

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

2024

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

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

- A This return/report is for: a multiemployer plan, a multiple-employer plan, a single-employer plan, a DFE, etc.
B This return/report is: the first return/report, the final return/report, an amended return/report, a short plan year return/report, etc.
C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here.
D Check box if filing under: Form 5558, automatic extension, special extension, the DFVC program, etc.
E If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here.

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

1a Name of plan: THE SHIELD CO 401(K)
1b Three-digit plan number (PN): 001
1c Effective date of plan: 01/01/2022
2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan): THE SHIELD COMPANIES, LLC
2b Employer Identification Number (EIN): 83-3525958
2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number: 941-202-9595
2d Business code (see instructions): 561710

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Plan Sponsor	3b Administrator's EIN	
	3c Administrator's telephone number	
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name	4b EIN	
	4d PN	
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5	1051
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d). a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits..... c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits. f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.....	6a(1)	1046
	6a(2)	1659
	6b	0
	6c	35
	6d	1694
	6e	0
	6f	1694
	6g(1)	123
6g(2)	180	
6h	0	
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	7	

8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:
 2E 2F 2G 2J 2K 2T 3D 3H

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

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)	9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)
(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Insurance	(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Insurance
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust	(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor	(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor

10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

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

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

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

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

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

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2024 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2024 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code _____

<p style="text-align: center;">SCHEDULE A (Form 5500)</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</p> <hr/> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</p> <hr/> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</p>	<p>Insurance Information</p> <p>This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).</p> <p>▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.</p> <p>▶ Insurance companies are required to provide the information pursuant to ERISA section 103(a)(2).</p>	<p>OMB No. 1210-0110</p> <hr/> <p style="font-size: large;">2024</p> <hr/> <p>This Form is Open to Public Inspection</p>
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

<p>A Name of plan THE SHIELD CO 401(K)</p>	<p>B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶</p>	<p>001</p>
<p>C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 THE SHIELD COMPANIES, LLC</p>	<p>D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 83-3525958</p>	

Part I Information Concerning Insurance Contract Coverage, Fees, and Commissions Provide information for each contract on a separate Schedule A. Individual contracts grouped as a unit in Parts II and III can be reported on a single Schedule A.

1 Coverage Information:

(a) Name of insurance carrier
TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

(b) EIN	(c) NAIC code	(d) Contract or identification number	(e) Approximate number of persons covered at end of policy or contract year	Policy or contract year	
				(f) From	(g) To
36-6071399	70688	932573-147	1694	01/01/2024	12/31/2024

2 Insurance fee and commission information. Enter the total fees and total commissions paid. List in line 3 the agents, brokers, and other persons in descending order of the amount paid.

(a) Total amount of commissions paid	(b) Total amount of fees paid
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3 Persons receiving commissions and fees. (Complete as many entries as needed to report all persons).

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

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

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

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

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

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

Part II Investment and Annuity Contract Information
 Where individual contracts are provided, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

4 Current value of plan's interest under this contract in the general account at year end	4	0
5 Current value of plan's interest under this contract in separate accounts at year end.....	5	1540399

6 Contracts With Allocated Funds:

a State the basis of premium rates ▶

b Premiums paid to carrier	6b	0
c Premiums due but unpaid at the end of the year	6c	0
d If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, enter amount. Specify nature of costs ▶	6d	

e Type of contract: (1) individual policies (2) group deferred annuity
 (3) other (specify) ▶

f If contract purchased, in whole or in part, to distribute benefits from a terminating plan, check here ▶

7 Contracts With Unallocated Funds (Do not include portions of these contracts maintained in separate accounts)

a Type of contract: (1) deposit administration (2) immediate participation guarantee
 (3) guaranteed investment (4) other ▶ STABLE VALUE OPTION

b Balance at the end of the previous year **7b** 38370

c Additions: (1) Contributions deposited during the year	7c(1)	71034	
(2) Dividends and credits.....	7c(2)	0	
(3) Interest credited during the year.....	7c(3)	1454	
(4) Transferred from separate account	7c(4)	50102	
(5) Other (specify below).....	7c(5)	8685	

▶ CONVERSION ASSETS, EBA CREDITS, FORFEITURE CREDITS

(6) Total additions **7c(6)** 131275

d Total of balance and additions (add lines **7b** and **7c(6)**) **7d** 169645

e Deductions:

(1) Disbursed from fund to pay benefits or purchase annuities during year	7e(1)	10089	
(2) Administration charge made by carrier.....	7e(2)	310	
(3) Transferred to separate account	7e(3)	17048	
(4) Other (specify below).....	7e(4)	10634	

▶ FIDUCIARY FEE; ADMIN FEE; SERVICE FEE; FORFEITED AMT; DISTRIBUTION FEE; MANAGED ADVICE FEE; TPA ADMIN FEE

(5) Total deductions **7e(5)** 38081

f Balance at the end of the current year (subtract line **7e(5)** from line **7d**)..... **7f** 131564

Part III Welfare Benefit Contract Information
 If more than one contract covers the same group of employees of the same employer(s) or members of the same employee organizations(s), the information may be combined for reporting purposes if such contracts are experience-rated as a unit. Where contracts cover individual employees, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

8 Benefit and contract type (check all applicable boxes)

- a** Health (other than dental or vision)
- b** Dental
- c** Vision
- d** Life insurance
- e** Temporary disability (accident and sickness)
- f** Long-term disability
- g** Supplemental unemployment
- h** Prescription drug
- i** Stop loss (large deductible)
- j** HMO contract
- k** PPO contract
- l** Indemnity contract
- m** Other (specify) ▶

9 Experience-rated contracts:

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

10 Nonexperience-rated contracts:

a	Total premiums or subscription charges paid to carrier	10a	
b	If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, other than reported in Part I, line 2 above, report amount.	10b	

Specify nature of costs.

Part IV Provision of Information

11 Did the insurance company fail to provide any information necessary to complete Schedule A? Yes No

12 If the answer to line 11 is "Yes," specify the information not provided. ▶

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500) <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 THE SHIELD CO 401(K)	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 THE SHIELD COMPANIES, LLC	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 83-3525958	

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

TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE

36-6071399

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

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2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

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

GLOBAL RETIREMENT PARTNERS LLC

47-1411118

(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	INVESTMENT ADVISORY	8625	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)

DWC THE 401(K) EXPERTS

26-2091417

(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 64	TPA	7926	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	0	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INSURAN

36-6071399

(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 52 62 64 67	RECORDKEEPER	7852	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	0	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" 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

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(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.	OMB No. 1210-0110 <hr/> 2024 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning <u>01/01/2024</u> and ending <u>12/31/2024</u>	
A Name of plan <u>THE SHIELD CO 401(K)</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>THE SHIELD COMPANIES, LLC</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>83-3525958</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>STATE STREET S&P MD CP IDX RET ACCT</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INS CO</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>36-6071399-438</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>64211</u>
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>TA BLACKROCK LP IDX RTMENT RT ACCT</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INS CO</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>36-6071399-833</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>12837</u>
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>TA BLACKROCK LP INDEX 2025 RET ACCT</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INS CO</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>36-6071399-835</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>10682</u>
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>TA BLACKROCK LP INDEX 2030 RET ACCT</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INS CO</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>36-6071399-836</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>31853</u>
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>TA BLACKROCK LP INDEX 2035 RET ACCT</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INS CO</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>36-6071399-837</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>217824</u>
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>TA BLACKROCK LP INDEX 2040 RET ACCT</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INS CO</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>36-6071399-838</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>51669</u>
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>TA BLACKROCK LP INDEX 2045 RET ACCT</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INS CO</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>36-6071399-839</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>75728</u>

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: TA BLACKROCK LP INDEX 2050 RET ACCT		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INS CO		
c EIN-PN 36-6071399-840	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 49591
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: TA BLACKROCK LP INDEX 2055 RET ACCT		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INS CO		
c EIN-PN 36-6071399-841	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 100531
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: TA BLACKROCK LP INDEX 2060 RET ACCT		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INS CO		
c EIN-PN 36-6071399-842	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 69536
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: AMERICAN FUNDS NEW WORLD RET ACCT		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INS CO		
c EIN-PN 36-6071399-625	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 18390
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: TA VANGUARD TOTAL STOCK MKT IDX RT		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INS CO		
c EIN-PN 36-6071399-166	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 244202
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: BLACKROCK HIGH YIELD BOND RET ACCT		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INS CO		
c EIN-PN 36-6071399-219	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 41394
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: JANUS HENDERSON BALANCED RET ACCT		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INS CO		
c EIN-PN 36-6071399-227	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 9752
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: JPMORGAN LARGE CAP GROWTH RET ACCT		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INS CO		
c EIN-PN 36-6071399-580	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 111148
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: MFS VALUE RET ACCT		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INS CO		
c EIN-PN 36-6071399-710	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 36919
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: METROPOLITAN WEST TOTAL RTURN BD RT		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INS CO		
c EIN-PN 36-6071399-722	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 74922

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: DWS REAL ESTATE SEC RET ACCT		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INS CO		
c EIN-PN 83-1098532-026	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 34295
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: HARTFORD BALANCED INCOME RET ACCT		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INS CO		
c EIN-PN 36-6071399-880	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 7813
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: STATE STEET PRTN SERIES WITH TA AGG		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INS CO		
c EIN-PN 36-6071399-502	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 0
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: MACQUARIE MID CAP GROWTH RET ACCT		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INS CO		
c EIN-PN 83-1098532-115	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 53273
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: BLACKROCK MID-CAP GR EQ RET ACCT		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INS CO		
c EIN-PN 83-1098532-098	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 0
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: MFS INTL DIVERSIFICATION RET ACCT		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INS CO		
c EIN-PN 83-1098532-123	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 152770
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: AMERICAN CENTURY MD CP VAL RET ACCT		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INS CO		
c EIN-PN 83-1098532-194	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 16226
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: BLACKROCK ADV SM CP CORE RET ACCT		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INS CO		
c EIN-PN 83-1098532-195	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 40307
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: TRANSAMERICA LIFE GOAL 2065 WITH BLA		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INS CO		
c EIN-PN 83-1098532-403	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 356
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: JPMORGAN INVESTOR GROWTH RET ACCT		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INS CO		
c EIN-PN 83-1098532-551	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 14169

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 THE SHIELD CO 401(K)	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 THE SHIELD COMPANIES, LLC	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 83-3525958

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

	(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
Assets		
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a	
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):		
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)	
(3) Other	1b(3)	
c General investments:		
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)	
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)	
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):		
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)	
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)	
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):		
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)	
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)	
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)	
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)	
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)	
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)	
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)	1540399
(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)	131563
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts).....	1c(14)	
(15) Other.....	1c(15)	

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities.....	1d(1)		
(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	761502	1671962
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable.....	1g		
h Operating payables.....	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness.....	1i		
j Other liabilities.....	1j		
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j).....	1k	0	0
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f).....	1l	761502	1671962

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)	332307	
(B) Participants.....	2a(1)(B)	762313	
(C) Others (including rollovers).....	2a(1)(C)	26359	
(2) Noncash contributions.....	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A), (B), (C), and line 2a(2).....	2a(3)		1120979
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit).....	2b(1)(A)		
(B) U.S. Government securities.....	2b(1)(B)		
(C) Corporate debt instruments.....	2b(1)(C)		
(D) Loans (other than to participants).....	2b(1)(D)		
(E) Participant loans.....	2b(1)(E)		
(F) Other.....	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F).....	2b(1)(G)		0
(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)		
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A), (B), and (C).....	2b(2)(D)		0
(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)		
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B).....	2b(5)(C)		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts	2b(6)		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts	2b(7)		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		147767
c Other income	2c		
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		1268746

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	334524	
(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)		334524
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)	23762	
(2) Contract administrator fees	2i(2)		
(3) Recordkeeping fees	2i(3)		
(4) IQPA audit fees	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)		
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)		
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)		
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)		
(11) Other expenses	2i(11)		
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11)	2i(12)		23762
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		358286

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		910460
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: SCOTT MILLER CPA AND ASSOCIATES, PC

(2) EIN: 87-3523115

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		313052
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		76151
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.	OMB No. 1210-0110 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 THE SHIELD CO 401(K)	B Three-digit plan number (PN)	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 THE SHIELD COMPANIES, LLC	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 83-3525958	

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

1 Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions.....	1	0
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2 Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits):
 EIN(s): _____

Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.

3 Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year	3	
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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.)
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4 Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)? Yes No N/A
If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.

5 If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. **Date:** Month _____ Day _____ Year _____
If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.

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

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.
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10 Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan? Yes No

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

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

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

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that (1) contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year or (2) was one of the top-ten highest contributors (measured in dollars). See instructions. Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

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 Q702589A.

The Shield Co 401(k)

Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023



**SCOTT MILLER CPA
AND ASSOCIATES, P.C.**

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1013 W San Antonio St. Suite 104
Lockhart, TX 78644

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Administrative Committee of
The Shield Co 401(k)

Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit for the 2024 Financial Statements

We have performed an audit of the accompanying financial statements of The Shield Co 401(k) (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 Statement of Net Assets Available for Benefits as of December 31, 2024, 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 audit of the 2024 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 Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. As permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C), our audit 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 Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA (qualified institution).

Management has obtained a certification from a qualified institution as of December 31, 2024, and for the year ended December 31, 2024, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 5 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion on the 2024 Financial Statements

In our opinion, based on our audit and on the procedures performed as described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the 2024 Financial Statements section:

- the amounts and disclosures in the 2024 financial statements referred to above, 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.
- the information in the 2024 financial statements referred to above related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Basis for Opinion on the 2024 Financial Statements

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the 2024 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 audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our ERISA 103(a)(3)(C) audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the 2024 Financial Statements

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

Management is also responsible for maintaining a current plan instrument, including all plan amendments; administering the plan; and determining that the plan's transactions that are presented and disclosed in the financial statement 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 2024 Financial Statements

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit for the 2024 Financial Statements 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 generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are other 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 audit 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 2024 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 accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

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 accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

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

Other Matter - Supplemental Schedules Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedules of Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) and Schedule H, Line 4a - Schedule of Delinquent Participant Contributions are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements but are supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information included in the supplemental schedules, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. For information included in the supplemental schedules that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, we compared such information to the related certified investment information.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedules, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedules, other than the information agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, including their form and content, are presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion:

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

Other Matter - Report on Compiled 2023 Financial Statements

Plan management is responsible for the accompanying Statement of Net Assets Available for Benefits as of December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statement in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We have performed a compilation engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. We did not audit or review the financial statement, nor were we required to perform any procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by plan management. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion, a conclusion, nor provide any form of assurance on the 2023 financial statement.

*Scott Miller CPA
and Associates, P.C.*

Lockhart, Texas
October 14, 2025

The Shield Co 401(k)
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits
December 31, 2024 and 2023

	2024	(Compiled) 2023
Assets		
Investments, at fair value:		
Pooled separate accounts	\$ 1,540,399	\$ 723,131
Investments, at contract value:		
Fully benefit-responsive investment contract	131,563	38,371
Receivables:		
Participant contributions	2,892	-
Employer contributions	392,622	332,307
	395,514	332,307
Total assets	2,067,476	1,093,809
Liabilities	-	-
Net assets available for benefits	\$ 2,067,476	\$ 1,093,809

The Shield Co 401(k)
Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits
Year Ending December 31, 2024

Additions		
Contributions:		
Participant	\$	765,205
Employer		392,622
Rollover		<u>26,359</u>
		1,184,186
Investment income:		
Net appreciation in fair value of investments		146,278
Interest		<u>1,489</u>
		147,767
Total additions		<u>1,331,953</u>
Deductions		
Benefits paid to participants		334,524
Administrative expenses		<u>23,762</u>
Total deductions		<u>358,286</u>
Net increase		973,667
Net assets available for benefits:		
Beginning of year		<u>1,093,809</u>
End of year	\$	<u><u>2,067,476</u></u>

1. Description of Plan

The following description of the The Shield Co 401(k) (the Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the plan agreement for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering all eligible employees of The Shield Companies, LLC (the Employer) who have nine months of service and are at least 21 years of age. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA). Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company Inc. is the Plan's Insurer.

Contributions

Each year, participants may contribute up to 100 percent of annual compensation as pretax or Roth deferrals, as defined in the Plan and subject to certain Internal Revenue Service (IRS) limitations. Participants may also contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified defined benefit or defined contribution plans (rollover contributions). Participants direct the investment of their contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan.

The Employer has adopted a safe harbor matching contribution provision. The Employer matches 100 percent, up to 3 percent, and an additional 50 percent for the next 2 percent of eligible compensation that a participant contributes to the Plan. The Employer may make additional discretionary matching or nonelective contributions. The Employer did not make any discretionary contributions during the current year. During the year ended December 31, 2024, the Employer made total contributions of \$392,622.

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions, allocations of the Employer's 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 in the Plan. 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 contributions and the Employer's safe harbor contribution, plus actual earnings thereon. Vesting in the Employer's discretionary matching and nonelective contribution portion of their accounts is based on years of continuous service. A participant vests 20 percent each year until they become 100 percent vested after five years of credited service.

Payment of Benefits

Upon retirement, death, disability, attainment of age 59 ½ or termination of employment, a participant may elect to receive the vested balance in the participant's account in a lump sum, or it may be rolled into a different individual retirement account. Certain income tax penalties may apply to withdrawals or distributions prior to age 59 ½. The Employer is permitted to involuntarily cash-out and rollover terminated

participant account balances from the Plan and into an individual retirement account if they are \$5,000 or less.

Forfeited Accounts

At December 31, 2024, forfeited nonvested accounts totaled \$25. At December 31, 2023, there were no forfeited nonvested accounts. These accounts will be used to reduce future employer contributions or pay for plan expenses. For the 2024 year ended, forfeited nonvested accounts were used to pay for plan expenses of \$430.

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

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

Investments are reported at fair value (except for the fully benefit-responsive investment contract, which is reported at contract value). Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The Plan Sponsor determines the Plan's valuation policies utilizing information provided by the Insurer. See Note 3 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. Net appreciation includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

Payment of Benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

Administrative Expenses

Certain expenses of maintaining the Plan are paid by the Plan, unless otherwise paid by the Employer. Expenses that are paid by the Employer are excluded from these financial statements. Investment-related expenses are included in the net appreciation in fair value of investments.

Subsequent Events

The Plan has evaluated subsequent events through October 14, 2025, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

3. Fair Value Measurement

The framework for measuring fair value provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (level 3). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 820 are described as follows:

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

Level 2	Inputs to the valuation methodology include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets;• quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets;• inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability;• inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means. If the asset or liability has a specified (contractual) term, the level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.
---------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Level 3	Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.
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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 methodology used for assets measured at fair value. There has been no change in the methodology used at December 31, 2024 and 2023.

Pooled separate accounts: Valued at net asset value (NAV) of units held by the Plan as a practical expedient and reported by the Insurer. The NAV is based on the fair value of the underlying investments held by the pooled separate account, which are typically mutual funds or other marketable securities, less its liabilities, and then divided by the number of units outstanding. The NAV of pooled separate accounts are not publicly quoted in an active market. Pooled separate accounts held by the Plan may be redeemed at NAV daily without restriction.

All the Plan's investments measured at fair value have been valued using the NAV practical expedient, or its equivalent, and therefore have not been classified and reported within the fair value hierarchy.

4. Risks and Uncertainties

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

5. Certified Information

Certain information related to investments presented in the financial statements, accompanying notes to the financial statements, and supplemental Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) was certified as complete and accurate by Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company Inc., the Insurer of the Plan. As permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA, the plan administrator has instructed the Plan's independent auditors not to perform auditing procedures with respect to the certified information, except for comparing such information included in the financial statements and supplemental schedule.

The information certified by the Insurer includes the balances of investments held as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and related investment earnings for the year ended December 31, 2024.

6. Group Annuity Contract with Insurance Company

The Plan entered into a traditional fully benefit-responsive guaranteed investment contract with the Insurer totaling \$131,563 and \$38,371 for 2024 and 2023, respectively. The Insurer maintains the contributions in a general account. The account is credited with earnings on the underlying investments and charged for participant withdrawals and administrative expenses. The guaranteed investment contract issuer is contractually obligated to repay the principal and a specified interest rate that is guaranteed to the Plan. The crediting rate is based on a formula established by the contract issuer and is reviewed on a quarterly basis for resetting.

This contract meets the fully benefit-responsive investment contract criteria and therefore is reported at contract value. Contract value is the relevant measure for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts because this is the amount received by participants if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the Plan. Contract value, as reported to the Plan by the Insurer, represents contributions made under the contract, plus earnings, less participant withdrawals, and administrative expenses. Participants may ordinarily direct the withdrawal or transfer of all or a portion of their investment at contract value.

The Plan's ability to receive amounts due is dependent on the issuer's ability to meet its financial obligations. The issuer's ability to meet its contractual obligations may be affected by future economic and regulatory developments.

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

of the trust to qualify for exemption from federal income taxes or any required prohibited transaction exemption under ERISA, or (5) the premature termination of the contract. No events are probable of occurring that might limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value with the contract issuers and that also would limit the ability of the plan to transact at contract value with the participants.

7. Tax Status

The IRS has determined and informed the Employer by a letter dated June 30, 2020, that the Plan and related trust are designed in accordance with applicable sections of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). The plan administrator believes that the Plan is designed, and is currently being operated, in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC and, therefore, believe that the Plan is qualified, and the related trust is tax-exempt.

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

8. Plan Termination

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Employer 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 a Plan termination, participants would become 100 percent vested in their accounts.

9. Party-in-Interest Transactions

Certain Plan investments are managed by the Insurer of the Plan and, therefore, these transactions qualify as exempt party-in-interest transactions.

10. Delinquent Employee Deferral Transmittals

During 2024 and 2023, the Employer erroneously failed to remit certain employee deferrals to the Plan aggregating \$313,052 within the timeframe permitted by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations. Employee deferrals are included in plan assets and contributions receivable as reported in the financial statements. The Employer computed the lost earnings on \$310,159 of these deferrals and remitted a corrective contribution to affected participants of the Plan. The Employer is in the process of computing the lost earnings on \$2,893 of these deferrals and intends to remit a corrective contribution to affected participants of the Plan.

11. Reconciliation of Financial Statements to Form 5500

The following is a reconciliation of net assets available for benefits per the financial statements to the Form 5500 at December 31, 2024 and 2023:

		<u>2024</u>		<u>2023</u>
Net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	\$	2,067,476	\$	1,093,809
Participant contributions receivable		(2,892)		-
Employer contributions receivable		(392,622)		(332,307)
Net assets available for benefits per the Form 5500	\$	<u>1,671,962</u>	\$	<u>761,502</u>

The following is a reconciliation of the change in net assets available for benefits per the financial statements to the Form 5500 for the plan year ended December 31, 2024:

Net change in assets per the financial statements	\$	973,667
Current year accrued participant contributions		(2,892)
Current year accrued employer contributions		(392,622)
Prior year accrued employer contributions		<u>332,307</u>
Net change in assets per the Form 5500	\$	<u>910,460</u>

The Shield Co 401(k)
EIN #83-3525958, Plan #001
Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)
December 31, 2024

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor, or Similar Party	Description of Investment	Cost	Current Value	
Pooled Separate Accounts:				
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	State Street S&P Md Cap Indx Ret Acct	**	\$ 64,211
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	Transamerica LifeGoal Ret with BlackRck RetAct	**	12,837
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	Transamerica LifeGoal 2025 with BlackRck RetAct	**	10,682
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	Transamerica LifeGoal 2030 with BlackRck RetAct	**	31,853
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	Transamerica LifeGoal 2035 with BlkRck RetAct	**	217,824
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	Transamerica LifeGoal 2040 with BlkRck Ret Act	**	51,669
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	Transamerica LifeGoal 2045 with BlkRck Ret Acct	**	75,729
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	Transamerica LifeGoal 2050 with BlkRck Ret Acct	**	49,591
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	Transamerica LifeGoal 2055 with BlkRck Ret Acct	**	100,531
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	Transamerica LifeGoal 2060 with BlkRck Ret Acct	**	69,536
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	American Funds New World Ret Acct	**	18,390
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	TA Vanguard Total Stck Mrkt Index Ret Acct	**	244,202
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	BlackRock High Yield Portfolio Ret Acct	**	41,394
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	Janus Henderson Balanced Ret Acct	**	9,752
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	JPMorgan Lrg Cap Gr Ret Acct	**	111,148
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	MFS Value Ret Acct	**	36,919
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	TCW MetWest Total Return Bnd Ret Acct	**	74,922
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	DWS RREEF Real Estate Secs Ret Acct	**	34,295
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	Hartford Balanced Income Ret Acct	**	7,813
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	Macquarie Mid Cap Growth Ret Acct	**	53,273
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	MFS International Diversification Ret Acct	**	152,770
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	American Century Mid Cap Value Ret Acct	**	16,226
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	BlackRock Advantage Small Cap Core Ret Acct	**	40,307
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	Transamerica LifeGoal 2065 with BlackRck RetAcc	**	356
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	JPMorgan Investor Growth Ret Acct	**	14,169
		Total pooled separate accounts		1,540,399
Fully Benefit-Responsive Investment Contract:				
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	Transamerica Stable Value Core Account	**	131,563
				<u>\$ 1,671,962</u>

* Party-in-interest as defined by ERISA

** Cost information not applicable for participant or beneficiary directed assets

The Shield Co 401(k)

EIN #83-3525958, Plan #001

Schedule H, Line 4a - Schedule of Delinquent Participant Contributions

December 31, 2024

Participant Contributions Transferred Late to Plan Check here if Late Participant Loan Repayments Are Included:	Total that Constitute Nonexempt Prohibited Transactions			Total Fully Corrected Under VFCP and PTE 2002-51
	Contributions Not Corrected	Contributions Corrected Outside VFCP	Contributions Pending Correction in VFCP	
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 2,893	\$ 310,159	\$ -	\$ -

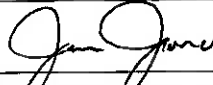
Form 5500 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the 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 <u>01/01/2024</u> and ending <u>12/31/2024</u>			
A	This return/report is for:	<input type="checkbox"/> a multiemployer plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a single-employer plan <input type="checkbox"/> the first return/report <input type="checkbox"/> an amended return/report	<input type="checkbox"/> a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.) <input type="checkbox"/> a DFE (specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> the final return/report <input type="checkbox"/> a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)
B	This return/report is:		
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"/> special extension (enter description)	<input type="checkbox"/> automatic extension <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 The Shield Co 401(k)	1b	Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
		1c	Effective date of plan 01/01/2022
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) The Shield Companies, LLC 275 E Rivulon Blvd, Suite 106 Gilbert AZ 85297	2b	Employer Identification Number (EIN) 83-3525958
		2c	Plan Sponsor's telephone number 941-202-9595
		2d	Business code (see instructions) 561710

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		10/15/2025	Jason Jonas
	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

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

The Shield Co 401(k)
EIN #83-3525958, Plan #001
Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)
December 31, 2024

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor, or Similar Party	Description of Investment	Cost	Current Value	
Pooled Separate Accounts:				
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	State Street S&P Md Cap Indx Ret Acct	**	\$ 64,211
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	Transamerica LifeGoal Ret with BlackRck RetAct	**	12,837
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	Transamerica LifeGoal 2025 with BlackRck RetAct	**	10,682
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	Transamerica LifeGoal 2030 with BlackRck RetAct	**	31,853
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	Transamerica LifeGoal 2035 with BlkRck RetAct	**	217,824
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	Transamerica LifeGoal 2040 with BlkRck Ret Act	**	51,669
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	Transamerica LifeGoal 2045 with BlkRck Ret Acct	**	75,729
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	Transamerica LifeGoal 2050 with BlkRck Ret Acct	**	49,591
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	Transamerica LifeGoal 2055 with BlkRck Ret Acct	**	100,531
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	Transamerica LifeGoal 2060 with BlkRck Ret Acct	**	69,536
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	American Funds New World Ret Acct	**	18,390
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	TA Vanguard Total Stck Mrkt Index Ret Acct	**	244,202
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	BlackRock High Yield Portfolio Ret Acct	**	41,394
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	Janus Henderson Balanced Ret Acct	**	9,752
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	JPMorgan Lrg Cap Gr Ret Acct	**	111,148
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	MFS Value Ret Acct	**	36,919
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	TCW MetWest Total Return Bnd Ret Acct	**	74,922
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	DWS RREEF Real Estate Secs Ret Acct	**	34,295
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	Hartford Balanced Income Ret Acct	**	7,813
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	Macquarie Mid Cap Growth Ret Acct	**	53,273
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	MFS International Diversification Ret Acct	**	152,770
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	American Century Mid Cap Value Ret Acct	**	16,226
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	BlackRock Advantage Small Cap Core Ret Acct	**	40,307
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	Transamerica LifeGoal 2065 with BlackRck RetAcc	**	356
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	JPMorgan Investor Growth Ret Acct	**	14,169
		Total pooled separate accounts		1,540,399
Fully Benefit-Responsive Investment Contract:				
*	Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	Transamerica Stable Value Core Account	**	131,563
				<u>\$ 1,671,962</u>

* Party-in-interest as defined by ERISA

** Cost information not applicable for participant or beneficiary directed assets