,049	1,365,049	
* OSAIC	Rate - 4.19%	6,043	6,043	
* LPL Financial - Cash	Rate - 0.70%	3,851	3,851	
* LPL Financial - Money Market	Rate - 4.18%	<u>3,124</u>	<u>3,124</u>	
	Total Interest-Bearing Cash	<u>\$ 1,383,069</u>	<u>1,383,069</u>	
			<u>\$ 22,737,601</u>	

* Designates party-in-interest

** The supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year), as of December 31, 2024 that accompanies the financial statements does not disclose the historical cost of common stock held by the trustee. Disclosure of this information is required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.



CLA (CliftonLarsonAllen LLP) is a network member of CLA Global. See CLAGlobal.com/disclaimer. Investment advisory services are offered through CliftonLarsonAllen Wealth Advisors, LLC, an SEC-registered investment advisor.

BACKLUND INVESTMENT CO. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST
E.I.N. 37-0898008 PLAN NO. 004
SCHEDULE H, LINE 4i—SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR)
DECEMBER 31, 2024

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor, or Similar Party	Description of Investment	Cost	Current Value	
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	Total Certificates of Deposit		<u>\$ 3,409,021</u>	3,459,744

BACKLUND INVESTMENT CO. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AND TRUST
E.I.N. 37-0898008 PLAN NO. 004
SCHEDULE H, LINE 4i—SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR) (CONTINUED)
DECEMBER 31, 2024

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor, or Similar Party	Description of Investment	Cost	Current Value	
	<u>Mutual Funds:</u>			
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	Total Interest-Bearing Cash	<u>\$ 1,383,069</u>	<u>1,383,069</u>	
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* Designates party-in-interest

** The supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year), as of December 31, 2024 that accompanies the financial statements does not disclose the historical cost of common stock held by the trustee. Disclosure of this information is required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.