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

2025

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

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

B This return/report is:
- [ ] the first return/report
- [ ] the final return/report
- [ ] an amended return/report
- [ ] a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)

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

D Check box if filing under:
- [X] Form 5558
- [ ] automatic extension
- [ ] the DFVC program
- [ ] special extension (enter description)

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

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

1a Name of plan
A. J. KIRKWOOD & ASSOCIATES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 003

1c Effective date of plan 01/01/2001

2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan)
Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box)
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions)
A.J. KIRKWOOD & ASSOCIATES, INC.

4300 N. HARBOR BLVD.
FULLERTON, CA 92835

2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) 33-0707710

2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number 714-505-1977

2d Business code (see instructions) 238210

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

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

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/15/2026	MICHAEL HEWSON
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

3a	Plan administrator's name and address [X] Same as Plan Sponsor	**3b**	Administrator's EIN
		3c	Administrator's telephone number
4	If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report:	**4b**	EIN
a	Sponsor's name	**4d**	PN
c	Plan Name		

5	Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	**5**	629
6	Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines **6a(1), 6a(2), 6b, 6c,** and **6d**).		
a(1)	Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year	**6a(1)**	259
a(2)	Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year	**6a(2)**	239
b	Retired or separated participants receiving benefits	**6b**	0
c	Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits	**6c**	220
d	Subtotal. Add lines **6a(2)**, **6b**, and **6c**.	**6d**	459
e	Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits.	**6e**	0
f	Total. Add lines **6d** and **6e**.	**6f**	459
g(1)	Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g(1)**	621
g(2)	Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g(2)**	459
h	Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.	**6h**	13
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 Characteristic Codes in the instructions:

2E 2P 2Q

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

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

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

a Pension Schedules

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

b General Schedules

- **(1)** [X] **H** (Financial Information)
- **(2)** [ ] **I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
- **(3)** [ ] **A** (Insurance Information) – Number Attached 0
- **(4)** [X] **C** (Service Provider Information)
- **(5)** [ ] **D** (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
- **(6)** [ ] **G** (Financial Transaction Schedules)

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

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

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

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

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2025 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2025 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code_____

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500)	Service Provider Information	OMB No. 1210-0110
Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	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.**	**2025** **This Form is Open to Public Inspection.**

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

A Name of plan
A. J. KIRKWOOD & ASSOCIATES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 003

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
A.J. KIRKWOOD & ASSOCIATES, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
33-0707710

Part I Service Provider Information (see instructions)

You must complete this Part, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information required for **each person** who received, directly or indirectly, $5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of monetary value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or the person's position with the plan during the plan year. If a person received **only** eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures, you are required to answer line 1 but are not required to include that person when completing the remainder of this Part.

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

a Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions).. . . . . ☐ Yes ☒ No

b If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

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

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

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

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

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

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

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

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

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

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

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

(complete as many entries as needed)

a Name:

b EIN:

c Position:

d Address:

e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:

b EIN:

c Position:

d Address:

e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:

b EIN:

c Position:

d Address:

e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:

b EIN:

c Position:

d Address:

e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:

b EIN:

c Position:

d Address:

e Telephone:

Explanation:

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

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.**

OMB No. 1210-0110

2025

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

A Name of plan
A. J. KIRKWOOD & ASSOCIATES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 003

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
A.J. KIRKWOOD & ASSOCIATES, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
33-0707710

Part I Asset and Liability Statement

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

Assets		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a	786680	576010
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	27812	0
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)	0	0
(3) Other	1b(3)	14474	0
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)	0	0
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)	0	0
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)	0	0
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)	0	0
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)	0	0
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)	0	0
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)	0	0
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)	0	0
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)	0	0
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	0	0
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)	0	0
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)	0	0
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)	0	0
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)	0	0
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	0	0
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)	0	0
(15) Other	1c(15)	0	0

		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
1d Employer-related investments:			
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)	23073598	25144630
(2) Employer real property	1d(2)	0	0
1e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e	0	0
1f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	23902564	25720640
Liabilities			
1g Benefit claims payable	1g	809807	566391
1h Operating payables	1h	0	0
1i Acquisition indebtedness	1i	0	0
1j Other liabilities	1j	0	0
1k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through1j)	1k	809807	566391
Net Assets			
1l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	23092757	25154249

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)	2978917	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	0	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	0	
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)	0	
(3) Total contributions. Add lines **2a(1)(A), (B), (C),** and line **2a(2)**	2a(3)		2978917
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)	0	
(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)	0	
(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)	0	
(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)	0	
(E) Participant loans	2b(1)(E)	0	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)	0	
(G) Total interest. Add lines **2b(1)(A)** through **(F)**	2b(1)(G)		0
(2) Dividends: **(A)** Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)	0	
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)	0	
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)	0	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines **2b(2)(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**	2b(2)(D)		0
(3) Rents	2b(3)		0
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: **(A)** Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)	0	
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)	0	
(C) Subtract line **2b(4)(B)** from line **2b(4)(A)** and enter result	2b(4)(C)		0
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: **(A)** Real estate	2b(5)(A)	0	
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)	1287354	
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines **2b(5)(A)** and **(B)**	2b(5)(C)		1287354

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts	2b(6)		0
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts	2b(7)		0
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts	2b(8)		0
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities	2b(9)		0
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		0
c Other income	2c		0
d Total income. Add all **income** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		4266271
Expenses			
e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	2197284	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits	2e(2)	0	
(3) Other	2e(3)	0	
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines **2e(1)** through **(3)**	2e(4)		2197284
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		0
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		0
h Interest expense	2h		0
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)	0	
(2) Contract administrator fees	2i(2)	0	
(3) Recordkeeping fees	2i(3)	7495	
(4) IQPA audit fees	2i(4)	0	
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)	0	
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)	0	
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)	0	
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)	0	
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)	0	
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)	0	
(11) Other expenses	2i(11)	0	
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines **2i(1)** through **(11)**	2i(12)		7495
j Total expenses. Add all **expense** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		2204779
Net Income and Reconciliation			
k Net income (loss). Subtract line **2j** from line **2d**	2k		2061492
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		

Part III Accountant's Opinion

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

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

(1) [X] Unmodified **(2)** [ ] Qualified **(3)** [ ] Disclaimer **(4)** [ ] Adverse

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

(1) [X] DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 **(2)** [ ] DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d) **(3)** [ ] neither DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 nor DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d).

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

(1) Name: FRAZER, LLP **(2)** EIN: 95-4108809

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** as part of Schedule H because:

(1) [ ] This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, DCG or MTIA. **(2)** [ ] It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l. DCGs do not complete lines 4e, 4f, 4k, 4l, and 5, and DCGs generally complete the rest of Part IV collectively for all plans in the DCG, except as otherwise provided (see instructions).

During the plan year:

		Yes	No	Amount
a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)	**4a**		X	
b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)	**4b**		X	
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)	**4c**		X	
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)	**4d**		X	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	**4e**	X		500000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?	**4f**		X	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	**4g**		X	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	**4h**		X	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	**4i**	X		
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)	**4j**		X	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?	**4k**		X	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?	**4l**		X	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)	**4m**		X	
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.	**4n**			

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? [ ] Yes [X] No

If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year _____.

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

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

5c Was the plan a defined benefit plan covered under the PBGC insurance program at any time during this plan year? (See ERISA section 4021 and instructions.) ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not determined

If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year _____.

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

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

2025

This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

A Name of plan
A. J. KIRKWOOD & ASSOCIATES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 003

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
A.J. KIRKWOOD & ASSOCIATES, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
33-0707710

Part I Distributions

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

1 Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions ..... | 1 | 0

2 Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits):

EIN(s): 20-0978479 33-6134835

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

3 Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year ..... | 3 |

Part II Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part.)

4 Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)? ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.

5 If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. **Date:** Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.

6 a	Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)	6a	
b	Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year	6b	
c	Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount)	6c	

If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.

7 Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline? ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

8 If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change? ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Part III Amendments

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

Part IV ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.

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

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

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

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

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

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

a Name of contributing employer

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

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

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify):

---

a Name of contributing employer

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

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

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

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

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

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

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

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

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

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

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

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

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

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

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

14 Enter the number of deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for:

a The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: ☐ last contributing employer ☐ alternative ☐ reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment)	**14a**	
b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	**14b**	
c The second preceding plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	**14c**	

15 Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:

a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	**15a**	
b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	**15b**	

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

a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year	**16a**	
b If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers	**16b**	

17 If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment ☐

Part VI Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

18 If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment ☐

19 If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) and (b):

a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:
Public Equity: _____% Private Equity: _____% Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: _____%
High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Assets: _____% Cash or Cash Equivalents: _____% Other: _____%

b Provide the average duration of the Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets:
☐ 0-5 years ☐ 5-10 years ☐ 10-15 years ☐ 15 years or more

20 **PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements.** If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20.

a Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box:

☐ Yes.

☐ No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. Other. Provide explanation._____

Part VII IRS Compliance Questions

21a Does the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination tests of Code sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) by combining this plan with any other plans under the permissive aggregation rules? ☐ Yes ☒ No

21b If this is a Code section 401(k) plan, check all boxes that apply to indicate how the plan is intended to satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals and employer matching contributions (as applicable) under Code sections 401(k)(3) and 401(m)(2).

☐ Design-based safe harbor method

☐ "Prior year" ADP test

☐ "Current year" ADP test

☒ N/A

22 If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved plan that received a favorable IRS Opinion Letter, enter the date of the Opinion Letter 06 / 30 / 2020 (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number Q702317A .

A.J. KIRKWOOD & ASSOCIATES, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

December 31, 2025 and 2024
Financial Statements
and
Supplemental Schedule
with
Independent Auditors' Report

A.J. KIRKWOOD & ASSOCIATES, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

December 31, 2025 and 2024

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Trustees of
A.J. Kirkwood & Associates, Inc.
Employee Stock Ownership Plan
Fullerton, California

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of A.J. Kirkwood & Associates, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan (the "Plan"), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), which comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2025 and 2024, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of A.J. Kirkwood & Associates, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan as of December 31, 2025 and 2024, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

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

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

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

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

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with 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:

2400 E. Katella Ave., Suite 900 | Anaheim, CA 92806 | Office: 714.990.1040 | Fax: 714.671.1041 | www.frazerllp.com

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

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

Supplemental Schedules Required by ERISA

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The supplemental schedule of Schedule H, line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at Year End) is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.

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

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

Frazer, LLP

Anaheim, California

October 14, 2026

A.J. KIRKWOOD & ASSOCIATES, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2025 AND 2024

	2025			2024		
	Allocated	Unallocated	Total	Allocated	Unallocated	Total
Assets						
Cash	$ 74,092	$ 22,484	$ 96,576	$ -	$ -	$ -
Contribution receivable	-	-	-	19,159	23,128	42,287
Investment in common stock of A.J. Kirkwood & Associates, Inc., at fair market value	25,144,631	1,798,557	26,943,188	23,073,598	2,445,777	25,519,375
Total assets	$ 25,218,723	$ 1,821,041	$ 27,039,764	$ 23,092,757	$ 2,468,905	$ 25,561,662
Liabilities						
Note payable	$ -	$ 766,050	$ 766,050	$ -	$ 1,065,605	$ 1,065,605
Cash overdraft	-	-	-	-	23,128	23,128
Excess contribution	-	22,484	22,484	-	-	-
Taxes payable	64,474	-	64,474	-	-	-
Total liabilities	$ 64,474	$ 788,534	$ 853,008	$ -	$ 1,088,733	$ 1,088,733
Net assets available for benefits	$ 25,154,249	$ 1,032,507	$ 26,186,756	$ 23,092,757	$ 1,380,172	$ 24,472,929

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

A.J. KIRKWOOD & ASSOCIATES, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025

	2025		
	Allocated	Unallocated	Total
Additions			
Net appreciation in fair market value of A.J. Kirkwood & Associates, Inc. common stock	$ 1,287,355	$ 136,458	$ 1,423,813
Contributions Received	2,195,238	360,000	2,555,238
Allocation of 3,454 shares of common stock of A.J. Kirkwood & Associates, Inc. at fair market value	783,678	-	783,678
Total additions	4,266,271	496,458	4,762,729
Deductions			
Benefits paid to participants	2,187,627	-	2,187,627
Interest expense	-	60,445	60,445
Other expense	17,152	-	17,152
Allocation of 3,454 shares of common stock of A.J. Kirkwood & Associates, Inc. at fair market value	-	783,678	783,678
Total deductions	2,204,779	844,123	3,048,902
Net increase (decrease)	2,061,492	(347,665)	1,713,827
Net assets available for benefits			
Beginning of year	23,092,757	1,380,172	24,472,929
End of year	$ 25,154,249	$ 1,032,507	$ 26,186,756

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

Note 1 – Description of plan

The following description of the A.J. Kirkwood & Associates, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan (the "ESOP" or "Plan") provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The ESOP was established by A.J. Kirkwood & Associates, Inc. (the "Company") as of January 1, 2001, to enable eligible employees to share in the Company's growth and accumulate a beneficial ownership interest in its stock. The Plan was most recently amended and restated effective January 1, 2022. The plan operates as a leveraged plan and is subject to the applicable provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 as amended (ERISA). The ESOP is administered by the Company.

The Plan purchased 100% of common stock of the Company from its previous owner through issuance of a note payable to the previous owner (see Note 5) and holds the stock in a trust established under the Plan. The borrowing may be repaid by tax-deductible Company contributions. As the Plan makes each payment, an appropriate percentage of stock will be allocated to eligible employees' accounts in accordance with applicable regulations under the Internal Revenue Code ("IRC"). The borrowing is collateralized by the unallocated shares of the Company's common stock. The lender has no rights against shares once they are allocated under the Plan. Accordingly, the financial statements of the Plan present separately the assets and liabilities and changes therein pertaining to (a) the accounts of employees with vested rights in allocated stock (allocated), and (b) stock not yet allocated to employees (unallocated).

Eligibility

The ESOP covers all eligible employees of the Company, with exclusion of any collectively bargained employees, non-resident aliens who receive no compensation from the Company which constitutes U.S. sourced income and leased employees. Employees must be at least 21 years of age and complete at least One Year of Service with at least 1,000 hours during a computation period as defined in the Plan Document to be eligible employees.

Participant accounts and forfeitures

The ESOP is a defined contribution plan under which two separate individual accounts are established for each participant, a Company Stock Account kept in number of shares of the Company's common stock, and an Other Investments Account kept in dollars and cents. Each participant's Company Stock Account is credited as of the last day of each plan year with an allocation of the Company's common stock released by the trustee from the unallocated account. Each participant's Other Investments Account is credited with their share of net income (or loss) of the Trust, with any cash dividends and with Employer contributions and forfeitures in cash. Only those participants who are eligible employees as of the last day of the plan year will receive an allocation. Allocations are based on the ratio of the individual participant's Covered Compensation relative to the Covered Compensation of all Participants in the Plan. Forfeitures of terminated non-vested account balances are reallocated among the remaining participants accounts in the same way as Company contributions. For the year ended December 31, 2025, 1,343 forfeited shares of terminated non-vested shares were reallocated, and there is no non-vested share balance as of December 31, 2025.

Note 1 – Description of plan (continued)

Vesting

Vesting in the Company's contributions is based on years of continuous service as follows:

YEARS OF SERVICE	VESTED PERCENTAGE
Less than two years	0%
Two years	20%
Three years	40%
Four years	60%
Five years	80%
Six or more years	100%

Contribution and contribution receivable

Contributions by the employer are made at the discretion of the Company's Board of Directors for the purpose of enabling the participants to acquire an ownership interest in the Company to the extent that they are available. Generally, contributions are made annually for the purpose of debt service and repurchases of stock from terminated participants. Contributions by the participants are neither required nor permitted. The Plan does not accept rollovers from another qualified retirement plan or an individual retirement account.

Payment of benefits

Upon termination of service, the value of the participants vested interest in their account will be distributed or begin to be distributed at the time and in the manner as specified by the ESOP plan document. In determining the value of the participant's vested interest in their account, the shares of Company stock held are valued at fair market value as determined annually based on an independent appraisal, based on the value of your account as of the preceding valuation date, which is the last day of each plan year.

Put option

Under Federal income tax regulations if the employer stock, that is held by the Plan and its participants, is not readily tradable on an established market, or is subject to trading limitations, the participant has the right to exercise a put option. The put option is a right to demand that the Company buy any shares of its stock distributed to participants at the stock's current fair market value. The Plan's put option will permit the participant or beneficiary to sell their stock within 60 days after distribution or within 60 days following the Plan's year end. The purpose of the put option is to ensure that the participant has the ability to ultimately obtain cash.

Voting rights

Each participant or beneficiary shall have the right to direct how the trustee will vote the shares of the Company's stock allocated to that participant's account on certain corporate matters requiring a shareholder vote. The trustee shall vote any unallocated shares held by the Plan.

Note 1 – Description of plan (continued)

Diversification

Diversification is offered to participants who are at least age 55 with at least 10 years of participation in the ESOP. Any diversification election must be made in writing within 90 days following the end of the Plan Year.

Additionally, on June 4, 2025, the Plan was retroactively amended to allow participants who were at least age 55 and had completed at least 5 years of participation to elect diversification for Plan Years 2018 through 2021. This retroactive amendment was adopted in connection with the Plan's submission to the IRS Voluntary Correction Program (VCP) to correct an operational failure in applying the diversification rules for those years.

Plan termination

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right to amend or terminate the ESOP at any time in the future. Upon such termination of the ESOP, all employees affected by the termination will become 100% vested in their account balances regardless of the Plan's current vesting schedule.

Note 2 – Summary of significant accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The accompanying financial statements are prepared under the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires the Plan Sponsor to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. The Plan Sponsor believes that the estimates utilized in preparing its financial statements are reasonable and prudent. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Valuation of investments

The common shares of the Company are valued at fair market value. The fair market value of the shares of the Company's common stock is determined annually at the end of the Plan Year by an independent appraisal. The difference between the fair market value of the shares of the Company's stock at the beginning of the year and at the end of the year are reflected as net appreciation (depreciation) on assets in the Statement of Changes in Net assets Available for Benefits.

The appraisal was based upon a combination of the market and income valuation techniques. The appraiser took into account historical and projected cash flow and net income, return on assets, return on equity, market comparables where applicable, and estimated fair market value of the Company's assets and liabilities. See Note 3 for discussion of fair value measurements.

Note 2 – Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

Valuation of investments (continued)

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

Payment of benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

Operating expenses

All expenses of maintaining the ESOP are paid by the Plan Sponsor and are excluded from these financial statements. Certain administrative functions are performed by officers or employees of the Company. No such officer or employee receives compensation from the Plan.

Note 3 – Fair value measurements

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

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

Level 2 Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, such as:

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

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

Note 3 – Fair value measurements (continued)

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

The fair value of the shares of the Company's common stock is determined annually after the Plan's year by an independent appraisal under professional standards of valuation based on the Company's industrial and economic data. Input to value the common stock of the Company is unobservable.

The following table below sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets at fair value as of December 31, 2025 and 2024:

2025	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Company's common stock	$ -	$ -	$ 26,943,188	$ 26,943,188
Total	$ -	$ -	$ 26,943,188	$ 26,943,188

2024	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Company's common stock	$ -	$ -	$ 25,519,375	$ 25,519,375
Total	$ -	$ -	$ 25,519,375	$ 25,519,375

The changes in the fair value of the Plan's assets using level 3 inputs is as follows:

Investment		Company common stock
Balance at December 31, 2023	$	26,874,313
Net depreciation in fair market value		(1,354,938)
Balance at December 31, 2024		25,519,375
Net appreciation in fair market value		1,423,813
Balance at December 31, 2025	$	26,943,188

Note 4 – Investment concentration

The following presents the Plan's investment in the Company's common stock, which represents 100% concentration of the Plan's net assets available for benefits at December 31, 2025 and 2024:

	2025		2024	
	Allocated	Unallocated	Allocated	Unallocated
Number of Shares	110,823	7,927	107,369	11,381
Cost	$ 6,550,625	$ 468,556	$ 6,346,463	$ 672,718
Market	$ 25,144,631	$ 1,798,557	$ 23,073,598	$ 2,445,777

The cost of the shares represents the value of the Company's common stock when the note payable was refinanced in 2014; see note 5.

Note 5 – Note payable

The original note with which the Plan purchased the shares of the Company from the former shareholder was refinanced and revised as of December 1, 2014. The refinanced note had a principal amount of $2,912,827, annual interest rate of 6.5%, annual payments of 360,000 and a maturity day in April 2028. The refinanced note payable was collateralized by the Plan's 49,279 shares of unallocated shares of the Company's common stock at the time. As of December 31, 2025, 7,927 shares of unallocated shares were pledged to the balance of the note payable. Interest expense for the year ended December 31, 2025 amounted to $60,445.

Scheduled principal repayments on the term loan are as follows:

Year Ending December 31:	
2026	319,617
2027	341,023
2028	105,410
Total	$ 766,050

Note 6 – Deferred vested benefits

The Plan has adopted a distribution policy that defers benefit payments to terminated employees who have over $10,000 of vested interests in their Company Stock Account and Other Investments Account, for a maximum period of five years. Total deferred vested benefits amounted to $3,132,184 and $3,564,438 as of December 31, 2025 and 2024; these amounts are not recognized as benefits payable on the statements of net assets available for benefits, as benefits are recorded when paid according to the Plan's accounting policy, see note 2.

Note 7 - Party-in-interest transactions

The Plan invests in the Company's common stock and the shares of stock allocated to the Plan's participants were purchased with the proceeds with the loan payable discussed in Note 5. During the year, the Company also made excess contributions of $22,484 to the Plan. These transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions.

Note 8 – Tax status

The Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") has determined and informed the Plan by a letter dated May 11, 2017, that the Plan and related trust are designed in accordance with applicable sections of the IRC. The Plan is not amended since and the Administrator believes that the Plan is currently designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC. Therefore, no provision for income taxes has been included in the Plan's financial statements.

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.

Note 9 – Administration of plan assets

The ESOP's assets, which consist of the Company's common shares, are held by the Trustee of the Plan. Company contributions are held and managed by the Trustee, which makes debt service payments and distributions to participants.

Note 10 - Risks and uncertainties

The Plan investments consist of the Company's common stock, which is exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market, and credit risks, as well as valuation assumptions based on earnings, cash flows, and other such techniques. Due to the level of risk associated with the investment in the common stock and to uncertainties inherent in the estimations and assumptions process, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the value of the common stock will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the Statement of Net Assets Available for Benefits.

Note 11 – Subsequent events

Plan management has evaluated subsequent events for recognition or disclosure through October 14, 2026, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued. There were no subsequent events that require adjustment or disclosure in the financial statements.

Note 12 – Reconciliation of financial statements to form 5500

The following is a reconciliation of net assets for benefits per the financial statements at December 31, 2025 and 2024 to the Form 5500:

	2025	2024
Net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	$ 26,186,756	$ 24,472,929
Less: Unallocated net assets	(1,032,507)	(1,380,172)
Net assets available for benefits per the Form 5500	$ 25,154,249	$ 23,092,757

The following is a reconciliation of the change in net assets available for benefits per the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2025 to the Form 5500:

	2025
Net increase to net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	$ 1,713,827
Add: Net increase to net assets available for benefits, unallocated	347,665
Net income per the Form 5500	$ 2,061,492

A.J. KIRKWOOD & ASSOCIATES, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
PLAN NUMBER 003
EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 33-0707710

SCHEDULE H, LINE 4i - SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR)
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2025

(a)	(b) Identity of issue, borrower, lessor, or similar party	(c) Description of investment	(d) Cost	(e) Current value
*	A.J. Kirkwood & Associates, Inc.	Common stock	$ 7,019,181	$ 26,943,188

* Represents a party-in-interest to the Plan.

Docusign Envelope ID: 3FF41998-F97C-89CC-81D3-89CFC4283D0B

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

2025

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

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

B This return/report is:
- ☐ the first return/report
- ☐ the final return/report
- ☐ an amended return/report
- ☐ a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)

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

D Check box if filing under:
- ☒ Form 5558
- ☐ automatic extension
- ☐ the DFVC program
- ☐ special extension (enter description)

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

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

1a Name of plan
A. J. KIRKWOOD & ASSOCIATES, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 003

1c Effective date of plan 01/01/2001

2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan)
Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box)
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions)

A.J. Kirkwood & Associates, Inc.

4300 N. Harbor Blvd.

Fullerton CA 92835

2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) 33-0707710

2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number 714-505-1977

2d Business code (see instructions) 238210

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	Michael Hewson	9/24/2026	Michael Hewson
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

3a Plan administrator's name and address [X] Same as Plan Sponsor

3b Administrator's EIN

3c Administrator's telephone number

4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report:

a Sponsor's name

4b EIN

c Plan Name

4d PN

5	Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	**5**	629
6	Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines **6a(1), 6a(2), 6b, 6c,** and **6d**).		
a(1)	Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year	**6a(1)**	259
a(2)	Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year	**6a(2)**	239
b	Retired or separated participants receiving benefits	**6b**	0
c	Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits	**6c**	220
d	Subtotal. Add lines **6a(2)**, **6b**, and **6c**.	**6d**	459
e	Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits.	**6e**	0
f	Total. Add lines **6d** and **6e**.	**6f**	459
g(1)	Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g(1)**	621
g(2)	Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g(2)**	459
h	Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	**6h**	13
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 Characteristic Codes in the instructions:
2E 2P 2Q

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

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)

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

9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)

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

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

a Pension Schedules

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

b General Schedules

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

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

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

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

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

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2025 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2025 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_____

A.J. KIRKWOOD & ASSOCIATES, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
PLAN NUMBER 003
EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 33-0707710

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