

Form 5500

Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089

2024

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration

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).

Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.

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, a single-employer plan, a DFE, the first return/report, the final return/report, an amended return/report, a short plan year return/report.
B This return/report is: the first return/report, the final return/report, an amended return/report, a short plan year return/report.
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.
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: THE LESTER GROUP, INC EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
1b Three-digit plan number (PN): 001
1c Effective date of plan: 01/01/1966
2a Plan sponsor's name, mailing address, city or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code.
2b Employer Identification Number (EIN): 54-0281310
2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number: 276-632-2195
2d Business code (see instructions): 444110

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.

Table with 4 columns: SIGN HERE, Signature of plan administrator, Date, Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator. Includes rows for employer/plan sponsor and DFE.

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

Form 5500 (2024) v. 240311

<b>3a</b> Plan administrator's name and address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Plan Sponsor	<b>3b</b> Administrator's EIN	
	<b>3c</b> Administrator's telephone number	
<b>4</b> If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: <b>a</b> Sponsor's name <b>c</b> Plan Name	<b>4b</b> EIN	
	<b>4d</b> PN	
<b>5</b> Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	<b>5</b>	192
<b>6</b> Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines <b>6a(1)</b> , <b>6a(2)</b> , <b>6b</b> , <b>6c</b> , and <b>6d</b> ). <b>a(1)</b> Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year ..... <b>a(2)</b> Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year ..... <b>b</b> Retired or separated participants receiving benefits..... <b>c</b> Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits ..... <b>d</b> Subtotal. Add lines <b>6a(2)</b> , <b>6b</b> , and <b>6c</b> ..... <b>e</b> Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits. .... <b>f</b> Total. Add lines <b>6d</b> and <b>6e</b> ..... <b>g(1)</b> Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) ..... <b>g(2)</b> Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) ..... <b>h</b> Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.....	<b>6a(1)</b>	162
	<b>6a(2)</b>	142
	<b>6b</b>	0
	<b>6c</b>	21
	<b>6d</b>	163
	<b>6e</b>	0
	<b>6f</b>	163
	<b>6g(1)</b>	180
	<b>6g(2)</b>	163
<b>h</b>	<b>6h</b>	7
<b>7</b> Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item) .....	<b>7</b>	

**8a** If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:  
2I 2O 2Q 3D 3I

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

<b>9a</b> Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)	<b>9b</b> 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)

<b>a Pension Schedules</b>	<b>b General Schedules</b>
(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>R</b> (Retirement Plan Information)	(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>H</b> (Financial Information)
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>MB</b> (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>I</b> (Financial Information – Small Plan)
(3) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>SB</b> (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary	(3) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>A</b> (Insurance Information) – Number Attached _____
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>DCG</b> (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____	(4) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>C</b> (Service Provider Information)
(5) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>MEP</b> (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)	(5) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>D</b> (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
	(6) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>G</b> (Financial Transaction Schedules)

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

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

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

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**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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<b>SCHEDULE H</b> <b>(Form 5500)</b>  <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small>  <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small>  <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	<b>Financial Information</b>  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).  ▶ <b>File as an attachment to Form 5500.</b>	OMB No. 1210-0110  <b>2024</b>  <b>This Form is Open to Public Inspection</b>
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning <b>01/01/2024</b> and ending <b>12/31/2024</b>	
<b>A</b> Name of plan <b>THE LESTER GROUP, INC EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN</b>	<b>B</b> Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ <b>001</b>
<b>C</b> Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <b>THE LESTER GROUP, INC.</b>	<b>D</b> Employer Identification Number (EIN) <b>54-0281310</b>

<b>Part I</b>	<b>Asset and Liability Statement</b>
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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
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>a</b> Total noninterest-bearing cash .....	<b>1a</b>	
<b>b</b> Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):		
<b>(1)</b> Employer contributions .....	<b>1b(1)</b>	
<b>(2)</b> Participant contributions .....	<b>1b(2)</b>	
<b>(3)</b> Other .....	<b>1b(3)</b>	44606
<b>c</b> General investments:		
<b>(1)</b> Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit) .....	<b>1c(1)</b>	82186
<b>(2)</b> U.S. Government securities .....	<b>1c(2)</b>	
<b>(3)</b> Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):		
<b>(A)</b> Preferred .....	<b>1c(3)(A)</b>	
<b>(B)</b> All other .....	<b>1c(3)(B)</b>	
<b>(4)</b> Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):		
<b>(A)</b> Preferred .....	<b>1c(4)(A)</b>	
<b>(B)</b> Common .....	<b>1c(4)(B)</b>	45721
<b>(5)</b> Partnership/joint venture interests .....	<b>1c(5)</b>	
<b>(6)</b> Real estate (other than employer real property) .....	<b>1c(6)</b>	
<b>(7)</b> Loans (other than to participants) .....	<b>1c(7)</b>	
<b>(8)</b> Participant loans .....	<b>1c(8)</b>	
<b>(9)</b> Value of interest in common/collective trusts .....	<b>1c(9)</b>	
<b>(10)</b> Value of interest in pooled separate accounts .....	<b>1c(10)</b>	
<b>(11)</b> Value of interest in master trust investment accounts .....	<b>1c(11)</b>	
<b>(12)</b> Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities .....	<b>1c(12)</b>	
<b>(13)</b> Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds) .....	<b>1c(13)</b>	
<b>(14)</b> Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts) .....	<b>1c(14)</b>	
<b>(15)</b> Other .....	<b>1c(15)</b>	

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities.....	1d(1)	2710091	2694542
(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	2845153	2867055
<b>Liabilities</b>			
g Benefit claims payable.....	1g		
h Operating payables.....	1h	6302	33066
i Acquisition indebtedness.....	1i		
j Other liabilities.....	1j		
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j).....	1k	6302	33066
<b>Net Assets</b>			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f).....	1l	2838851	2833989

**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.

<b>Income</b>		(a) Amount	(b) Total
<b>a Contributions:</b>			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers.....	2a(1)(A)	262859	
(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)		262859
<b>b Earnings on investments:</b>			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit).....	2b(1)(A)	94	
(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)		94
(2) Dividends:			
(A) Preferred stock.....	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock.....	2b(2)(B)	237038	
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds).....	2b(2)(C)		
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A), (B), and (C).....	2b(2)(D)		237038
(3) Rents.....	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets:			
(A) Aggregate proceeds.....	2b(4)(A)	522929	
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions).....	2b(4)(B)	501345	
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result.....	2b(4)(C)		21584
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets:			
(A) Real estate.....	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other.....	2b(5)(B)	193059	
(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)		
<b>c</b> Other income .....	2c		
<b>d</b> Total income. Add all <b>income</b> amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2d		714634

**Expenses**

<b>e</b> Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers.....	2e(1)	719349	
(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)		719349
<b>f</b> Corrective distributions (see instructions) .....	2f		
<b>g</b> Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions).....	2g		
<b>h</b> Interest expense.....	2h		
<b>i</b> 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)	147	
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11) .....	2i(12)		147
<b>j</b> Total expenses. Add all <b>expense</b> amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2j		719496

**Net Income and Reconciliation**

<b>k</b> Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d.....	2k		-4862
<b>l</b> 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: **BROWN, EDWARDS & COMPANY, L.L.P.**

(2) EIN: **54-0504608**

**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
<b>a</b> 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>b</b> Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)		X	
<b>c</b> Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)		X	
<b>d</b> Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)		X	
<b>e</b> Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	X		300000
<b>f</b> Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		X	
<b>g</b> Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		X	
<b>h</b> Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		X	
<b>i</b> Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	X		
<b>j</b> Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)	X		
<b>k</b> Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?		X	
<b>l</b> Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?		X	
<b>m</b> If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)		X	
<b>n</b> If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.			

**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.)

<b>5b(1)</b> Name of plan(s)	<b>5b(2)</b> EIN(s)	<b>5b(3)</b> 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

<b>SCHEDULE R</b> <b>(Form 5500)</b>  <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small>  <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small>  <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	<b>Retirement Plan Information</b>  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).  <b>▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.</b>	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small>  <b>2024</b>  <b>This Form is Open to Public Inspection.</b>
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

<b>A</b> Name of plan <u>THE LESTER GROUP, INC EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN</u>	<b>B</b> Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>001</u>
<b>C</b> Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>THE LESTER GROUP, INC.</u>	<b>D</b> Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>54-0281310</u>	

<b>Part I</b>	<b>Distributions</b>
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**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
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**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): 54-6068140

**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	
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<b>Part II</b>	<b>Funding Information</b> (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.)
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**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.**

<b>6 a</b> Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived) .....	<b>6a</b>	
<b>b</b> Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year .....	<b>6b</b>	
<b>c</b> 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).....	<b>6c</b>	

**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

<b>Part III</b>	<b>Amendments</b>
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**9** If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box.....  Increase  Decrease  Both  No

<b>Part IV</b>	<b>ESOPs</b> (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.
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**10** Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan? .....  Yes  No

**11 a** Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock? .....  Yes  No

**b** If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.) .....  Yes  No

**12** Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market? .....  Yes  No

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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(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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**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:

<b>a</b> 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).....	<b>14a</b>	
<b>b</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).....	<b>14b</b>	
<b>c</b> 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).....	<b>14c</b>	

**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:

<b>a</b> The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year .....	<b>15a</b>	
<b>b</b> The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year .....	<b>15b</b>	

**16** Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:

<b>a</b> Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year .....	<b>16a</b>	
<b>b</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.....	<b>16b</b>	

**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 Q702653A.

## **Independent Auditor's Report**

To the Plan Administrator and Trustees of  
The Lester Group, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan  
Martinsville, Virginia

### **Opinion**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of The Lester Group, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan (the "Plan"), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), which comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, 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 The Lester Group, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, 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. 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 Lester Group, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### **Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements**

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

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

Management is also responsible for maintaining a current plan instrument, including all plan amendments, administering the plan, and determining that the plan's transactions that are presented and



disclosed in the financial statements are in conformity with the plan's provisions, including maintaining sufficient records with respect to each of the participants, to determine the benefits due or which may become due to such participants.

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

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards 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 generally accepted auditing standards, 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 Lester Group, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership 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 Lester Group, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

## **Supplemental Schedules Required by ERISA**

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The supplemental Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) as of December 31, 2024, and Schedule H, Line 4j – Schedule of Reportable Transactions for the year ended December 31, 2024, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements but are 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 generally accepted auditing standards.

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

*Brown, Edwards & Company, S. L. P.*

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Roanoke, Virginia  
September 16, 2025

Form 5500

Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

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).

2024

Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration

Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

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, 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 THE LESTER GROUP, INC EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
1b Three-digit plan number (PN) 001
1c Effective date of plan 01/01/1966
2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan) THE LESTER GROUP, INC.
2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) 54-0281310
2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number (276) 632-2195
2d Business code (see instructions) 444110

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.

Table with 4 columns: SIGN HERE, Signature of plan administrator, Date, Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator. Includes signature of David Balcerzak and date 9/19/25.

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

Form 5500 (2024) v. 240311

<b>3a</b> Plan administrator's name and address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Plan Sponsor	<b>3b</b> Administrator's EIN	
	<b>3c</b> Administrator's telephone number	
<b>4</b> If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: <b>a</b> Sponsor's name <b>c</b> Plan Name	<b>4b</b> EIN	
	<b>4d</b> PN	
<b>5</b> Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	<b>5</b>	192
<b>6</b> Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines <b>6a(1)</b> , <b>6a(2)</b> , <b>6b</b> , <b>6c</b> , and <b>6d</b> ). <b>a(1)</b> Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year ..... <b>a(2)</b> Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year ..... <b>b</b> Retired or separated participants receiving benefits ..... <b>c</b> Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits ..... <b>d</b> Subtotal. Add lines <b>6a(2)</b> , <b>6b</b> , and <b>6c</b> . ..... <b>e</b> Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits ..... <b>f</b> Total. Add lines <b>6d</b> and <b>6e</b> . ..... <b>g(1)</b> Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) ..... <b>g(2)</b> Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) ..... <b>h</b> Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.....	<b>6a(1)</b>	162
	<b>6a(2)</b>	142
	<b>6b</b>	0
	<b>6c</b>	21
	<b>6d</b>	163
	<b>6e</b>	0
	<b>6f</b>	163
	<b>6g(1)</b>	180
	<b>6g(2)</b>	163
<b>7</b> Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item).....	<b>7</b>	7

**8a** If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:  
2I 2O 2Q 3D 3I

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

<b>9a</b> Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)	<b>9b</b> 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**

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

**b General Schedules**

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



# **The Lester Group, Inc.**

# **Employee Stock**

# **Ownership Plan**

## Financial Report

December 31, 2024

The Lester Group, Inc  
Employee Stock Ownership Plan

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## **Independent Auditor's Report**

To the Plan Administrator and Trustees of  
The Lester Group, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan  
Martinsville, Virginia

### **Opinion**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of The Lester Group, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan (the "Plan"), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), which comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, 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 The Lester Group, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, 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. 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 Lester Group, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### **Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements**

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

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

Management is also responsible for maintaining a current plan instrument, including all plan amendments, administering the plan, and determining that the plan's transactions that are presented and



disclosed in the financial statements are in conformity with the plan's provisions, including maintaining sufficient records with respect to each of the participants, to determine the benefits due or which may become due to such participants.

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

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards 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 generally accepted auditing standards, 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 Lester Group, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership 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 Lester Group, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

## **Supplemental Schedules Required by ERISA**

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The supplemental Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) as of December 31, 2024, and Schedule H, Line 4j – Schedule of Reportable Transactions for the year ended December 31, 2024, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements but are 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 generally accepted auditing standards.

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

*Brown, Edwards & Company, S. L. P.*

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Roanoke, Virginia  
September 16, 2025



# Financial Statements



**The Lester Group, Inc.**  
**Employee Stock Ownership Plan**  
**Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits**  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Investments, at fair value (Notes 3 and 4)	\$ 2,822,449	\$ 2,811,191
Employer receivable	44,376	33,732
Dividend receivable	<u>230</u>	<u>230</u>
Total assets	2,867,055	2,845,153
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable	<u>33,066</u>	<u>6,302</u>
<b>NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS</b>	<u><u>\$ 2,833,989</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 2,838,851</u></u>

**The Lester Group, Inc.**  
**Employee Stock Ownership Plan**

**Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits**  
**Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>ADDITIONS TO NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:</b>		
Investment income		
Net appreciation in fair value of investments (Notes 3 and 4)	\$ 214,643	\$ 123,062
Interest and dividends	<u>237,132</u>	<u>253,001</u>
	451,775	376,063
Contributions		
Employer	<u>262,859</u>	<u>201,395</u>
Total additions	<u>714,634</u>	<u>577,458</u>
<b>DEDUCTIONS FROM NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:</b>		
Benefits paid to participants	719,349	431,085
Miscellaneous expense	<u>147</u>	<u>50</u>
Total deductions	<u>719,496</u>	<u>431,135</u>
Net increase (decrease)	(4,862)	146,323
<b>NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS</b>		
Beginning of year	<u>2,838,851</u>	<u>2,692,528</u>
End of year	<u><u>\$ 2,833,989</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 2,838,851</u></u>

# The Lester Group, Inc Employee Stock Ownership Plan

## Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2024

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### Note 1 – Plan Description

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The following description of The Lester Group, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan (the “Plan”) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan agreement for a more complete description of the Plan’s provisions.

#### *General*

The Lester Group, Inc. (the “Company”) originally established The Lester Group, Inc. Profit Sharing Plan on January 1, 1966, and subsequently amended and restated it as the Lester Group, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan effective January 1, 2003. The Plan operates as 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* of 1986, as amended (*IRC*) and is subject to the applicable provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA). All employees of the Company are eligible to participate in the Plan following completion of one year of service.

#### *Contributions*

Contributions by the Company are established by resolution of the Company’s Executive Management Committee. Contributions are made from the accumulated earnings of the Company and are determined prior to the end of each Plan year. Contributions may be made in cash or in shares of Company stock. All contributions in 2024 and 2023 were made in shares of Company stock.

#### *Participant Accounts*

Upon the annual adjustment date, the account of a participant or one who retired, died, or became disabled during the Plan year, will be credited with an allocation of Plan earnings, forfeitures, and employer contributions. Employer contributions and forfeited balances of terminated participant’s non-vested accounts are allocated based on the proportion of each participant’s compensation to the total compensation of all participants, as defined in the Plan document. Plan earnings are allocated based on the proportion of each participant’s account balance to the total of all participant account balances, as defined in the Plan document. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant’s vested account.

#### *Vesting*

Vesting in the ESOP is based on years of continuous service. A participant becomes partially vested after two years of service and is 100% vested after six years of credited service.

#### *Forfeitures*

The non-vested portion of a participant’s account is held in a suspense account upon termination. Such suspense account is maintained until the Plan’s year end in which the participant incurs a five-year break in service, at which time it is allocated among the remaining eligible participants. Forfeitures of \$8,320 and \$8,133 were reallocated to participants’ accounts for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

# The Lester Group, Inc Employee Stock Ownership Plan

## Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2024

### *Payment of Benefits*

The Plan is designed to provide participating employees with benefits commencing on the first day of any calendar month coinciding with or subsequent to their normal retirement age of 65. Under the terms of the agreement, benefits may be paid in a lump sum or in installments over a period not to exceed five years or any combination thereof. A participant who becomes disabled may elect to retire on the first day of any month following the determination of disability. A participant who has elected disability retirement may receive the entire value of his account in a lump sum or in installments not to exceed five years. Death benefits are payable to the participant's beneficiary in one lump sum or in installments as soon as practical after the Plan Administrator receives notice of death. Terminated participants may elect to transfer their entire vested balance to another eligible retirement plan. If no election is made, their account will remain part of the trust fund and participate in the income, gains, and losses of the Plan investments. Participants with balances of \$1,000 – \$5,000 will have their balances paid to an IRA. Balances of less than \$1,000 will be paid in one lump sum to the participant. Participants who are still employed may take an in-service distribution from their account at age 65 if the Participant's account is 100% vested.

### *Voting Rights*

Shares of Company stock in the trust shall be voted by the Trustee only, in a manner as shall be directed by the Plan Administrator. In certain instances, such as plan merger, consolidation, and liquidation, each participant is entitled to exercise voting rights attributable to the shares allocated to their account and is notified by the Trustee prior to the time that such rights are to be exercised. Any allocated Company stock with respect to which voting directions are not received from participants shall be voted in the manner determined by the Plan Administrator.

### *Put Option*

Under federal income tax regulations, the employer stock that is held by the Plan and its participants and is not readily tradable on an established market or is subject to trading limitations, includes a put option. The put option is a right to demand that the 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 stock into investments which are more diversified. Participants who are at least age 55 with at least ten years of participation 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 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 cash distribution.

### *Administrative Costs*

Substantially all of the administrative expenses are paid by the Company.

**The Lester Group, Inc**  
**Employee Stock Ownership Plan**

**Notes to Financial Statements**

December 31, 2024

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**Note 2 – Significant Accounting Policies**

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*Basis of Accounting*

The financial statements of the Plan are prepared using the accrual method of accounting.

*Interest-Bearing Cash*

The Plan's investments include funds held in an interest-bearing checking account. The account is insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) up to federally insured limits.

*Estimates*

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

*Valuation of Investments and Income Recognition*

The Plan's investments are stated at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset, or paid to transfer a liability, in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. See Note 4 for a discussion of fair value measurements.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation or depreciation includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

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

*Benefit Payments*

Benefits are recorded when paid.

*Subsequent Events*

Subsequent events have been evaluated through September 16, 2025, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

# The Lester Group, Inc Employee Stock Ownership Plan

## Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2024

### Note 3 – Investments in Sponsor Company Common Stock

The Plan’s investment in the Sponsor Company common stock at December 31 is as follows:

	2024	2023
Number of shares	28,559	31,623
Cost	<b>\$ 1,627,329</b>	<b>\$ 1,887,400</b>
Fair value	<b>\$ 2,694,542</b>	<b>\$ 2,710,091</b>

On August 5, 2022, the Board of Directors authorized a 10-for-1 stock split for the Company common stock to be recorded on September 16, 2022. The par value per share decreased to \$5 from \$50. The Sponsor Company common stock represents 97.73% and 96.40% of total assets of the Plan at December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

### Note 4 – Fair Value Measurements

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

The fair value measurement accounting literature establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. This hierarchy consists of three broad levels: Level 1 inputs consist of unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and have the highest priority; Level 2 inputs consist of observable inputs other than quoted prices for identical assets; and Level 3 inputs are unobservable and have the lowest priority. The Plan uses appropriate valuation techniques based on the available inputs to measure the fair value of its investments. Level 3 inputs were used only when Level 1 or Level 2 inputs were not available.

The below table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan’s assets at fair value as of December 31, 2024, and 2023. Classification within the fair value hierarchy table is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

	Fair Value Measurements at Reporting Date Using:		
	Fair Value	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
<b><u>December 31, 2024</u></b>			
Common stock	<b>\$ 2,740,263</b>	<b>\$ 45,721</b>	<b>\$ 2,694,542</b>
<b><u>December 31, 2023</u></b>			
Common stock	<b>\$ 2,785,690</b>	<b>\$ 75,599</b>	<b>\$ 2,710,091</b>

# The Lester Group, Inc Employee Stock Ownership Plan

## Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2024

### *Level 1 Fair Value Measurements*

The fair values of common stock are based on quoted market prices.

### *Level 3 Fair Value Measurements*

The fair value of Sponsor Company common stock is determined quarterly by independent appraisal and is based on the net asset value of the Company. The significant unobservable inputs used to measure fair value include the Company's assessment of real estate held for sale and other assets, stockholder's equity, discounts for lack of liquidity, lack of control by the Plan, and lack of marketability of the stock. Significant changes to these inputs could have resulted in a significantly higher or lower fair value measurement for the Company common stock.

The following table provides further details of Level 3 fair value measurements:

<b>Fair Value Measurements Using Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)</b>	
	<b>Sponsor Company Stock</b>
<b><u>December 31, 2024</u></b>	
Beginning balance	\$ 2,710,091
Total gains or losses (realized and unrealized) included in changes in net assets available for benefits	244,521
Purchases	-
Sales	(522,929)
Contributions	262,859
Ending balance	<b>\$ 2,694,542</b>
<b><u>December 31, 2023</u></b>	
Beginning balance	\$ 2,560,585
Total gains or losses (realized and unrealized) included in changes in net assets available for benefits	121,688
Purchases	102,250
Sales	(275,827)
Contributions	201,395
Ending balance	<b>\$ 2,710,091</b>

Gains and losses (realized and unrealized) included in changes in net assets available for benefits for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023 are reported in net appreciation in fair value of investments.

## **Note 5 – Related Party Transactions**

Certain administrative functions are performed by officers or employees of the Company. No such officer or employee receives compensation from the Plan.

**The Lester Group, Inc**  
**Employee Stock Ownership Plan**

**Notes to Financial Statements**

December 31, 2024

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**Note 6 – Plan Termination**

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Although it has expressed no intention to do so, the Company reserves the right to discontinue the Plan at any time, subject to Plan provisions. Upon termination of the Plan, the participants shall become fully vested in the balance in their accounts and the interest of each participant in the trust fund will be distributed to such participant or his or her beneficiary at the time as prescribed by the Plan terms and the *IRC*.

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**Note 7 – Tax Status**

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The Plan is adopted under a non-standardized prototype sponsored by FIS Business Systems, LLC. The Internal Revenue Service has determined and informed the Company by letter dated June 30, 2020 that the Plan is designed in accordance with applicable sections of the *IRC*. The Plan Administrator and the Plan's tax counsel believe that the Plan is designed and is currently being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the *IRC*.

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 Internal Revenue Service. The Plan Administrator has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan, and has concluded that as of December 31, 2024, there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition of a liability (or asset) or disclosure in the financial statements.



# **Supplemental Information**



**The Lester Group, Inc.**  
**Employee Stock Ownership Plan**  
(EIN: 54-0281310) (Plan: 001)

**Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)**  
December 31, 2024

(a)	(b) Identity of Issuer, 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
*	The Lester Group, Inc.	Common Stock	\$ 1,627,329	\$ 2,694,542
	Caremark, RX/CVS	Common Stock	133	22,624
	Hooker Furniture Corp	Common Stock	481	14,010
	WestRock Company	Common Stock	413	3,232
	Weyerhaeuser Company	Common Stock	2,996	5,855
	Carter Bank & Trust	Interest-bearing cash account	82,186	82,186
	Total		<u><u>\$ 1,713,538</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 2,822,449</u></u>

\* Party-in-interest

## The Lester Group, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan

(Sponsor EIN: 54-0281310) (Plan: 001)

### Schedule H, Line 4j – Schedule of Reportable Transactions

Year Ended December 31, 2024

(a) Identity of Party Involved	(b) Description of Asset	(c) Number of Transactions	(c) Purchase Price	(d) Selling Price	(e) Lease Rental	(f) Expenses Incurred in Connection with Transaction	(g) Cost of Asset	(h) Current Value of Asset on Transaction Date	(i) Net Gain
* The Lester Group, Inc.	Employer Stock	5	\$ -	\$ 522,929	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 501,345	\$ 522,929	\$ 21,584

\* Party-in-interest transaction

**The Lester Group, Inc.**  
**Employee Stock Ownership Plan**  
(EIN: 54-0281310) (Plan: 001)

**Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)**  
December 31, 2024

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## The Lester Group, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan

(Sponsor EIN: 54-0281310) (Plan: 001)

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