

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... [X] a single-employer plan [] a DFE... B This return/report is: [] the first return/report [] the final return/report... C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here... D Check box if filing under: [X] Form 5558 [] automatic 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: FIRST RELIANCE BANK EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
1b Three-digit plan number (PN): 001
1c Effective date of plan: 01/01/2001
2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan): FIRST RELIANCE BANK
2b Employer Identification Number (EIN): 58-2463842
2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number: 843-656-5000
2d Business code (see instructions): 522110

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

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

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

3a Plan administrator's name and address <input type="checkbox"/> Same as Plan Sponsor FIRST RELIANCE BANK 2170 WEST PALMETTO ST. FLORENCE, SC 29501	3b Administrator's EIN 58-2463842 3c Administrator's telephone number 843-656-5000
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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
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5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5	303
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6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d).		
a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year	6a(1)	178
a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year	6a(2)	179
b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits.....	6b	14
c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits	6c	93
d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c	6d	286
e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits.	6e	0
f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e	6f	286
g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	6g(1)	293
g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	6g(2)	282
h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.....	6h	6

7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	7	
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8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:
 2H 2I 2J 2K 2O 2E 3I 2T

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

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

a Pension Schedules

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

b General Schedules

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

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 FIRST RELIANCE BANK EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 FIRST RELIANCE BANK	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 58-2463842	

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

MATRIX TRUST COMPANY

75-3182674

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

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

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

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)

MILLIMAN INC.

91-0675641

(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 37 50	NONE	56024	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

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

INC IRA GROUP

58-1989031

(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?
27	NONE	18750	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

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

PENTEGRA RETIREMENT SERVICES, INC.

13-3745616

(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	4097	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

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 D (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small>	DFE/Participating Plan 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 <u>FIRST RELIANCE BANK EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN)	<u>001</u>
C Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>FIRST RELIANCE BANK</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>58-2463842</u>	

Part I	Information on interests in MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs (to be completed by plans and DFEs) (Complete as many entries as needed to report all interests in DFEs)
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:	<u>SVF METLIFE GAC SERIES 25053</u>	
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):	<u>RELIANCE TRUST</u>	
c EIN-PN <u>46-6625485-001</u>	d Entity code <u>C</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>1200869</u>
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):		
c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):		
c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):		
c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):		
c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):		
c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):		
c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

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

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

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

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

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

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

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

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

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

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

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

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

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

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

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

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

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

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

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

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

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

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

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

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

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

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

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

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

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

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

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 FIRST RELIANCE BANK EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 FIRST RELIANCE BANK	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 58-2463842

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

Assets	(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a	7739
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):		
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	10578
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)	31889
(3) Other	1b(3)	
c General investments:		
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)	16682
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)	
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):		
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)	
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)	
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):		
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)	
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)	
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)	
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)	
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)	
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	402254
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)	2271748
(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)	7396337
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)	
(15) Other	1c(15)	10712603

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities.....	1d(1)	4067930	4123936
(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	14197418	16750834
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable.....	1g		
h Operating payables.....	1h	682	
i Acquisition indebtedness.....	1i		
j Other liabilities.....	1j		
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j).....	1k	682	0
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f).....	1l	14196736	16750834

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)	370872	
(B) Participants.....	2a(1)(B)	1061759	
(C) Others (including rollovers).....	2a(1)(C)	437458	
(2) Noncash contributions.....	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A), (B), (C), and line 2a(2).....	2a(3)		1870089
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit).....	2b(1)(A)	2167	
(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)	19454	
(F) Other.....	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F).....	2b(1)(G)		21621
(2) Dividends:			
(A) Preferred stock.....	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock.....	2b(2)(B)		
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds).....	2b(2)(C)	349441	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A), (B), and (C).....	2b(2)(D)		349441
(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)	493961	
(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)		43511
(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)		1113673
c Other income	2c		
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2d		3892296

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers.....	2e(1)	1246922	
(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)		1246922
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)	65279	
(4) IQPA audit fees	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)	25997	
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)		
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)		
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)		
(11) Other expenses.....	2i(11)		
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11)	2i(12)		91276
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2j		1338198

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		2554098
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: **ELLIOTT DAVIS, LLC**

(2) EIN: **57-0381582**

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		3000000
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>FIRST RELIANCE BANK EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>001</u>
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>FIRST RELIANCE BANK</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>58-2463842</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): 82-3967259 58-1428634

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 Q702654A.



Independent Auditor's Report

The Trustee of
First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan
Florence, South Carolina

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

We have performed audits of the financial statements of First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan (the "Plan"), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) (ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit). The financial statements comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, 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.

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

Management has obtained certifications from qualified institutions, as described in Note 1, as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and for the year ended December 31, 2024, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 3 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion

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

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

elliottdavis.com

"Elliott Davis" is the brand name under which Elliott Davis, LLC (doing business in North Carolina and D.C. as Elliott Davis, PLLC) and Elliott Davis Advisory, LLC and its subsidiary entities provide professional services. Elliott Davis, LLC and Elliott Davis Advisory, LLC and its subsidiary entities practice as an alternative practice structure in accordance with the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct and applicable law, regulations and professional standards. Elliott Davis, LLC is a licensed independent CPA firm that provides attest services to its customers. Elliott Davis Advisory, LLC and its subsidiary entities provide tax and business consulting services to their customers. Elliott Davis Advisory, LLC and its subsidiary entities are not licensed CPA firms. The entities falling under the Elliott Davis brand are each individual firms that are separate legal and independently owned entities and are not responsible or liable for the services and/or products provided by any other entity providing services and/or products under the Elliott Davis brand. Our use of the terms "our firm" and "we" and "us" and terms of similar import, denote the alternative practice structure conducted by Elliott Davis, LLC and Elliott Davis Advisory, LLC.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit opinion.

Company Stock

As discussed in Note 8, First Reliance Bancshares, Inc ESOP Common Stock amounting to \$1,204,801 and \$1,126,963 as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively, has been valued at estimated fair value as determined by an independent appraiser in the absence of a readily determinable market value. 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 had a readily determinable market value existed. Actual numbers of common shares held of First Reliance Bancshares, Inc ESOP Common Stock were 125,631 and 131,501 as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and comprised 7 percent and 8 percent of the Plan's total assets at fair value at December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively. Our opinion is not modified in regard to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Management's election of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit does not affect management's responsibility for the financial statements.

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

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit section of our report, our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgement made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements, Continued

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgement, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our audits did not extend to the certified investment information, except for obtaining and reading the certification, comparing the certified investment information with the related information presented and disclosed in the financial statements, and reading the disclosures relating to the certified investment information to assess whether they are in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements of U.S. GAAP.

Accordingly, the objective of an ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit is not to express an opinion about whether the financial statements as a whole are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with U.S. GAAP.

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

Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedule, Schedule H, Line 4i - 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 DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information included in the supplemental schedule, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS. For information included in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, we compared such information to the related certified investment information.

Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA, Continued

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

In our opinion:

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elliott Davis, LLC". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Greenville, South Carolina
September 29, 2025

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 <div style="font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">2024</div> 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:	<input type="checkbox"/> a multiemployer plan	<input type="checkbox"/> a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a single-employer plan	<input type="checkbox"/> a DFE (specify) _____
B This return/report is:	<input type="checkbox"/> the first return/report	<input type="checkbox"/> the final return/report
	<input type="checkbox"/> an amended return/report	<input type="checkbox"/> a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)
C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here:	<input type="checkbox"/>	
D Check box if filing under:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form 5558	<input type="checkbox"/> automatic extension
	<input type="checkbox"/> special extension (enter description)	<input type="checkbox"/> the DFVC program
E If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here:	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information		
1a Name of plan First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan	1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	001
	1c Effective date of plan	01/01/2001
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) First Reliance Bank 2170 West Palmetto St. Florence SC 29501	2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) 58-2463842	2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number (843) 656-5000
	2d Business code (see instructions) 522110	

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

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

SIGN HERE		9/30/25	Leslie Chaplin
	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

First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan

Report on Financial Statements

For the year ended December 31, 2024

First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan

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Independent Auditor's Report

The Trustee of
First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan
Florence, South Carolina

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

We have performed audits of the financial statements of First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan (the "Plan"), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) (ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit). The financial statements comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, 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.

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

Management has obtained certifications from qualified institutions, as described in Note 1, as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and for the year ended December 31, 2024, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 3 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion

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

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

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Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit opinion.

Company Stock

As discussed in Note 8, First Reliance Bancshares, Inc ESOP Common Stock amounting to \$1,204,801 and \$1,126,963 as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively, has been valued at estimated fair value as determined by an independent appraiser in the absence of a readily determinable market value. 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 had a readily determinable market value existed. Actual numbers of common shares held of First Reliance Bancshares, Inc ESOP Common Stock were 125,631 and 131,501 as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and comprised 7 percent and 8 percent of the Plan's total assets at fair value at December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively. Our opinion is not modified in regard to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Management's election of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit does not affect management's responsibility for the financial statements.

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

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit section of our report, our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgement made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements, Continued

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgement, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our audits did not extend to the certified investment information, except for obtaining and reading the certification, comparing the certified investment information with the related information presented and disclosed in the financial statements, and reading the disclosures relating to the certified investment information to assess whether they are in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements of U.S. GAAP.

Accordingly, the objective of an ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit is not to express an opinion about whether the financial statements as a whole are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with U.S. GAAP.

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

Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedule, Schedule H, Line 4i - 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 DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information included in the supplemental schedule, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS. For information included in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, we compared such information to the related certified investment information.

Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA, Continued

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

In our opinion:

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



Greenville, South Carolina
September 29, 2025

First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

As of December 31, 2024 and 2023

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Assets		
Investments at fair value (see Note 4)	\$ 16,376,305	\$ 13,752,015
Receivables		
Participant contributions	38,005	31,889
Company contributions	13,227	10,578
Notes receivable from participants	315,558	402,254
Total receivables	<u>366,790</u>	<u>444,721</u>
Cash, non-interest bearing	7,739	-
Net assets available for benefits	<u>\$ 16,750,834</u>	<u>\$ 14,196,736</u>

See Notes to Financial Statements

First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan

Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

For the year ended December 31, 2024

Additions

Investment income	
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 1,651,145
Interest and dividends	351,608
Total investment income	<u>2,002,753</u>
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	<u>19,454</u>
Contributions	
Participants	1,061,759
Company	370,872
Rollovers	437,458
Total contributions	<u>1,870,089</u>
Total additions	<u>3,892,296</u>

Deductions

Benefits paid to participants	1,246,922
Administrative expenses	91,276
Total deductions	<u>1,338,198</u>
Net increase	<u>2,554,098</u>

Net assets available for benefits, beginning of year	<u>14,196,736</u>
Net assets available for benefits, end of year	<u><u>\$ 16,750,834</u></u>

See Notes to Financial Statements

First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

Note 1. Description of the Plan

The following description of the First Reliance Bank 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:

First Reliance Bank (the "Bank") established the Plan effective as of January 1, 2001. The Bank is a subsidiary of First Reliance Bancshares, Inc. (the "Company"). The Plan is an Employee Stock Ownership Plan ("ESOP") with 401(k) provisions covering substantially all employees of the Bank who have attained the age of 18. The ESOP portion of the Plan is discretionary, and employees are eligible to participate after six months of employment. The Plan operates, in relevant part, as an ESOP and is designed to comply with Section 4975(e)(7) and the regulations thereunder of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) and is subject to the applicable provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

As of December 31, 2024, Matrix Trust Company held the plan's investment assets and executed investment transactions from February 13, 2024 to December 31, 2024, and Reliance Trust Company held the plan's investment assets and executed investment transactions as of December 31, 2023, and for the period January 1, 2024 to February 12, 2024. Both certifying entities meet the definition of a qualified institution as defined in 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the Department of Labor's (DOL) Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA ("qualified institutions").

Plan amendment:

The Plan was restated effective April 1, 2024. The Plan was amended to include a provision for profit sharing contributions, increase the compensation deferral limit, and allow Roth elective deferrals and rollovers.

Contributions:

Each year, participants may contribute up to 80 percent of their compensation, as defined in the Plan. Participants who have attained the age of 50 before the end of the plan year are eligible to make catch-up contributions. Participants may also contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified defined benefit or defined contribution plans. Participants direct the investment of their contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan. The Plan includes an auto-enrollment provision whereby all newly eligible employees are automatically enrolled in the Plan unless they affirmatively elect not to participate in the Plan. Automatically enrolled participants have their deferral rate set at 3 percent of eligible compensation and their contributions invested in a designated balanced fund until changed by the participant. The Company contributes 50 percent of the first 6 percent of base compensation that a participant contributes to the Plan, which are made in the First Reliance Bancshares, Inc. unitized stock fund. During 2024, the Company made matching contributions in the amount of \$370,872. Additional profit-sharing amounts may be contributed at the option of the Company's board of directors. There was no discretionary profit-sharing contributions for the year ended December 31, 2024. Contributions are subject to certain Internal Revenue Service (IRS) limitations.

First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

Note 1. Description of the Plan, Continued

Participant accounts:

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions, Company contributions, and Plan earnings. Participant accounts are charged with an allocation of administrative expenses that are paid by the Plan. Allocations are based on participant earnings, account balances, or specific participant transactions, as defined. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

Vesting:

Participants are vested immediately in their voluntary contributions plus actual earnings thereon. Vesting in the Company's contribution portion of their accounts is based on years of continuous service. A participant is 100 percent vested after 2 years of credited service. Also, a participant will become 100 percent vested in his or her account balance on the date that he or she reaches the normal retirement age of 65 or becomes disabled or dies while still employed by the Bank even if he or she has not achieved 2 years of credited service.

Notes receivable from participants:

Participants may borrow from their accounts a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum equal to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50 percent of their vested account balance. The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's account. The loan interest rates range from 4.25 percent - 9.50 percent, as defined by the Plan. Principal and interest are paid ratably through payroll deductions.

Payment of benefits:

On termination of service, a participant may elect to receive an amount equal to the value of the participant's vested interest in his or her account in either a lump-sum amount or the installment options as provided by the Plan. Hardship distributions are permitted upon demonstration of financial hardship. All fully vested balances are available for distribution after the participant reaches the age of 59½.

Forfeited accounts:

At December 31, 2024 and 2023, forfeited nonvested accounts totaled \$47,758 and \$73,955, respectively. These accounts will be used to reduce future Company contributions or to reduce administrative expenses. During 2024, administrative expenses were reduced by \$32,099 from forfeited nonvested accounts.

Voting of Company stock:

Participants who are vested in the stock of the Company are allowed to exercise voting rights. Each participant is entitled to direct the Board of Directors of the Company to exercise voting rights attributable to shares of the Company's stock allocated to his or her account.

First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

Note 1. Description of the Plan, Continued

Put option:

Under federal income tax regulations, the Company stock that is held by the Plan and its participant 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. As of December 31, 2024, the Company has not repurchased any shares under the put option.

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 management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and changes therein. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

The Plan relies significantly on the use of estimates in determining the valuation of the ESOP portion of the Plan's investment in the Company's common stock. The financial statements include the Company's ESOP common stock valued at \$9.60 and \$8.47 per share at December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively. The ESOP portion of the stock's value has been estimated by management in the absence of a readily ascertainable market value. This estimate was based on a valuation completed by an independent outside appraiser. Because of the inherent subjectivity in any valuation, the estimated value may differ significantly from the value that would have been used had a ready market for the securities existed, and the difference could be material.

Contributions:

Contributions from Plan participants and the matching contributions from the Company are recorded in the year in which participant compensation is earned.

Investment valuation and income recognition:

Investments are reported at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The Plan's Investment Committee determines the Plan's valuation policies utilizing information provided by the investment advisors. See Note 4 for discussion of fair value measurements.

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

First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

Note 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, Continued

Notes receivable from participants:

Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Related fees are recorded as administrative expenses and are expensed when they are incurred.

Payment of benefits:

Benefits are recorded when paid.

Expenses:

Certain expenses of maintaining the Plan are paid directly by the Company and are excluded from these financial statements. Fees related to the administration of notes receivable from participants and other distributions to participants are charged directly to the participant's account and are included in administrative expenses. Investment related expenses are included in net appreciation in fair value of investments.

Subsequent events:

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

Recently issued accounting pronouncements:

Accounting standards that have been issued or proposed by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) or other standards-setting bodies are not expected to have a material impact on the Plan's financial statements.

Note 3. Qualified Institutions Certifications

The following is a summary of the Plan's asset information as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and for the year ended December 31, 2024, included throughout the Plan's financial statements and supplemental schedule, that was prepared by or derived from information provided by the qualified institutions and furnished to the plan administrator. The plan administrator has obtained certifications from the qualified institutions that the information provided to the plan administrator by the qualified institutions related to the following assets is complete and accurate. Accordingly, as permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA, the plan administrator instructed the Plan's independent auditors not to perform any auditing procedures with respect to information which appears throughout the financial statements and supplemental schedule related to the following assets:

First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

Note 3. Qualified Institutions Certifications, Continued

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Investments at fair value:		
Common trust fund	\$ 1,200,869	\$ 2,271,748
Common stock	1,204,801	1,126,963
Mutual funds	11,051,501	7,412,337
First Reliance Bancshares, Inc. unitized stock fund	2,919,134	2,940,967
Notes receivable from participants	315,558	402,254
Non-interest bearing cash	<u>7,739</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 16,699,602</u>	<u>\$ 14,154,269</u>

The qualified institutions also certified to the completeness and accuracy of \$1,651,145 of net appreciation in the fair value of investments and \$351,608 of interest and dividends, as well as \$19,454 of interest on notes receivable from participants for the year ended December 31, 2024.

Note 4. Fair Value Measurements

The framework for measuring fair value provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are described as follows:

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

Level 2: Inputs to the valuation methodology include:

- Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets;
- Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets;
- Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability; and
- Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.

If the asset or liability has a specified (contractual) term, the Level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

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

The asset or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques maximize the use of relevant 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 methodologies used at December 31, 2024 and 2023.

First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

Note 4. Fair Value Measurements, Continued

Common stock: The fair value of First Reliance Bancshares, Inc. common stock is determined by an independent valuation specialist utilizing both income and market approach. Factors considered in determining the fair market value include the nature and history of First Reliance Bancshares, Inc., the economic outlook for the banking industry, the Company's financial condition, projections of future earnings, the capacity to continue to pay dividends and previous sales of First Reliance Bancshares, Inc. common stock. Additionally, the prevailing market valuation multiples of selected publicly-traded banking organizations located in the Southeastern United States are also considered in the evaluation of fair value (see Note 8).

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.

Common trust fund: Valued at NAV. The NAV, as provided by the qualified institutions, is used as a practical expedient to estimate fair value. The NAV is based on the fair value of the underlying investments held by the fund less its liabilities. This practical expedient is not used when it is determined to be probable that the fund will sell the investment for an amount different than the reported NAV. Participant transactions (purchases and sales) may occur daily. Were the Plan to initiate a full redemption of the common trust fund, the investment advisor reserves the right to temporarily delay withdrawal from the trust in order to ensure that securities liquidation will be carried out in an orderly business manner.

Unitized stock fund: Valued at the closing price reported on the active market on which the individual securities are traded, plus the carrying value of the cash component of the fund, which approximates fair value.

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets:

	December 31, 2024			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
First Reliance Bancshares, Inc.				
Common stock	\$ -	\$ 1,204,801	\$ -	\$ 1,204,801
Unitized stock fund	-	2,919,134	-	2,919,134
Mutual funds	<u>11,051,501</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,051,501</u>
Total assets in the fair value hierarchy	<u>\$ 11,051,501</u>	<u>\$ 4,123,935</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>15,175,436</u>
Investments measured at NAV (a)				<u>1,200,869</u>
Investments at fair value				<u>\$ 16,376,305</u>

First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

Note 4. Fair Value Measurements, Continued

	December 31, 2023			Total
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	
First Reliance Bancshares, Inc.				
Common stock	\$ -	\$ 1,126,963	\$ -	\$ 1,126,963
Unitized stock fund	-	2,940,967	-	2,940,967
Mutual funds	<u>7,412,337</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,412,337</u>
Total assets in the fair value hierarchy	<u>\$ 7,412,337</u>	<u>\$ 4,067,930</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	11,480,267
Investments measured at NAV (a)				<u>2,271,748</u>
Investments at fair value				<u>\$ 13,752,015</u>

- (a) Certain investments that were measured at NAV per share or its equivalent have not been classified in the fair value hierarchy. The fair value amounts presented in this table are intended to permit reconciliation of the fair value hierarchy to the line items presented in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

The following table sets forth a summary of the Plan's investments reported at NAV as a practical expedient to estimate fair value:

	December 31, 2024			
	Fair Value	Unfunded Commitment	Redemption Frequency	Redemption Notice Period
Common trust funds	<u>\$ 1,200,869</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	Daily	None
	December 31, 2023			
	Fair Value	Unfunded Commitment	Redemption Frequency	Redemption Notice Period
Common trust funds	<u>\$ 2,271,748</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	Daily	None

Note 5. Concentrations

Financial instruments, which potentially subject the Plan to concentrations of credit risk, consist principally of investments in managed funds and in Common Stock of the Company. The Plan's Trustee offers a variety of funds so participants may diversify investments between separate funds in order to limit the amount of credit exposure to any one fund. The underlying assets owned by that fund collateralize each managed fund.

At December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Plan's assets included \$4,123,935 and \$4,067,930, respectively, in common stock and the unitized stock of the Company. This represents approximately 25 and 29 percent of total Plan assets at December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively, that are subject to fluctuation in the price of the Company's common stock.

First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

Note 6. Related-Party and Party in Interest Transactions

Certain Plan investments are invested with the Company as described in Note 5. This relationship is considered a party in interest. Certain Plan investments are managed by the qualified institutions as defined by the Plan and, therefore, these transactions also qualify as party in interest transactions. Fees incurred by the Plan for the investment management services are included in net appreciation in fair value of the investment, as they are paid through revenue sharing, rather than a direct payment. As described in Note 2, the Plan made direct payments to the third-party administrator totaling \$91,276 which were not covered by revenue sharing. The Company pays directly any other fees related to the Plan's operations.

Note 7. Plan Termination

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

Note 8. Company Stock

As an ESOP, the Plan investments include 125,631 and 131,501 shares of Company stock contributed by the Company as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively. The Company's common stock fund as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, totaled \$1,204,801 and \$1,126,963, respectively. The Company's legal counsel has determined that the Plan must comply with Section 401(a) 28 (c) of the Internal Revenue Code Section which provides that Company securities held by an ESOP are not considered to be readily tradable on an established securities market and must be valued by an independent appraiser. Company stock held by an ESOP is traded on the Over the Counter Bulletin Board, which does not meet the definition of "readily tradable" per the Code section. Therefore, the value of these shares has been estimated as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, by an independent valuation specialist and are disclosed as a Level 2 asset in the fair value disclosure at Note 4. Because of the inherent subjectivity in any valuation, the estimated value may differ significantly from the value that would have been used had a ready market for the securities existed as defined by the Code section. This difference could be material.

Each participant receiving a distribution of Company stock from the trust fund has the option to sell the Company stock to the Company, at any time during two option periods, at the current fair value as reflected in the most current independent valuation. The first option period runs for a period of 60 days commencing on the date of distribution of Company stock to the participant. The second option period runs for a period of 60 days commencing in the next plan year after the new determination of the fair value of Company stock by the Plan Administrator and notice to the participant of the new fair value. If a participant (or beneficiary) exercises his/her option, the Company has the option purchase the Company stock at fair value upon specific terms.

The Plan also contains a 401(k) provision, which allows participants to obtain Company stock through employer matching contributions. Plan assets include 409,404 and 460,195 units of the Company's unitized stock fund as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively, acquired by participants through employer matching contributions. The Company's unitized stock fund as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, consists of Company common stock totaling \$2,919,134 and \$2,940,967, respectively. Because these shares were acquired under the Plan's 401(k) provision, the Company's legal counsel has determined that they are not subject to the above code section. Therefore, these shares have been valued at the closing price on the active market on which they are traded, plus the carrying value of the cash component of the fund as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively, and are appropriately disclosed as a Level 2 asset in the fair value disclosure at Note 4.

First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

Note 9. Tax Status

The Company has adopted a pre-approved plan document that has received an opinion letter from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) dated June 30, 2020, stating that the Plan is qualified under the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) and, therefore, the related trust is exempt from taxation. Once qualified, the Plan is required to operate in conformity with the IRC to maintain its qualification. The Plan has been amended since receiving the determination letter. However, the Plan administrator believes that the Plan is currently designed, and being operated, in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC. Therefore, they believe that the Plan was qualified, and the related trust was tax-exempt as of the financial statement date.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require plan management to evaluate tax provisions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability if the organization 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 10. Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan invests in various investment securities, as well as the Company's Common Stock. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit risks. The Company's Common Stock is also exposed to these risks, as well as valuation assumptions based on earnings, cash flows and/or other such techniques (Note 4). Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities and the investment in the common stock, 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 2024 statement of net assets available for benefits.

Note 11. Subsequent Events

Effective January 1, 2025, the Plan allows participant directed investments from amounts attributable to Employer matching contributions. During April 2025, the Plan was amended to update the requirements for hardship distributions.

On January 21, 2025, the Compensation Committee approved a discretionary ESOP contribution of \$100,000. The contribution was made to the Plan during September 2025.

First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan

Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) EIN 58-2463842, Plan No. 001

As of December 31, 2024

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
	Identity of issue, borrower, lessor, or similar party	Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, and part or maturity value	Cost	Current Value
Investments at fair value:				
	American Funds	Small Cap Growth R6	**	\$ 29,390
	BlackRock	High Yield K	**	267,954
	Dodge & Cox	Income Fund X	**	307,824
	Dodge & Cox	International Stock CI 1	**	16,762
	Fidelity	Intl Growth Fund	**	268,163
	First American	Gov Oblig Z	**	10,661
*	First Reliance Bancshares Inc	Unitized Stock Fund	**	2,919,134
*	First Reliance Bancshares Inc	ESOP Common Stock	**	1,204,801
	Hartford	Dividend and Growth R6	**	344,621
	Janus Henderson	Enterprise 1	**	6,222
	Pimco	Gibl Advant Str Bd-Ins	**	160,171
	Putnam	Large Cap Growth Fund R6	**	3,044,366
*	Reliance Trust Company	Stable Value Fund - Metlife GAC Series 25053	**	1,200,869
	Undiscovered Managers	Behavioral Val R6	**	25,472
	Vanguard	500 Index Admiral	**	1,857,193
	Vanguard	Federal Money Market Investor	**	328,236
	Vanguard	Mid Cap Index Admiral	**	457,813
	Vanguard	Small Cap Index Admiral	**	607,277
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2020 Inv	**	50,209
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2025 Inv	**	469,586
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2030 Inv	**	407,969
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2035 Inv	**	370,939
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2040 Inv	**	499,063
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2045 Inv	**	506,262
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2050 Inv	**	387,834
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2055 Inv	**	200,257
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2060 Inv	**	138,059
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2065 Inv	**	27,729
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2070 Inv	**	12,826
	Vanguard	Target Retirement Income Inv	**	221,750
	Vanguard	Total Bond Market Index Adm	**	20
	Vanguard	Total Intl Stock Index Admiral	**	1,885
	Victory Sycamore	Established Value R6	**	24,988
				16,376,305
Participant Loans:				
*	Notes receivable from participants	4.25% - 9.50%		315,558
				\$ 16,691,863

* Indicates a party-in-interest to the Plan

** Cost information omitted due to participant-directed funds

First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan

Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) EIN 58-2463842, Plan No. 001

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