State of Minnesota

Office of the State Auditor

Julie Blaha
State Auditor

Audit Practice Division

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Annual Financial Report and
Management and Compliance Report

Year Ended December 31, 2023

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

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Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

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Introductory Section

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Organization
December 31, 2023

			Term Expires
Elected			
Commissioners			
Chair	DeWayne Severson	District 1	January 2025
Vice Chair	Eric Johnson	District 2	January 2027
Board Member	Robert Burns	District 3	January 2025
Board Member	Robert Schuldt	District 4	January 2027
Board Member	Greg Myhre	District 5	January 2025
Attorney	Samuel Jandt		January 2027
Recorder	Mary Betz		January 2027
Sheriff	Brian Swedberg		January 2027
Appointed			
Assessor	Luke Onstad		December 2024
Auditor/Treasurer – Interim	Polly Heberlein		January 2027
Coroner	Mayo Medical Examiner		Indefinite
Court Administrator	Darlene Larson		Indefinite
County Engineer	Brian Pogodzinski		April 2025
County Administrator – Interim/Finance Director	Carol Lapham		December 2023 Indefinite
Public Health/Human Services Director	John Pugleasa		Indefinite
Veterans Service Officer	Robert Thoen		January 2024

Financial Section

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Julie Blaha
State Auditor

Office of the State Auditor

Suite 500
525 Park Street
Saint Paul, MN 55103

Independent Auditor's Report

Board of County Commissioners
Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Houston County, Minnesota, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements, as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Houston County as of December 31, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the County, 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 audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these 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 County's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. 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 auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America

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and *Government 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 auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and *Government 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 County'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; and

- conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the County'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.

Required Supplementary Information
Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Management's Discussion and Analysis, Budgetary Comparison Schedules for the General Fund and each major special revenue fund, Schedule of Changes in Total OPEB Liability and Related Ratios – Other Postemployment Benefits, PERA retirement plan schedules, and Notes to the Required Supplementary Information be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary Information
Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise Houston County's basic financial statements. The Debt Service Fund Budgetary Comparison Schedule, combining statements for custodial funds, Schedule of Intergovernmental Revenue, and Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and related notes, as required by Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. 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 basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the Supplementary Information as identified above is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 9, 2025, on our consideration of Houston County's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of Houston County's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Houston County's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

/s/Julie Blaha

Julie Blaha
State Auditor

/s/Chad Struss

Chad Struss, CPA
Deputy State Auditor

April 9, 2025

Management's Discussion and Analysis

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Management's Discussion and Analysis
December 31, 2023
(Unaudited)

The Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) provides an overview of the County's financial activities for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023. Since this information is designed to focus on current year activities, resulting changes, and currently known facts, it should be read in conjunction with the County's financial statements.

Financial Highlights

- Governmental activities' total net position is $90,484,824, of which $78,451,850 is the net investment in capital assets, and $6,913,728 is restricted to specific purposes.

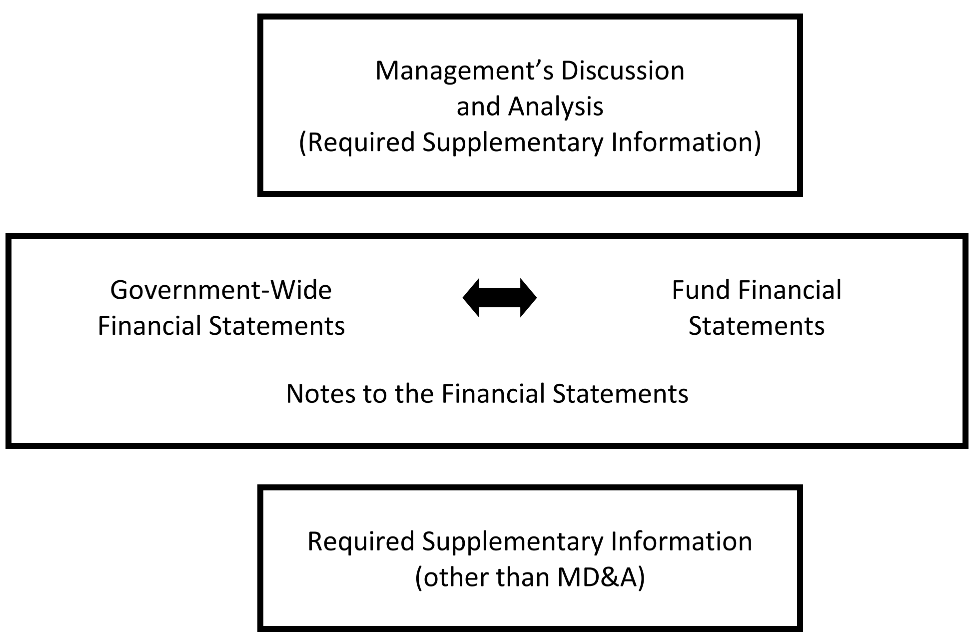
- Houston County's net position increased by $1,951,849 for the year ended December 31, 2023.

- The net cost of governmental activities for the current fiscal year was $14,641,545. The net cost was funded by general revenues, including taxes and grants.

- Governmental funds' fund balances increased by $855,524.

Overview of the Financial Statements

This MD&A is intended to serve as an introduction to the basic financial statements. Houston County's basic financial statements consist of three parts: government-wide financial statements, fund financial statements, and notes to the financial statements. The MD&A (this section), certain budgetary comparison schedules, and information on the County's other postemployment benefits (OPEB) and net pension liability are required to accompany the basic financial statements and, therefore, are included as required supplementary information. The following chart demonstrates how the different pieces are interrelated.



There are two government-wide financial statements. The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities (Exhibits 1 and 2) provide information about the activities of the County as a whole and present a longer-term view of the County's finances. Government-wide financial statements start on page 12. For governmental activities, these statements tell how these services were financed in the short term as well as what remains for future spending. Fund financial statements also report the County's operations in more detail than the government-wide statements by providing information about the County's most significant funds. The remaining statements provide financial information about activities for which the County acts solely as an agent for the benefit of those outside of the government.

Government-Wide Financial Statements—The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities

Our analysis of the County as a whole is shown on Exhibits 1 and 2. The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities report information about the County as a whole and about its activities in a way that helps the reader determine whether the County's financial condition has improved or declined as a result of the year's activities. These statements include all assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources using the full accrual basis of accounting, which is similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are taken into account regardless of when cash is received or paid.

These two statements report the County's net position and changes in them. You can think of the County's net position—the difference between assets and deferred outflows of resources from liabilities and deferred inflows of resources—as one way to measure the County's financial health or financial position. Over time, increases or decreases in the County's net position are one indicator of whether its financial health is improving or deteriorating. You will need to consider other nonfinancial factors, however, such as changes in the County's property tax base and the condition of County roads, to assess the overall health of the County.

The Statement of Activities presents information showing how the County's net position changed during the year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will result in cash flows only in future years. The activities of Houston County are presented as governmental activities because they are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues. The County's basic services are reported here, including general government, public safety, transportation, sanitation, human services, health, culture and recreation, conservation of natural resources, and economic development.

Fund Financial Statements

Our analysis of the County's major funds begins on page 15. The fund financial statements provide detailed information about the significant funds—not the County as a whole. Some funds are required to be established by state law. However, the County Board establishes some funds to help it control and manage money for a particular purpose or to show that it is meeting legal responsibilities for using certain taxes, grants, and other money.

The County's basic services are reported in governmental funds, which focus on how money flows into and out of those funds and the balances left at year-end that are available for spending. These funds are reported using an accounting method called modified accrual accounting. This method measures cash and all other financial assets that can be readily converted to cash. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed short-term view of the County's general government operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps you determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the County's programs. We describe the relationship (or differences) between governmental activities (reported in the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities) and governmental funds in a reconciliation following each governmental fund financial statement.

Reporting the County's Fiduciary Responsibilities

The County is the trustee, or fiduciary, over assets that can be used only by other governments, nonprofits, or individuals. All of the County's fiduciary activities are reported in a separate Statement of Fiduciary Net Position. We exclude these activities from the County's other financial statements because the County cannot use these assets to finance its operations.

The County as a Whole

The County's net position increased $1,951,849 from $88,532,975 to $90,484,824.

Table 1
Statement of Net Position
(in Millions)

	2023	2022
Assets		
Current and other assets	$ 23.5	$ 21.0
Capital assets	91.1	92.7
Total Assets	$ 114.6	$ 113.7
Deferred outflows of resources		
Deferred pension/OPEB outflows	$ 4.6	$ 6.2
Deferred charge on refunding	0.4	0.5
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	$ 5.0	$ 6.7
Liabilities		
Long-term liabilities	$ 22.0	$ 29.0
Other liabilities	1.7	2.5
Total Liabilities	$ 23.7	$ 31.5
Deferred inflows of resources		
Deferred pension/OPEB inflows	$ 5.4	$ 0.4
Net Position		
Net investment in capital assets	$ 78.5	$ 78.9
Restricted	6.9	2.5
Unrestricted	5.1	7.1
Total Net Position	$ 90.5	$ 88.5

Net position of the County's governmental activities increased by 2.2 percent ($90,484,824 compared to $88,532,975).

Table 2
Changes in Net Position
(in Millions)

	2023	2022
Revenues		
Program revenues		
Fees, charges, fines, and other	$ 3.7	$ 2.7
Operating grants and contributions	11.2	11.4
Capital grants and contributions	1.7	1.6
General revenues		
Property taxes	12.9	12.6
Other taxes and payments in lieu of taxes	0.6	0.6
Grants and contributions	2.4	2.9
Other general revenues	0.7	0.2
Total Revenues	$ 33.2	$ 32.0
Expenses		
General government	$ 5.9	$ 6.3
Public safety	5.7	5.6
Highways and streets	9.6	9.7
Human services	6.7	6.6
Health	0.7	0.7
Sanitation	1.1	1.1
Culture and recreation	0.4	0.4
Conservation of natural resources	0.4	0.4
Economic development	0.4	0.2
Interest	0.3	0.4
Total Expenses	$ 31.2	$ 31.4
Increase (Decrease) in Net Position	$ 2.0	$ 0.6
Net Position – January 1	88.5	87.9
Net Position – December 31	$ 90.5	$ 88.5

Governmental Activities

The cost of all governmental activities this year was $31,299,429. However, as shown in the Statement of Activities, the amount that the taxpayers ultimately financed for these activities through County property taxes was only $14,641,545, because some of the cost was paid by those who directly benefited from the programs ($3,770,331) or by other governments and organizations that subsidized certain programs with grants and contributions ($12,887,553). The County paid for the remaining “public benefit” portion of governmental activities with $16,593,394 in general revenues, primarily property taxes and other revenues, such as interest and general entitlements, resulting in an increase to net position of $1,951,849.

Table 3 presents the cost of each of the County’s four largest program functions, as well as each function’s net cost (total cost, less revenues generated by the activities). The net cost shows the financial burden that was placed on the County’s taxpayers by each of these functions.

Table 3
Governmental Activities
(in Millions)

	Total Cost of Services		Net Cost (Revenue) of Services	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Highways and streets	$ 9.6	$ 9.7	$ 2.3	$ 1.6
Human services	6.7	6.6	2.0	2.5
General government	5.9	6.3	5.1	5.6
Public safety	5.7	5.6	4.1	4.5

Financial Analysis of the County's Funds

As noted earlier, Houston County uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. The focus of the County's funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of spendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the County's financing requirements. In particular, unrestricted fund balance may serve as a useful measure of a county's net resources available for spending at the end of the year.

At December 31, 2023, Houston County's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of $18,028,134, an increase of $855,524 in comparison with 2022. The County is reporting an unassigned fund balance of $6,756,563 in 2023. The remainder of fund balance is nonspendable, restricted, committed, or assigned to indicate that it is not available for new spending because it has already been restricted, committed, assigned, or is nonspendable.

The General Fund is the chief operating fund of Houston County. At December 31, 2023, unassigned fund balance was $6,756,563, while total fund balance was $8,164,798. As a measure of the General Fund's liquidity, it may be useful to compare both unassigned fund balance and total fund balance to total fund expenditures. Unassigned fund balance represents 49.0 percent of total General Fund expenditures, while total fund balance represents 59.3 percent of the same amount. While the 2023 General Fund final budget reflected a $280,464 deficit, the General Fund ended the year with an increase of $362,685 to fund balance. The General Fund December 31, 2023, fund balance of $8,164,798 increased from the 2022 restated balance of $7,802,113.

The Road and Bridge Special Revenue Fund's fund balance increased by $147,179 to $5,427,278, of which all but $666,111 is assigned. The increase in fund balance is a result of a planned use of fund balance for the 2023 budget of $500,000, but only using $244,347, and a delay in purchasing the 2023 budgeted snowplow equipment in the amount of $372,453, which nets to an increase of fund balance of $128,106.

The Health and Human Services Special Revenue Fund's fund balance increased by $351,048 to $2,222,938, of which $1,837,386 is assigned and $385,552 is restricted. The increase in fund balance is the result of a net source of funds from Health and Human Services including restricted funds for Opioid Settlement of $33,399, restricted funds for Local Homeless Prevention Aid of $46,242, restricted funds for Statewide Affordable Housing Aid of $96,037, restricted funds for MA Eligibility State Funds of $75,310, and assigned funds of $100,060 for payroll amount levied but not used.

The Debt Service Fund's fund balance of $1,866,222 is an increase of $81,741 over the 2022 fund balance of $1,784,481. Debt service is levied one year in advance at 105 percent of debt service requirements for the upcoming year's principal and interest payments, resulting in an increase of fund balance.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

Houston County revised its General Fund budget during 2023, increasing expected revenues by 3.1 percent and increasing appropriations by 2.9 percent, respectively. For the year ended December 31, 2023, expenditures were more than the final budget by $1,175,469.

Capital Assets and Debt Administration

Capital Assets

At the end of 2023, the County had $91,099,805 invested in a broad range of capital assets, including land, buildings, highways and streets, and equipment. (See Table 4.) This amount represents a net decrease (including additions and deductions) of $1,553,951, or 1.7 percent, over last year. More detailed information about the County's capital assets can be found in Note 2 of the financial statements.

Table 4
Capital Assets at Year-End
(Net of Depreciation, in Millions)

	2023	2022
Land	$ 4.2	$ 4.2
Construction in progress	0.2	0.1
Buildings and improvements	21.7	21.3
Machinery, furniture, and equipment	3.2	3.4
Infrastructure	61.2	63.2
Lease assets	0.6	0.5
Totals	$ 91.1	$ 92.7

Long-Term Debt

At the end of the current fiscal year, the County had total general obligation bonds outstanding in the amount of $12,509,087 as shown in Table 5. More detailed information about the County's long-term liabilities is presented in Note 2 to the financial statements.

Table 5
Outstanding Debt at Year-End
(in Millions)

	2023	2022
G.O. bonds	$ 12.5	$ 13.8

Other obligations include loans payable, leases, compensated absences, pension benefits, and other postemployment benefits.

Economic Factors and Next Year's Budgets and Rates

The County's elected and appointed officials considered many factors when setting the fiscal year 2024 budget, tax rates, and fees that will be charged for the government-type activities.

- The unemployment rate in Houston County decreased, moving from 2.28 percent in 2022 to 2.5 percent in 2023 for the annual average. This is lower than the U.S. average of 3.65 percent and lower than the 2023 Minnesota rate of 2.81 percent.

- County General Fund expenditures for 2024 are budgeted to increase 9.7 percent from the 2023 level.

- Houston County's population decreased by 3.5 percent from 2022 (19,253) to 2023 (18,582), compared to an increase of 8.1 percent in Minnesota as a whole. Citizens aged 65+ comprise 24.2 percent of the County's population.

- The property tax levy increased by seven percent for 2024.

- During 2024, Houston County will continue to review a space utilization study funded with ARPA to possibly renovate spaces or relocate office suites to increase efficiency. The study encompassed the Historic Courthouse, the Community Services Building, and the County Justice Center. This review will also include analyzing the organizational structure aiming to streamline operations and increase efficiency. The County Board of Commissioners have addressed and will continue to analyze the need for reinstating the County Administrator position. The County Board of Commissioners will also be considering the repurposing or demolition of the Historic Jail and the use of the insurance settlement following the 2014 damage to the unoccupied building that occurred when the sprinkler system malfunctioned. In addition, the Houston County Historical Society has expressed an interest in the building, therefore, the County Board will be assessing the options available to transfer or lease the building out. The County Jail operations will continue at status quo for 2024 despite the elimination of the Winona County contract for housing prisoners. A committee will meet regularly to analyze possible changes to the operations. This includes researching the possibility of creating a juvenile holding facility. County operations and funding were affected by the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic and will continue into 2024 with the award of ARPA funding.

Contacting Houston County's Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, customers, investors, and creditors with a general overview of the County's finances and to show the County's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report, or need additional financial information, contact the County Finance Director, Carol Lapham, Houston County Courthouse, 304 South Marshall Street, Caledonia, Minnesota 55921.

Basic Financial Statements

Government-Wide Financial Statements

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Exhibit 1

Statement of Net Position
Governmental Activities
December 31, 2023

Assets		
Cash and pooled investments	$	11,874,389
Petty cash and change funds		17,160
Investments		5,051,356
Taxes receivable		
Delinquent		129,388
Accounts receivable – net		83,209
Accrued interest receivable		88,469
Loans receivable		345,147
Due from other governments		5,186,885
Inventories		666,111
Prepaid items		9,740
Capital assets		
Non-depreciable or amortizable		4,405,482
Depreciable or amortizable – net of accumulated depreciation and amortization		86,694,323
Total Assets	**$**	**114,551,659**
Deferred Outflows of Resources		
Deferred charge on refunding	$	395,117
Deferred other postemployment benefits outflows		56,113
Deferred pension outflows		4,593,046
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	**$**	**5,044,276**
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	$	273,360
Salaries payable		444,912
Contracts payable		28,617
Due to other governments		133,280
Accrued interest payable		131,298
Unearned revenue		664,565
Customer deposits		46,744
Long-term liabilities		
Due within one year		1,513,645
Due in more than one year		13,007,527
Other postemployment benefits liability		460,151
Net pension liability		7,039,509
Total Liabilities	**$**	**23,743,608**
Deferred Inflows of Resources		
Deferred other postemployment benefits inflows	$	144,900
Deferred pension inflows		5,222,603
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	**$**	**5,367,503**

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Exhibit 1
(Continued)

Statement of Net Position
Governmental Activities
December 31, 2023

Net Position

Net investment in capital assets	$	78,451,850
Restricted for		
General government		328,729
Public safety		1,069,766
Debt service		1,866,222
Health and human services		385,552
Highways and streets		2,928,279
Economic development		335,180
Unrestricted		5,119,246
Total Net Position	**$**	**90,484,824**

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Exhibit 2

Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Expenses	Program Revenues: Fees, Charges, Fines, and Other	Program Revenues: Operating Grants and Contributions	Program Revenues: Capital Grants and Contributions	Net (Expense) Revenues and Change in Net Position
Functions/Programs					
Primary government					
Governmental activities					
General government	$ 5,858,093	$ 366,431	$ 359,519	$ -	$ (5,132,143)
Public safety	5,748,742	739,974	887,784	-	(4,120,984)
Highways and streets	9,626,597	327,170	5,361,126	1,634,474	(2,303,827)
Sanitation	1,070,703	693,394	165,295	-	(212,014)
Human services	6,730,541	1,295,081	3,438,800	-	(1,996,660)
Health	741,369	75,486	511,021	-	(154,862)
Culture and recreation	446,761	79,722	2,291	-	(364,748)
Conservation of natural resources	374,964	1,307	181,236	-	(192,421)
Economic development	376,253	191,766	325,407	20,600	161,520
Interest	325,406	-	-	-	(325,406)
Total Governmental Activities	**$ 31,299,429**	**$ 3,770,331**	**$ 11,232,479**	**$ 1,655,074**	**$ (14,641,545)**

General Revenues	
Property taxes	$ 12,864,982
Mortgage registry and deed tax	17,626
Wheelage tax	197,592
Payments in lieu of tax	413,839
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs	2,370,299
Unrestricted investment earnings	544,211
Miscellaneous	184,845
Total general revenues	**$ 16,593,394**
Change in net position	**$ 1,951,849**
Net Position – Beginning	**88,532,975**
Net Position – Ending	**$ 90,484,824**

Fund Financial Statements

Governmental Funds

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Balance Sheet
Governmental Funds
December 31, 2023

	General	Road and Bridge
Assets		
Cash and pooled investments	$ 7,228,404	$ 2,159,785
Petty cash and change funds	17,060	100
Investments	1,818,012	1,493,344
Taxes receivable		
Delinquent	74,555	20,140
Accounts receivable – net	36,062	1,202
Loans receivable	-	-
Accrued interest receivable	61,831	5,675
Due from other funds	893	-
Due from other governments	465,832	4,227,811
Prepaid expense	9,740	-
Inventories	-	666,111
Total Assets	**$ 9,712,389**	**$ 8,574,168**
Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	$ 82,553	$ 25,390
Salaries payable	239,861	61,903
Contracts payable	14,625	13,992
Due to other funds	-	-
Due to other governments	42,136	55,569
Unearned revenue	664,565	-
Customer deposits	46,744	-
Total Liabilities	**$ 1,090,484**	**$ 156,854**
Deferred Inflows of Resources		
Unavailable revenue	**$ 457,107**	**$ 2,990,036**

Health and Human Services	Debt Service	Nonmajor Economic Development Authority Special Revenue Fund	Total
$ 291,113	$ 1,859,907	$ 335,180	$ 11,874,389
-	-	-	17,160
1,740,000	-	-	5,051,356
21,106	13,587	-	129,388
45,945	-	-	83,209
-	-	345,147	345,147
20,963	-	-	88,469
-	-	-	893
493,242	-	-	5,186,885
-	-	-	9,740
-	-	-	666,111
$ 2,612,369	**$ 1,873,494**	**$ 680,327**	**$ 23,452,747**
$ 165,417	$ -	$ -	$ 273,360
143,148	-	-	444,912
-	-	-	28,617
893	-	-	893
35,575	-	-	133,280
-	-	-	664,565
-	-	-	46,744
$ 345,033	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 1,592,371**
$ 44,398	**$ 7,272**	**$ 333,429**	**$ 3,832,242**

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Balance Sheet
Governmental Funds
December 31, 2023

	General	Road and Bridge
Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances (Continued)		
Fund Balances		
Nonspendable		
Prepaid items	$ 9,740	$ -
Inventories	-	666,111
Restricted for		
Debt service	-	-
Recorder's technology equipment	188,450	-
Recorder's compliance	129,977	-
E-911	561,167	-
Next generation 911 aid	46,557	-
Public safety aid	231,333	-
Economic development loans	-	-
Conceal and carry	219,026	-
Sheriff's DUI forfeiture	11,683	-
Attorney's forfeited property	10,302	-
Opioid settlement	-	-
Medical assistance renewal aid	-	-
Homeless prevention aid	-	-
Affordable housing aid	-	-
Assigned		
Road and bridge	-	4,761,167
Human services	-	-
Unassigned	6,756,563	-
Total Fund Balances	**$ 8,164,798**	**$ 5,427,278**
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances	**$ 9,712,389**	**$ 8,574,168**

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Exhibit 3
(Continued)

Health and Human Services	Debt Service	Nonmajor Economic Development Authority Special Revenue Fund	Total
$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 9,740
-	-	-	666,111
-	1,866,222	-	1,866,222
-	-	-	188,450
-	-	-	129,977
-	-	-	561,167
-	-	-	46,557
-	-	-	231,333
-	-	346,898	346,898
-	-	-	219,026
-	-	-	11,683
-	-	-	10,302
167,963	-	-	167,963
75,310	-	-	75,310
46,242	-	-	46,242
96,037	-	-	96,037
-	-	-	4,761,167
1,837,386	-	-	1,837,386
-	-	-	6,756,563
$ 2,222,938	**$ 1,866,222**	**$ 346,898**	**$ 18,028,134**
$ 2,612,369	**$ 1,873,494**	**$ 680,327**	**$ 23,452,747**

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Exhibit 4

Reconciliation of Governmental Funds Balance Sheet to the Government-Wide Statement of Net Position—Governmental Activities For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Fund balances – total governmental funds (Exhibit 3)		**$ 18,028,134**
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position are different because:		
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and amortization, used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds.		91,099,805
Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current period expenditures and, therefore, are deferred in the governmental funds.		3,832,242
Deferred outflows of resources resulting from pension and other postemployment benefits liabilities are not available resources and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds.		4,649,159
Deferred outflows of resources resulting from debt refundings are not reported in the governmental funds.		395,117
Long-term liabilities, including bonds payable, are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds.		
Loans payable	$ (37,885)	
Leases payable	(533,986)	
Bonds payable	(12,015,000)	
Bond premium	(494,087)	
Accrued interest payable	(131,298)	
Net pension liability	(7,039,509)	
Other postemployment benefits liability	(460,151)	
Compensated absences	(1,440,214)	(22,152,130)
Deferred inflows of resources resulting from pension and other postemployment benefits liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds.		(5,367,503)
Net Position of Governmental Activities (Exhibit 1)		**$ 90,484,824**

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance
Governmental Funds
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	General	Road and Bridge
Revenues		
Taxes	$ 7,483,985	$ 2,191,054
Licenses and permits	88,116	4,195
Intergovernmental	3,959,661	5,177,414
Charges for services	1,781,735	320,859
Fines and forfeits	2,342	-
Gifts and contributions	6,505	-
Investment earnings	468,131	45,954
Miscellaneous	227,288	2,734
Total Revenues	**$ 14,017,763**	**$ 7,742,210**
Expenditures		
Current		
General government	$ 6,208,003	$ -
Public safety	5,056,306	-
Highways and streets	-	7,493,434
Sanitation	1,046,967	-
Human services	-	-
Health	22,000	-
Culture and recreation	259,392	-
Conservation of natural resources	375,586	-
Economic development	546,661	-
Intergovernmental		
Highways and streets	-	299,065
Culture and recreation	189,697	-
Debt service		
Principal	67,213	85,671
Interest	6,778	6,722
Administrative (fiscal) charges	-	-
Total Expenditures	**$ 13,778,603**	**$ 7,884,892**
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	**$ 239,160**	**$ (142,682)**
Other Financing Sources (Uses)		
Issuance of leases	$ 123,525	$ 163,597
Proceeds from sale of capital assets	-	63,219
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	**$ 123,525**	**$ 226,816**

Exhibit 5

Health and Human Services	Debt Service	Nonmajor Economic Development Authority Special Revenue Fund	Total
$ 2,088,362	$ 1,330,216	$ -	$ 13,093,617
-	-	-	92,311
4,319,538	266,803	-	13,723,416
781,208	-	-	2,883,802
-	-	-	2,342
-	-	-	6,505
30,126	-	-	544,211
586,718	-	75,591	892,331
$ 7,805,952	**$ 1,597,019**	**$ 75,591**	**$ 31,238,535**
$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 6,208,003
-	-	-	5,056,306
-	-	-	7,493,434
-	-	-	1,046,967
6,743,064	-	-	6,743,064
707,474	-	-	729,474
-	-	-	259,392
-	-	-	375,586
-	-	150,000	696,661
-	-	-	299,065
-	-	-	189,697
4,250	1,155,000	11,834	1,323,968
116	354,353	886	368,855
-	5,925	-	5,925
$ 7,454,904	**$ 1,515,278**	**$ 162,720**	**$ 30,796,397**
$ 351,048	**$ 81,741**	**$ (87,129)**	**$ 442,138**
$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 287,122
-	-	-	63,219
$ -	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 350,341**

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance
Governmental Funds
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	General	Road and Bridge
Net Change in Fund Balance	**$ 362,685**	**$ 84,134**
Fund Balance – Beginning, as previously reported	$ 8,236,140	$ 5,280,099
Prior period adjustment (Note 1)	(434,027)	-
Fund Balance – Beginning, as restated	**$ 7,802,113**	**$ 5,280,099**
Increase (decrease) in inventories	**$ -**	**$ 63,045**
Fund Balance – December 31	**$ 8,164,798**	**$ 5,427,278**

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Exhibit 5
(Continued)

Health and Human Services		Debt Service		Nonmajor Economic Development Authority Special Revenue Fund		Total	
$	**351,048**	**$**	**81,741**	**$**	**(87,129)**	**$**	**792,479**
$	1,871,890	$	1,784,481	$	-	$	17,172,610
	-		-		434,027		-
$	**1,871,890**	**$**	**1,784,481**	**$**	**434,027**	**$**	**17,172,610**
$	**-**	**$**	**-**	**$**	**-**	**$**	**63,045**
$	**2,222,938**	**$**	**1,866,222**	**$**	**346,898**	**$**	**18,028,134**

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Exhibit 6

Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance of Governmental Funds to the Government-Wide Statement of Activities—Governmental Activities
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Net change in fund balance – total governmental funds (Exhibit 5)		**$ 792,479**
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:		
In the funds, under the modified accrual basis, receivables not available for expenditure are deferred. In the statement of activities, those revenues are recognized when earned. The adjustment to revenue between the fund statements and the statement of activities is the increase or decrease in revenue deferred as unavailable.		
Deferred inflows of resources – December 31	$ 3,832,242	
Deferred inflows of resources – January 1	(1,571,601)	2,260,641
Governmental funds report capital outlay as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation or amortization expense. Also, in the statement of activities, only the gain or loss on the disposal of assets is reported; whereas, in the governmental funds, the proceeds from the sale increase financial resources. Therefore, the change in net position differs from the change in fund balance by the net book value of the assets sold.		
Expenditures for general capital assets and infrastructure	$ 2,166,473	
Net book value of assets disposed	(136,452)	
Current year depreciation and amortization	(3,583,972)	(1,553,951)
Issuing long-term debt provides current financial resources to governmental funds, while the repayment of debt consumes current financial resources. Neither transaction, however, has any effect on net position. Also, governmental funds report the net effect of issuance costs, premiums, discounts, and similar items when debt is first issued; whereas, those amounts are deferred and amortized over the life of the debt in the statement of net position.		
Proceeds of new debt		
Leases issued	$ (287,122)	
Principal repayments		
General obligation bonds	1,155,000	
Loans	11,834	
Leases	157,134	
Current year amortization of premiums	90,123	1,126,969
Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds.		
Change in compensated absences	$ (131,734)	
Change in accrued interest payable	15,696	
Change in net pension liability	5,921,748	
Change in other postemployment benefits liability	95,436	
Change in deferred outflows of resources	(1,662,760)	
Change in deferred inflows of resources	(4,975,720)	
Change in inventories	63,045	(674,289)
Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities (Exhibit 2)		**$ 1,951,849**

Fiduciary Funds

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Exhibit 7

Statement of Fiduciary Net Position
Fiduciary Funds
December 31, 2023

		Custodial Funds
Assets		
Cash and pooled investments	$	1,674,711
Investments		430,592
Taxes receivable for other governments		213,633
Interest receivable		152
Due from other governments		70,933
Total Assets	**$**	**2,390,021**
Liabilities		
Due to other governments	**$**	**322,454**
Deferred Inflows of Resources		
Prepaid taxes	**$**	**87,602**
Net Position		
Restricted for individuals, organizations, and other governments	**$**	**1,979,965**

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Exhibit 8

Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position
Fiduciary Funds
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

		Custodial Funds
Additions		
Contributions from individuals	$	96,291
Refunds collected for tax abatements		3,544
Interest earnings		4,185
Property tax collections for other governments		18,041,674
Fees collected for the state		4,017,567
Payments from federal		9,450
Payments from the state		988,463
Payments from other entities		174,979
Miscellaneous		17,650
Total Additions	**$**	**23,353,803**
Deductions		
Payments of property tax to other governments	$	17,912,791
Payments to the state		4,070,632
Administrative expense		396,090
Distributions to participants		468,851
Payments to other entities		263,755
Total Deductions	**$**	**23,112,119**
Change in net position	**$**	**241,684**
Net Position – January 1		**1,738,281**
Net Position – December 31	**$**	**1,979,965**

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Note 1 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The County's financial statements are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is responsible for establishing GAAP for state and local governments through its pronouncements (statements and interpretations). The more significant accounting policies established in GAAP and used by the County are discussed below.

Financial Reporting Entity

Houston County was established February 23, 1854, and is an organized county having the powers, duties, and privileges granted counties by Minn. Stat. ch. 373. As required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, these financial statements present Houston County (primary government) and its component unit for which the County is financially accountable. The County is governed by a five-member Board of Commissioners elected from districts within the County. The Board is organized with a chair and vice chair elected at the annual meeting in January of each year.

Blended Component Unit

Blended component units are legally separate organizations so intertwined with the County that they are, in substance, the same as the County and, therefore, are reported as if they were part of the County. Houston County has one blended component unit, which is reported in the EDA Special Revenue Fund.

Component Units of the County

Component Unit	Component Unit Included in Reporting Entity Because	Separate Financial Statements
Houston County Economic Development Authority (EDA) provides for development within the County.	County Commissioners are the members of the EDA Board, and the County has operational responsibility.	Separate financial statements are not prepared.

Joint Ventures and Jointly-Governed Organizations

The County participates in joint ventures and jointly-governed organizations described in Note 3.

Basic Financial Statements

Government-Wide Statements

The government-wide financial statements (the statement of net position and the statement of activities) display information about the primary government and its component unit. These statements include the financial activities of the overall County government, except for fiduciary activities. Eliminations have been made to minimize the double counting of internal activities. Governmental activities are normally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues.

The government-wide statement of net position is presented on a consolidated basis by column and is reported on a full accrual, economic resource basis, which recognizes all long-term assets and receivables as well as long-term debt and obligations. The County's net position is reported in three parts: (1) net investment in capital assets, (2) restricted net position, and (3) unrestricted net position. The County first utilizes restricted resources to finance qualifying activities.

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of each function of the County's governmental activities are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those clearly identifiable with a specific function or activity. Program revenues include: (1) fees, fines, and charges paid by the recipients of goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function or activity; and (2) grants and contributions restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or activity. Revenues not classified as program revenues, including all taxes, are presented as general revenues. The County does not allocate indirect expenses to functions within the financial statements.

Fund Financial Statements

The fund financial statements provide information about the County's funds, including its fiduciary funds and blended component unit. Separate statements for each fund category—governmental and fiduciary—are presented. The emphasis of governmental fund financial statements is on major individual governmental funds, with each displayed as a separate column in the fund financial statements. All remaining funds are aggregated and reported as nonmajor funds.

The County reports the following major governmental funds:

The General Fund is the County's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the general government, except those accounted for in another fund.

The Road and Bridge Special Revenue Fund accounts for restricted revenues from the federal and state governments, as well as committed property tax revenues used for the construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, and other projects affecting County roadways.

The Health and Human Services Special Revenue Fund accounts for restricted revenue sources from federal, state, and other oversight agencies, as well as committed property tax revenues used for economic assistance and community social services programs.

The Debt Service Fund is used to account for all financial resources restricted for payment of principal, interest, and related costs of long-term bonded debt.

Additionally, the County reports the following fund type:

Custodial funds are safekeeping in nature. These funds account for assets that the County holds for others in a fiduciary capacity.

Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

The government-wide and fiduciary financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the full accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned, and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Property taxes are recognized as revenues in the year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Houston County considers all revenues as available if collected within 60 days after the end of the current period. Property and other taxes, licenses, and interest are all considered susceptible to accrual. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for principal and interest on long-term debt, compensated absences, and claims and judgments, which are recognized as expenditures to the extent that they have matured. Proceeds of long-term debt and acquisitions under leases are reported as other financing sources.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the County's policy to use restricted resources first and then unrestricted resources as needed.

Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, and Net Position or Equity

Deposits and Investments

The cash balances of substantially all funds are pooled and invested by the County Treasurer for the purpose of increasing earnings through investment activities. Pooled and fund investments are reported at their fair value at December 31, 2023, based on market prices. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 385.07, investment earnings on cash and pooled investments are credited to the General Fund. Other funds received investment earnings based on other state statutes, grant agreements, contracts, and bond covenants. Pooled investment earnings for 2023 were $468,131.

Receivables and Payables

Activities between funds representative of lending/borrowing arrangements outstanding at the end of the fiscal year are referred to as either "due to/from other funds" (the current portion of interfund loans) or "advances to/from other funds" (the noncurrent portion of interfund loans). All other outstanding balances between funds are reported as "due to/from other funds."

Advances between funds, as reported in the fund financial statements, are offset by nonspendable fund balance when occurring in the General Fund to indicate they are not available for appropriation and are not expendable available financial resources.

All receivables are shown net of an allowance for uncollectibles.

Property taxes are levied as of January 1 on property values assessed as of the same date. The tax levy notice is mailed in March with the first half payment due May 15 and the second half payment due October 15. Unpaid taxes at December 31 become liens on the respective property and are classified in the financial statements as delinquent taxes receivable.

Inventories and Prepaid Items

All inventories are valued at cost using the weighted average method. Inventories in governmental funds are recorded as expenditures when purchased rather than when consumed. Inventories at the government-wide level are recorded as expenses when consumed.

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid items in both government-wide and fund financial statements.

Capital Assets

Capital assets, which include property, plant, equipment, and infrastructure assets (for example, roads, bridges, and similar items), and right-to-use assets acquired under leasing arrangements, are reported in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the County as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than $10,000 and an estimated useful life in excess of two years. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at acquisition value.

The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend assets' lives are not capitalized. Major outlays for capital assets and improvements are capitalized as projects are constructed.

Property, plant, and equipment of the County are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives, while right-to-use assets are amortized over the shorter of the underlying assets' estimated useful life or the lease term:

Estimated Useful Lives of Capital Assets

Assets	Years
Buildings	50
Building improvements	50
Public domain infrastructure	50-75
Furniture, equipment, and vehicles	3-20

Compensated Absences

The liability for compensated absences reported in the financial statements consists of unpaid, accumulated annual vacation, compensatory, and sick leave balances. The liability has been calculated using the vesting method, in which leave amounts for both employees who currently are eligible to receive termination payments and other employees who are expected to become eligible in the future to receive such payments upon termination are included. Compensated absences are accrued when incurred in the government-wide financial statements. A liability for these amounts is reported in the governmental funds only if they have matured, for example, as a result of employee resignations and retirements. The current portion is calculated using a trend analysis based on prior year payments. Compensated absences liabilities are generally liquidated by the General Fund and the Road and Bridge and Health and Human Services Special Revenue Funds.

Unearned Revenue

Governmental funds and government-wide financial statements report unearned revenue in connection with resources that have been received, but not yet earned.

Pension Plan

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows/inflows of resources, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) and additions to/deductions from PERA's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by PERA, except that PERA's fiscal year-end is June 30. For this purpose, plan contributions are recognized as of employer payroll paid dates and benefit payments and refunds are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Plan investments are reported at fair value. The pension liability is liquidated through the General Fund, Road and Bridge Special Revenue Fund, and Health and Human Services Special Revenue Fund.

Long-Term Obligations

In the government-wide statement of net position, long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities. Bond premiums and discounts are deferred and amortized over the life of the bonds using the straight-line method. Bonds payable are reported net of the applicable bond premium or discount.

In the fund financial statements, governmental fund types recognize bond premiums and discounts, as well as bond issuance costs, during the current period. The face amount of the debt issued is reported as an other financing source. Premiums received on debt issuances are reported as other financing sources, while discounts on debt issuances are reported as other financing uses. Issuance costs, whether or not withheld from the actual debt proceeds received, are reported as debt service expenditures.

Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statement of financial position reports a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred outflows of resources, represents a consumption of net assets that applies to a future period(s) and will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expenditure/ expense) until that time. The County reports three types of deferred outflows of resources that qualify in this category: deferred charge on refunding, deferred pension, and deferred other postemployment benefits (OPEB) outflows. Deferred charge on refunding results from the difference in the carrying value of refunded debt and its reacquisition price. This amount is deferred and amortized over the shorter of the life of the refunded or refunding debt and only arises under the full accrual basis of accounting. The County also reports deferred outflows of resources only under the full accrual basis of accounting associated with pension plans and OPEB and, accordingly, are reported only in the statement of net position.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of financial position reports a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred inflows of resources, represents an acquisition of net assets that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) or reduction of expense until that time. The County reports three types of deferred inflows of resources that qualify for reporting in this category: unavailable revenue, deferred pension, and deferred OPEB inflows. Unavailable revenue arises only under the modified accrual basis of accounting and, accordingly, is reported only in the governmental funds balance sheet. This amount is deferred and recognized as an inflow of resources in the period that the amount becomes available. The County also reports deferred inflows of resources associated with pension and OPEB benefits. The fiduciary funds report prepaid property taxes for tax collections received prior to year-end that were not due until the following year. Since the property taxes were levied for use in a future year, the revenue is deferred and recognized in the period for which the amount is levied. These inflows occurred in the fiduciary funds under the full accrual basis of accounting and are only reported in the statement of fiduciary net position. These inflows arise only under the full accrual basis of accounting and, accordingly, are reported only in the statement of net position.

Classification of Net Position

Net position in the government-wide financial statements is classified in the following categories:

Net investment in capital assets – the amount of net position representing capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and amortization, and reduced by outstanding debt attributed to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of the assets.

Restricted net position – the amount of net position for which external restrictions have been imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments and restrictions imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Unrestricted net position – the amount of net position that does not meet the definition of restricted or net investment in capital assets.

Classification of Fund Balances

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the County is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in the governmental funds. The classifications are as follows:

Nonspendable – amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form, or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. The “not in spendable form” criterion includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash.

Restricted – amounts for which constraints have been placed on the use of resources either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Committed – amounts the County intends to use for the specific purposes imposed by formal action (resolution) of the County Board. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Board removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (resolution) it employed to previously commit those amounts.

Assigned – amounts the County intends to use for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In governmental funds other than the General Fund, assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. In the General Fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by the County Board or the County Finance Director, who has been delegated that authority by Board resolution.

Unassigned – spendable amounts not contained in the other fund balance classifications for the General Fund. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is used only to report a deficit balance resulting from overspending for specific purposes for which amounts had been restricted or committed.

The County applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

Minimum Fund Balance

Houston County has adopted a minimum fund balance policy to address cash flow or working capital needs for the General Fund and other special revenue funds, which are heavily reliant on property tax revenues to fund current operations. However, property tax revenues are not available for distribution until June. Therefore, the County Board has determined the need to maintain a minimum unassigned fund balance in the General Fund and an unrestricted (committed and assigned) fund balance in the remaining special revenue funds until the tax revenues are distributed. The County Board has determined this amount to be not less than 40 percent and not more than 65 percent of the sum of the most recent budget year's property tax levy.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources; and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Prior Period Restatement

The January 1, 2023, fund balance of the General Fund decreased by $434,207 and the fund balance of the EDA Special Revenue Fund increased by $434,207 to reflect the establishment of the EDA Special Revenue Fund for activity that had been previously recorded in the General Fund.

Prior Period Restatement

	General Fund	EDA Special Revenue Fund
Fund Balance, January 1, 2023, as previously reported	$ 8,236,140	$ -
Correction of an error	(434,027)	434,027
Fund Balance, January 1, 2023, as restated	$ 7,802,113	$ 434,027

Note 2 – Detailed Notes

Assets

Deposits and Investments

Reconciliation of the County's total cash and investments to the basic financial statements follows:

Reconciliation of the County's Total Cash and Investments to the Basic Financial Statements as of December 31, 2023

Government-wide statement of net position		
Governmental activities		
Cash and pooled investments	$	11,874,389
Petty cash and change funds		17,160
Cash and investments		5,051,356
Statement of fiduciary net position		
Cash and pooled investments		1,674,711
Cash and investments		430,592
Total Cash and Investments	$	19,048,208
Deposits	$	13,531,367
Petty cash and change funds	$	17,160
Investments		
Negotiable securities	$	4,713,345
Municipal bonds		786,336
Total investments	$	5,499,681
Total Deposits, Petty Cash and Change Funds, and Investments	$	19,048,208

Deposits

The County is authorized by Minn. Stat. §§ 118A.02 and 118A.04 to designate a depository for public funds and to invest in certificates of deposit. The County is required by Minn. Stat. § 118A.03 to protect all County deposits with insurance, surety bond, or collateral. The market value of collateral pledged shall be at least ten percent more than the amount on deposit plus accrued interest at the close of the financial institution's banking day, not covered by insurance or bonds.

Authorized collateral includes treasury bills, notes and bonds; issues of U.S. government agencies; general obligations rated "A" or better and revenue obligations rated "AA" or better; irrevocable standby letters of credit issued by the Federal Home Loan Bank; and certificates of deposit. Minnesota statutes require that securities pledged as collateral be held in safekeeping in a restricted account at the Federal Reserve Bank or in an account at a trust department of a commercial bank or other financial institution not owned or controlled by the financial institution furnishing the collateral.

Custodial Credit Risk

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a financial institution failure, the County's deposits may not be returned to it. The County has adopted a policy for custodial credit risk of obtaining collateral or bond for all uninsured amounts on deposit and obtaining necessary documentation to show compliance with state law and perfected security interest under federal law. As of December 31, 2023, the County's deposits were not exposed to custodial credit risk.

Investments

The County may invest in the following types of investments as authorized by Minn. Stat. §§ 118A.04 and 118A.05:

(1) securities which are direct obligations or are guaranteed or insured issues of the United States, its agencies, its instrumentalities, or organizations created by an act of Congress, except mortgage-backed securities defined as "high risk" by Minn. Stat. § 118A.04, subd. 6;

(2) mutual funds through shares of registered investment companies provided the mutual fund receives certain ratings depending on its investments;

(3) general obligations of the State of Minnesota and its municipalities, and in certain state agency and local obligations of Minnesota and other states provided such obligations have certain specified bond ratings by a national bond rating service;

(4) time deposits fully insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the National Credit Union Administration, or bankers' acceptances of United States banks;

(5) commercial paper issued by United States corporations or their Canadian subsidiaries that is rated in the highest quality category by two nationally recognized rating agencies and matures in 270 days or less; and

(6) with certain restrictions, in repurchase agreements, securities lending agreements, joint powers investment trusts, and guaranteed investment contracts.

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in the market interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. It is the County's policy to minimize interest rate risk by: (1) structuring the investment portfolio so that securities mature to meet cash requirements for ongoing operations, thereby avoiding the need to sell securities in the open market prior to maturity; and (2) investing operating funds, when most prudent, in shorter-term securities, liquid asset funds, money market mutual funds, or similar investment pools and limiting the average maturity in accordance with the County's cash requirements.

Cash and Investments and Information Relating to Interest Rate Risk as of December 31, 2023

Investment Type	Fair Value	Less Than 1 Year	1-3 Years	3-13 Years
Municipal bonds	$ 786,336	$ 69,476	$ 288,115	$ 428,745
Negotiable certificates of deposit	4,713,345	1,184,991	1,684,999	1,843,355
Total Investments	$ 5,499,681	$ 1,254,467	$ 1,973,114	$ 2,272,100

Credit Risk

Generally, credit risk is the risk that an issuer of an investment will not fulfill its obligation to the holder of the investment. This is measured by the assignment of a rating by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization. It is the County's policy, as set by the Houston County Investment Policy, to invest only in securities that meet the ratings requirements of state statute.

The County is required to disclose the credit quality ratings of investments in debt securities, external investment pools, money market funds, bond mutual funds, and other pooled investments of fixed income securities. Houston County invests in the following investment pools/mutual funds:

Credit Risk of Investments

	Credit Rating	Rating Agency	Fair Value
Municipal bonds	AAA/AA	Standard & Poor's	$ 786,336
Negotiable certificates of deposit	Not rated		4,713,345

Custodial Credit Risk

The custodial credit risk for investments is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty to a transaction, a government will not be able to recover the value of investment or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The County's policy is to minimize custodial credit risk by limiting investments with any one broker to no more than ten percent of its Securities Investor Protection Corporation coverage plus any excess coverage, if provided. At December 31, 2023, none of Houston County's investments were subject to custodial credit risk.

Concentration of Credit Risk

It is the County's policy to minimize concentration of credit risk, which is the risk of loss attributed to the magnitude of the County's investment in a single issuer, by diversifying the investment portfolio so that the impact of potential losses from any one type of security or issuer will be minimized.

As of December 31, 2023, the County did not have any one issuer that represented five percent or more of the County's total investments.

Fair Value Measurement

The County measures and records its investments using fair value measurement guidelines established by generally accepted accounting principles. These guidelines recognize a three-tiered fair value hierarchy, as follows:

- *Level 1:* Quoted prices for identical investments in active markets;
- *Level 2:* Observable inputs other than quoted market prices; and
- *Level 3:* Unobservable inputs.

Recurring Fair Value Measurements as of December 31, 2023

		Fair Value Measurements Using		
	December 31, 2023	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
Investments by fair value level				
Debt securities				
Municipal bonds	$ 786,336	$ -	$ 786,336	$ -
Negotiable certificates of deposit	4,713,345	-	4,713,345	-
Total Investments Included in the Fair Value Hierarchy	$ 5,499,681	$ -	$ 5,499,681	$ -

Debt securities classified in Level 2 are valued using the following approaches:

- Municipal Bonds: a market approach using quoted prices for similar securities in active markets; and
- Negotiable Certificates of Deposit: matrix pricing based on the securities' relationship to benchmark quoted prices.

Receivables

Receivables as of December 31, 2023, for the County's governmental activities, including the applicable allowances for uncollectible accounts, are as follows:

Governmental Activities' Receivables as of December 31, 2023

	Receivables (Gross)	Less: Allowance for Uncollectible Accounts	Receivables (Net)	Amounts Not Scheduled for Collection During the Subsequent Year
Governmental Activities				
Taxes	$ 129,388	$ -	$ 129,388	$ -
Accounts	140,239	(57,030)	83,209	-
Accrued interest	88,469	-	88,469	-
Loans	345,147	-	345,147	274,838
Due from other governments	5,186,885	-	5,186,885	-
Total Governmental Activities	$ 5,890,128	$ (57,030)	$ 5,833,098	$ 274,838

The loans receivable are economic development loans accounted for in the General Fund.

Capital Assets

Capital asset activity for the year ended December 31, 2023, was as follows:

Changes in Capital Assets for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Beginning Balance, Restated	Increase	Decrease	Ending Balance
Capital assets not depreciated				
Land	$ 1,021,788	$ -	$ -	$ 1,021,788
Land – infrastructure right-of-way	1,779,146	-	-	1,779,146
Land improvements	1,350,562	-	-	1,350,562
Construction in progress	101,897	446,813	294,724	253,986
Total capital assets not depreciated	$ 4,253,393	$ 446,813	$ 294,724	$ 4,405,482
Capital assets depreciated				
Buildings	$ 23,903,673	$ -	$ -	$ 23,903,673
Building improvements	1,958,853	266,938	19,987	2,205,804
Other improvements	1,576,472	657,359	-	2,233,831
Machinery, furniture, and equipment	8,506,611	495,100	466,162	8,535,549
Infrastructure	121,506,042	294,724	11,446	121,789,320
Total capital assets depreciated	$ 157,451,651	$ 1,714,121	$ 497,595	$ 158,668,177
Less: accumulated depreciation for				
Buildings	$ 4,868,278	$ 475,757	$ -	$ 5,344,035
Building improvements	995,339	41,471	2,731	1,034,079
Other improvements	236,764	33,209	-	269,973
Machinery, furniture, and equipment	5,080,011	565,098	349,013	5,296,096
Infrastructure	58,318,544	2,310,565	9,399	60,619,710
Total accumulated depreciation	$ 69,498,936	$ 3,426,100	$ 361,143	$ 72,563,893
Total capital assets depreciated, net	$ 87,952,715	$ (1,711,979)	$ 136,452	$ 86,104,284
Capital assets amortized				
Leased machinery, furniture, and equipment	$ 576,904	$ 300,263	$ -	$ 877,167
Less: accumulated amortization for				
Leased machinery, furniture, and equipment	129,256	157,872	-	287,128
Total capital assets amortized, net	$ 447,648	$ 142,391	$ -	$ 590,039
Governmental Activities Capital Assets, Net	$ 92,653,756	$ (1,122,775)	$ 431,176	$ 91,099,805

Depreciation and amortization expense was charged to functions/programs of the primary government as follows:

Depreciation and Amortization Expense Charged to Functions/Programs

Governmental Activities	
General government	$ 134,743
Public safety	436,898
Highways and streets, including depreciation of infrastructure assets	2,912,772
Human services	9,853
Sanitation	30,897
Culture and recreation	8,784
Economic development	50,025
Total Depreciation and Amortization Expense – Governmental Activities	$ 3,583,972

Interfund Receivables, Payables, and Transfers

The composition of interfund balances as of December 31, 2023, is as follows:

Due To/From Other Funds

Interfund Balances as of December 31, 2023

Receivable Fund	Payable Fund	Amount
General	Health and Human Services	$ 893

This balance reflects the interfund goods and services provided and not paid at year-end but expected to be paid in the subsequent year.

Liabilities

Long-Term Liabilities

Leases

The County has entered into a lease agreement as lessee for financing the acquisition of vehicles. Leases are for five years and have been recorded at the present value of their future minimum lease payments as of the inception dates. The lease payments are payable from the General Fund, Road and Bridge Special Revenue Fund, and the Health and Human Services Special Revenue Fund.

Leases Payable as of December 31, 2023

Lease	Final Maturity	Installment Amount	Payment Amount	Original Issue Amount	Outstanding Balance December 31, 2023
2019 Dodge Durango	2024	Yearly	$ 6,247	$ 31,236	$ 3,124
2019 Dodge Durango	2024	Yearly	6,818	34,091	3,409
2019 Jeep Compass	2024	Yearly	4,299	21,494	2,149
2019 Jeep Compass	2024	Yearly	4,299	21,494	2,149
2019 Jeep Compass	2024	Yearly	4,315	21,575	2,517
2020 Dodge Ram	2025	Yearly	9,294	46,470	9,294
2020 Dodge Ram	2025	Yearly	9,635	48,177	9,636
2020 Dodge Ram	2025	Yearly	9,294	46,470	9,294
2020 Dodge Durango	2025	Yearly	5,924	29,620	6,911
2020 Dodge Durango	2025	Yearly	5,924	29,620	6,911
2020 Dodge Durango	2025	Yearly	5,924	29,620	6,911
2020 Chevrolet Silverado	2025	Yearly	7,009	35,044	9,345
2020 Jeep Compass	2025	Yearly	4,365	21,827	5,457
2020 Chevrolet Silverado	2025	Yearly	6,027	30,133	9,040
2020 Dodge Durango	2025	Yearly	6,285	31,423	9,951
2020 Chevrolet Silverado	2026	Yearly	6,090	30,452	10,151
2021 Chevrolet Silverado	2026	Yearly	8,876	44,379	20,710
2021 Chevrolet Silverado	2026	Yearly	7,087	35,436	18,309
2021 Chevrolet Silverado	2026	Yearly	7,087	35,436	18,309
2022 Dodge Ram	2027	Yearly	8,951	44,754	29,836
2022 GMC Sierra	2027	Yearly	11,098	55,489	36,993
2022 Chrysler Voyager	2027	Yearly	9,959	49,797	39,008
2023 Chevrolet Tahoe	2028	Yearly	2,518	50,361	47,843
2023 Chevrolet Tahoe	2028	Yearly	1,689	50,669	48,980
2023 Chevrolet Tahoe	2028	Yearly	840	50,374	49,534
2023 Ford F-150	2028	Yearly	3,452	51,775	48,323
2023 Ford F-150	2028	Yearly	3,451	51,761	48,310
2023 Ford F-150	2028	Yearly	3,455	51,829	48,374
2024 Chevrolet Equinox	2028	Yearly	539	32,316	31,777
Total of Leases			$ 170,751	$ 1,113,122	$ 592,555

The future minimum lease obligations and the net present value of these minimum lease payments as of December 31, 2023, were as follows:

Future Minimum Lease Obligations and Net Present Value of Minimum Lease Payments as of December 31, 2023

Year Ending December 31	Principal	Interest
2024	$ 187,112	$ 22,883
2025	121,292	16,712
2026	97,698	11,354
2027	77,542	6,088
2028	50,342	1,532
Total	$ 533,986	$ 58,569

Loans Payable

In December 2016, Houston County received a grant of $192,000 from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. The County used the grant to make an installment loan to fund an economic development project in the County. The County is entitled to 40 percent of the principal repaid, plus interest at two percent. The remaining $115,200, plus interest, is to be repaid to the state. Payments on the state loan began in January 2017 with monthly payments of $1,060 and will be made until December 2026. Total payments due from 2024 to 2026, including interest of $1,243 at December 31, 2023, are $39,128. The loan payments will be made from the General Fund.

Bonds

Bonds Payable as of December 31, 2023

Type of Indebtedness	Final Maturity	Installment Amount	Interest Rate (%)	Original Issue Amount	Outstanding Balance December 31, 2023
2017A G.O. Jail Bonds	2031	$65,000-$1,315,000	2.00-3.00	$ 9,380,000	$ 8,515,000
2020A G.O. Jail Refunding Bonds	2025	$160,000-$880,000	5.00	2,870,000	730,000
2021A G.O. State Aid Bonds	2037	$175,000-$215,000	2.00-3.00	2,945,000	2,770,000
Total General Obligation Bonds				$ 15,195,000	$ 12,015,000

Debt payments for the above debt are being made from the Debt Service Fund.

Debt Service Requirements

Debt service requirements at December 31, 2023, were as follows:

Debt Service Requirements as of December 31, 2023

Year Ending	General Obligation Bonds		Loans Payable	
December 31	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest
2024	$ 1,190,000	$ 312,103	$ 12,092	$ 628
2025	1,235,000	270,202	12,336	384
2026	1,290,000	232,552	13,457	231
2027	1,325,000	195,177	-	-
2028	1,360,000	156,778	-	-
2029-2033	4,765,000	254,488	-	-
2034-2038	850,000	22,081	-	-
Total	$ 12,015,000	$ 1,443,381	$ 37,885	$ 1,243

Changes in Long-Term Liabilities

Long-term liability activity for the year ended December 31, 2023, was as follows:

Changes in Long-Term Liabilities for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance	Due Within One Year
Bonds payable					
2017A G.O. Jail Bonds	$ 8,960,000	$ -	$ 445,000	$ 8,515,000	$ 445,000
2020A G.O. Jail Refunding Bonds	1,265,000	-	535,000	730,000	570,000
2021A G.O. State Aid Bonds	2,945,000	-	175,000	2,770,000	175,000
Total bonds payable	$ 13,170,000	$ -	$ 1,155,000	$ 12,015,000	$ 1,190,000
Premium on bonds	584,210	-	90,123	494,087	-
Loans payable	49,719	-	11,834	37,885	12,092
Leases payable	403,998	287,122	157,134	533,986	187,112
Compensated absences	1,308,480	1,226,583	1,094,849	1,440,214	124,441
Total Long-Term Liabilities	$ 15,516,407	$ 1,513,705	$ 2,508,940	$ 14,521,172	$ 1,513,645

Compensated absences liabilities are generally liquidated by the General Fund and the Road and Bridge and Health and Human Services Special Revenue Funds.

Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

Deferred Outflows of Resources

There were no deferred outflows of resources reported in the governmental funds for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Deferred Inflows of Resources

As of December 31, 2023, there were various components of unavailable revenue for the governmental funds as follows:

Deferred Inflows of Resources
As of December 31, 2023

	Unavailable Revenue
Delinquent property taxes	$ 68,924
Intergovernmental	3,393,311
Loans receivable	333,429
Other	36,578
Total Governmental Funds	$ 3,832,242

Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

Plan Description

The County provides health insurance benefits for certain retired employees under a single-employer, defined benefit, self-insured health care plan, financed and administered by the Southeast Service Cooperative and Houston County. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota (BCBSM), under contract with the Southeast Service Cooperative, is the Claims Administrator. The County provides benefits for retirees as required by Minn. Stat. § 471.61, subd. 2b. Active employees, who retire from the County when eligible to receive a retirement benefit from PERA (or a similar plan) and do not participate in any other health benefits program providing coverage similar to that herein described, are eligible to continue coverage with respect to both themselves and their eligible dependent(s) under the County's health benefits program.

Retirees are required to pay 100 percent of the total group rate. Since the premium is a blended rate determined on the entire active and retiree population, the retirees, whose costs are statistically higher than the group average, are receiving an implicit rate "subsidy." As of January 1, 2023, there was one retiree receiving health benefits from the County's health plan.

No assets have been accumulated in a trust that meets the criteria in paragraph 4 of GASB Statement 75. The OPEB plan does not issue a stand-alone financial report.

As of the January 1, 2023, actuarial valuation, the following employees were covered by the benefit terms:

Employees Covered by the OPEB Benefit Terms

Inactive employees or beneficiaries currently receiving benefit payments	1
Active plan participants	145
Total	146

Total OPEB Liability

The County's total OPEB liability of $460,151 was measured as of January 1, 2023, and was determined by an actuarial valuation as of January 1, 2023.

The total OPEB liability in the fiscal year-end December 31, 2023, actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions and other inputs, applied to all periods included in the measurement, unless otherwise specified:

OPEB Actuarial Assumptions and Other Inputs

Inflation	2.50 percent
Salary increases	Service graded table
Health care cost trend	6.50 percent, decreasing to 5.00 percent over six years and then to 4.00 percent over the next 48 years

The current year discount rate is 4.00 percent, which is a change from the prior valuation rate of 2.00 percent. For the current valuation, the discount rate was set by considering published rate information for 20-year high quality, tax-exempt, general obligation municipal bonds as of the measurement date.

Mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Headcount-Weighted Mortality tables (general, safety) with MP-2021 Generational Improvement Scale.

Changes in the Total OPEB Liability

Changes in the Total OPEB Liability
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Balance at December 31, 2022	$	555,587
Changes for the year		
Service cost	$	41,883
Interest		11,666
Assumption changes		(56,627)
Differences between expected and actual experience		(63,899)
Benefit payments		(28,459)
Net change	$	(95,436)
Balance at December 31, 2023	$	460,151

Other postemployment benefits are liquidated by the General Fund, Road and Bridge Special Revenue Fund, and Health and Human Services Special Revenue Fund.

OPEB Liability Sensitivity

The following presents the total OPEB liability of the County, calculated using the discount rate previously disclosed, as well as what the County's total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current discount rate:

Sensitivity of the Total OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate as of December 31, 2023

	Discount Rate	Total OPEB Liability
1% Decrease	3.00%	$ 494,479
Current	4.00%	460,151
1% Increase	5.00%	428,188

The following presents the total OPEB liability of the County, calculated using the health care cost trend previously disclosed, as well as what the County's total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using health care cost trend rates that are one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current health care cost trend rate:

Sensitivity of the Total OPEB Liability to Changes in the Health Care Trend Rates as of December 31, 2023

	Health Care Trend Rate	Total OPEB Liability
1% Decrease	5.50% Decreasing to 4.00%	$ 414,592
Current	6.50% Decreasing to 5.00%	460,151
1% Increase	7.50% Decreasing to 6.00%	513,404

OPEB Expense and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB

For the year ended December 31, 2023, the County recognized OPEB expense of $2,337. The County reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB as of December 31, 2023

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual economic experience	$ 1,033	$ 95,660
Changes in actuarial assumptions	29,331	49,240
Contributions made subsequent to the measurement date	25,749	-
Total	$ 56,113	$ 144,900

The $25,749 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the OPEB liability in the year ended December 31, 2024. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

Schedule of Amortization of Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB As of December 31, 2023

Year Ended December 31	OPEB Expense Amount
2024	$ (25,465)
2025	(24,447)
2026	(24,450)
2027	(20,088)
2028	(20,086)

Changes in Actuarial Assumptions

- The health care trend rates were changed to better anticipate short-term and long-term medical increases.
- The mortality tables were updated from the Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Headcount-Weighted Mortality tables (general, safety) with MP-2020 Generational Improvement Scale to the Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Headcount-Weighted Mortality tables (general, safety) with MP-2021 Generational Improvement Scale.
- The retirement, withdrawal, and salary increase rates for public safety employees were updated to reflect the latest experience study.
- The inflation rate changed from 2.00 percent to 2.50 percent.
- The discount rate changed from 2.00 percent to 4.00 percent.
- These changes decreased the liability $56,627.

Pension Plans

Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Plan Description

All full-time and certain part-time employees of Houston County are covered by defined benefit pension plans administered by the Public Employees Retirement Association of Minnesota (PERA). PERA administers the General Employees Retirement Plan (the General Employees Plan), the Public Employees Police and Fire Plan (the Police and Fire Plan), and the Public Employees Local Government Correctional Service Retirement Plan (the Correctional Plan), which are cost-sharing, multiple-employer retirement plans. These plans are established and administered in accordance with Minn. Stat. chs. 353 and 356. PERA's defined benefit pension plans are tax qualified plans under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The General Employees Plan (accounted for in the General Employees Fund) has multiple benefit structures with members belonging to the Coordinated Plan, the Basic Plan, or the Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund. Coordinated Plan members are covered by Social Security, while the Basic Plan and Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund members are not covered. The Basic Plan was closed to new members in 1967. The Minneapolis

Employees Retirement Fund was closed to new members in 1978 and merged into the General Employees Plan in 2015. All new members must participate in the Coordinated Plan, for which benefits vest after three years of credited service. No Houston County employees belong to either the Basic Plan or the Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund.

Police officers, firefighters, and peace officers who qualify for membership by statute are covered by the Police and Fire Plan (accounted for in the Police and Fire Fund). For members first hired after June 30, 2010, benefits vest on a prorated basis starting with 50 percent after five years and increasing ten percent for each year of service until fully vested after ten years.

Local government employees of a county-administered facility who are responsible for the direct security, custody, and control of the correctional facility and its inmates are covered by the Correctional Plan (accounted for in the Correctional Fund). For members hired after June 30, 2010, benefits vest on a prorated basis starting with 50 percent after five years and increasing ten percent for each year of service until fully vested after ten years.

Benefits Provided

PERA provides retirement benefits as well as disability benefits to members and benefits to survivors upon death of eligible members. Benefit provisions are established by state statute and can be modified only by the state legislature. Benefit increases are provided to benefit recipients each January.

General Employees Plan benefit recipients will receive a post-retirement increase equal to 50 percent of the cost-of-living adjustment announced by the Social Security Administration, with a minimum increase of at least 1.00 percent and a maximum of 1.50 percent. Recipients that have been receiving the annuity or benefit for at least a full year as of the June 30 before the effective date of the increase will receive the full increase. Recipients receiving the annuity or benefit for at least one month but less than a full year as of the June 30 before the effective date of the increase will receive a reduced prorated increase.

Police and Fire Plan benefit recipients will receive a 1.00 percent post-retirement increase. Recipients that have been receiving the annuity or benefit for at least 36 months as of the June 30 before the effective date of the increase will receive the full increase. Recipients receiving the annuity or benefit for at least 25 months but less than 36 months as of the June 30 before the effective date of the increase will receive a reduced prorated increase.

Correctional Plan benefit recipients will receive a post-retirement increase equal to 100 percent of the cost-of-living adjustment announced by the Social Security Administration, with a minimum increase of at least 1.00 percent and a maximum of 2.50 percent. If the Correctional Plan’s funding status declines to 85 percent or below for two consecutive years, or 80 percent for one year, the maximum will be lowered from 2.50 percent to 1.50 percent. If on January 1, after the year of the 1.50 percent increase, the funding level increases above the applicable 85 percent or 80 percent funding status, the increase returns to 2.50 percent. Recipients that have been receiving the annuity or benefit for at least a full year as of the June 30 before the effective date of the increase will receive the full increase. Recipients receiving the annuity or benefit for at least one month but less than a full year as of the June 30 before the effective date of the increase will receive a reduced prorated increase.

The benefit provisions stated in the following paragraph of this section are current provisions and apply to active plan participants. Vested, terminated employees who are entitled to benefits, but are not yet receiving them, are bound by the provisions in effect at the time they last terminated their public service.

Benefits are based on a member's highest average salary for any 60 consecutive months of allowable service, age, and years of credit at termination of service. In the General Employees Plan, two methods are used to compute benefits for Coordinated Plan members. Members hired prior to July 1, 1989, receive the higher of a step-rate benefit accrual formula (Method 1) or a level accrual formula (Method 2). Under Method 1, the annuity accrual rate for a Coordinated Plan member is 1.20 percent of average salary for each of the first ten years of service and 1.70 percent of average salary for each remaining year. Under Method 2, the annuity accrual rate is 1.70 percent for Coordinated Plan members for each year of service. Only Method 2 is used for members hired after June 30, 1989. For Police and Fire Plan members, the annuity accrual rate is 3.00 percent of average salary for each year of service. For Correctional Plan members, the annuity accrual rate is 1.90 percent of average salary for each year of service.

For General Employees Plan members hired prior to July 1, 1989, a full annuity is available when age plus years of service equal 90, and normal retirement age is 65. For members hired on or after July 1, 1989, normal retirement age is the age for unreduced Social Security benefits capped at 66. For Police and Fire Plan and Correctional Plan members, normal retirement age is 55, and for members who were hired prior to July 1, 1989, a full annuity is available when age plus years of service equal 90. Disability benefits are available for vested members and are based on years of service and average high-five salary.

Contributions

Pension benefits are funded from member and employer contributions and income from the investment of fund assets. Rates for employer and employee contributions are set by Minn. Stat. ch. 353. These statutes are established and amended by the state legislature. Rates did not change from 2022.

Member and Employer Required Contribution Rates

	Member Required Contribution	Employer Required Contribution
General Employees Plan – Coordinated Plan members	6.50%	7.50%
Police and Fire Plan	11.80%	17.70%
Correctional Plan	5.83%	8.75%

Employer Contributions for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

General Employees Plan	$	583,000
Police and Fire Plan		230,629
Correctional Plan		98,564

The contributions are equal to the statutorily required contributions as set by state statute.

Pension Costs

General Employees Plan

At December 31, 2023, the County reported a liability of $5,172,496 for its proportionate share of the General Employees Plan's net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2023, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The County's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the County's contributions received by PERA during the measurement period for employer payroll paid dates from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, relative to the total employer contributions received from all of PERA's participating employers. At June 30, 2023, the County's proportion was 0.0925 percent. It was 0.0940 percent measured as of June 30, 2022. The County recognized pension expense of $665,722 for its proportionate share of the General Employees Plan's pension expense.

Legislation requires the State of Minnesota to contribute $16 million to the General Employees Plan annually until September 15, 2031. The County recognized an additional $641 as grant revenue and pension expense for its proportionate share of the State of Minnesota's pension expense related to the special funding situation.

General Employees Plan
Employer's Share of the Net Pension Liability and the State's Related Liability
As of December 31, 2023

The County's proportionate share of the net pension liability	$	5,172,496
State of Minnesota's proportionate share of the net pension liability associated with the County		142,663
Total	$	5,315,159

The County reported its proportionate share of the General Employees Plan's deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

General Employees Plan
Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources
As of December 31, 2023

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual economic experience	$ 169,338	$ 35,710
Changes in actuarial assumptions	838,659	1,417,737
Difference between projected and actual investment earnings	-	225,427
Changes in proportion	96,761	29,894
Contributions paid to PERA subsequent to the measurement date	290,276	-
Total	$ 1,395,034	$ 1,708,768

The $290,276 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended December 31, 2024. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

General Employees Plan
Schedule of Amortization of
Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources
As of December 31, 2023

Year Ended December 31	Pension Expense Amount
2024	$ 149,778
2025	(777,510)
2026	135,931
2027	(112,209)

Police and Fire Plan

At December 31, 2023, the County reported a liability of $1,650,888 for its proportionate share of the Police and Fire Plan's net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2023, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The County's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the County's contributions received by PERA during the measurement period for employer payroll paid dates from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, relative to the total employer contributions received from all of PERA's participating employers. At June 30, 2023, the County's proportion was 0.0956 percent. It was 0.0971 percent measured as of June 30, 2022. The County recognized pension expense of $463,181 for its proportionate share of the Police and Fire Plan's pension expense.

The State of Minnesota also contributed $18 million to the Police and Fire Plan in the plan fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. The contribution consisted of $9 million in direct state aid that meets the definition of a special funding situation and $9 million in supplemental state aid that does not meet the definition of a special funding situation.

Legislation requires the State of Minnesota to pay direct state aid of $9 million on October 1 each year until full funding is reached, or July 1, 2048, whichever is earlier. The County recognized an additional ($4,007) as grant revenue and pension expense for its proportionate share of the State of Minnesota's pension expense related to the special funding situation.

Police and Fire Plan
Employer's Share of the Net Pension Liability and the State's Related Liability
As of December 31, 2023

The County's proportionate share of the net pension liability	$ 1,650,888
State of Minnesota's proportionate share of the net pension liability associated with the County	66,532
Total	$ 1,717,420

Legislation also requires the State of Minnesota to contribute $9 million to the Police and Fire Plan each year, until the plan is 90 percent funded, or until the State Patrol Plan is 90 percent funded, whichever occurs later. The County also recognized $8,604 as revenue, which results in a reduction of the net pension liability, for its proportionate share of the State of Minnesota's on-behalf contribution to the Police and Fire Plan.

The County reported its proportionate share of the Police and Fire Plan's deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

Police and Fire Plan
Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources
As of December 31, 2023

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual economic experience	$ 446,947	$ -
Changes in actuarial assumptions	1,826,182	2,321,378
Difference between projected and actual investment earnings	-	35,762
Changes in proportion	128,096	68,346
Contributions paid to PERA subsequent to the measurement date	119,038	-
Total	$ 2,520,263	$ 2,425,486

The $119,038 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended December 31, 2024. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Police and Fire Plan
Schedule of Amortization of
Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources
As of December 31, 2023

Year Ended December 31	Pension Expense Amount
2024	$ 75,403
2025	15,474
2026	369,371
2027	(93,770)
2028	(390,739)

Correctional Plan

At December 31, 2023, the County reported a liability of $216,125 for its proportionate share of the Correctional Plan's net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2023, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The County's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the County's contributions received by PERA during the measurement period for employer payroll paid dates from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, relative to the total employer contributions received from all of PERA's participating employers. At June 30, 2023, the County's proportion was 0.4781 percent. It was 0.5064 percent measured as of June 30, 2022. The County recognized pension expense of $175,163 for its proportionate share of the Correctional Plan's pension expense.

The County reported its proportionate share of the Correctional Plan's deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

Correctional Plan
Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources
As of December 31, 2023

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual economic experience	$ 83,242	$ 20,024
Changes in actuarial assumptions	542,326	985,990
Difference between projected and actual investment earnings	-	19,184
Changes in proportion	936	63,151
Contributions paid to PERA subsequent to the measurement date	51,245	-
Total	$ 677,749	$ 1,088,349

The $51,245 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended December 31, 2024. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Correctional Plan
Schedule of Amortization of
Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources
As of December 31, 2023

Year Ended December 31	Pension Expense Amount
2024	$ (2,467)
2025	(548,990)
2026	112,420
2027	(22,808)

Total Pension Expense

The total pension expense for all plans recognized by the County for the year ended December 31, 2023, was $1,304,066.

Actuarial Assumptions

The total pension liability in the June 30, 2023, actuarial valuation was determined using the individual entry-age normal actuarial cost method and the following additional actuarial assumptions:

Actuarial Assumptions for the Year Ended June 30, 2023

	General Employees Fund	Police and Fire Fund	Correctional Fund
Inflation	2.25% per year	2.25% per year	2.25% per year
Active Member Payroll Growth	3.00% per year	3.00% per year	3.00% per year
Investment Rate of Return	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%

Salary increases were based on a service-related table. Mortality rates for active members, retirees, survivors, and disabilitants were based on the Pub-2010 General Employee Mortality table for the General Employees Plan and the Pub-2010 Public Safety Employee Mortality tables for the Police and Fire and the Correctional Plans, with slight adjustments. Cost-of-living benefit increases for retirees are assumed to be 1.25 percent for the General Employees Plan and 2.00 percent for the Correctional Plan. For the Police and Fire Plan, cost-of-living benefit increases for retirees are 1.00 percent as set by state statute.

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2023, valuations were based on the results of actuarial experience studies. The experience study for the General Employees Plan was dated June 27, 2019. The experience study for the Police and Fire Plan was dated July 14, 2020. The experience study for the Correctional Plan was dated July 10, 2020. For all plans, a review of inflation and investment assumptions dated June 29, 2023, was utilized.

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments is 7.00 percent. The State Board of Investment, which manages the investments of PERA, prepares an analysis of the reasonableness of the long-term expected rate of return on a regular basis using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future rates of return are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce an expected long-term rate of return by weighting the expected future rates of return by the target asset allocation percentages.

Pension Plan Investment Target Allocation and Best Estimates of Geometric Real Rates of Return for Each Major Asset Class

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Domestic equities	33.50%	5.10%
International equities	16.50%	5.30%
Fixed income	25.00%	0.75%
Private markets	25.00%	5.90%

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00 percent in 2023. This was an increase from the 6.50 percent, 5.40 percent, and 5.42 percent used in 2022 for the General Employees Plan, the Police and Fire Plan, and the Correctional Plan, respectively. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that employee and employer contributions will be made at the rate specified in statute. Based on that assumption, the fiduciary net position of the General Employees Plan, the Police and Fire Plan, and the Correctional Plan were projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current active and inactive employees. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

Changes in Actuarial Assumptions and Plan Provisions

The following changes in actuarial assumptions occurred in 2023:

General Employees Plan

- The investment return assumption and single discount rate were changed from 6.50 percent to 7.00 percent.
- A one-time direct state aid contribution of $170.1 million occurred on October 1, 2023.
- The vesting period for those hired after June 30, 2010, was changed from five years of allowable service to three years of allowable service.
- The benefit increase delay for early retirements on or after January 1, 2024, was eliminated.
- For Basic Plan members, a one-time, non-compounding benefit increase of 4.00 percent, minus the actual 2024 adjustment, will be payable in a lump sum for calendar year 2024 by March 31, 2024.
- For Coordinated Plan members, a one-time, non-compounding benefit increase of 2.50 percent, minus the actual 2024 adjustment, will be payable in a lump sum for calendar year 2024 by March 31, 2024.

Police and Fire Plan

- The investment return assumption was changed from 6.50 percent to 7.00 percent.
- The single discount rate changed from 5.40 percent to 7.00 percent.
- A one-time direct state aid contribution of $19.4 million occurred on October 1, 2023.
- The vesting requirement for new hires after June 30, 2014, was changed from a graded 20-year vesting schedule to a graded ten-year vesting schedule, with 50 percent vesting after five years, increasing incrementally to 100 percent after ten years.
- A one-time, non-compounding benefit increase of 3.00 percent will be payable in a lump sum for calendar year 2024 by March 31, 2024.
- Psychological treatment is required effective July 1, 2023, prior to approval for a duty disability benefit for a psychological condition relating to the member’s occupation.
- A total and permanent duty disability benefit was added effective July 1, 2023.

Correctional Plan

- The investment return rate was changed from 6.50 percent to 7.00 percent.

- The single discount rate changed from 5.42 percent to 7.00 percent.

- A one-time direct state aid contribution of $5.3 million occurred on October 1, 2023.

- A one-time, non-compounding benefit increase of 2.50 percent, minus the actual 2024 adjustment, will be payable in a lump sum for calendar year 2024 by March 31, 2024.

- The maximum benefit increase will revert back to 2.50 percent, if the maximum increase is 1.50 percent and the Plan's funding ratio improves to 85 percent for two consecutive years on a market value of assets basis.

Pension Liability Sensitivity

The following presents the County's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate previously disclosed, as well as what the County's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current discount rate.

Sensitivity of the Employer's Proportionate Share of the
Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate
As of December 31, 2023

	Proportionate Share of the					
	General Employees Plan		Police and Fire Plan		Correctional Plan	
	Discount Rate	Net Pension Liability	Discount Rate	Net Pension Liability	Discount Rate	Net Pension Liability (Asset)
1% Decrease	6.00%	$ 9,150,562	6.00%	$ 3,275,558	6.00%	$ 1,139,221
Current	7.00%	5,172,496	7.00%	1,650,888	7.00%	216,125
1% Increase	8.00%	1,900,387	8.00%	315,191	8.00%	(520,388)

Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position

Detailed information about the pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in a separately issued PERA financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. That report may be obtained on the internet at www.mnpera.org.

Defined Contribution Plan

Three Board of Commissioners of Houston County are covered by the Public Employees Defined Contribution Plan, a multiple-employer deferred compensation plan administered by PERA. The plan is established and administered in accordance with Minn. Stat. ch. 353D, which may be amended by the state legislature. The plan is a tax qualified plan under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, and all contributions by or on behalf of employees are tax deferred until time of withdrawal.

Plan benefits depend solely on amounts contributed to the plan plus investment earnings, less administrative expenses. For those qualified personnel who elect to participate, Minn. Stat. § 353D.03 specifies plan provisions, including the employee and employer contribution rates. An eligible elected official who decides to participate contributes five percent of salary, which is matched by the employer. Employee and employer contributions are combined and used to purchase shares in one or more of the seven accounts of the Minnesota Supplemental Investment Fund. For administering the plan, PERA receives two percent of employer contributions and 0.25 percent of the assets in each member account annually.

Total Contributions by Dollar Amount and
Percentage of Covered Payroll Made by the Employer
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Employee	Employer
Contribution amount	$ 3,183	$ 3,183
Percentage of covered payroll	5.00%	5.00%

Note 3 – Summary of Significant Contingencies and Other Items

Risk Management

The County is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, or destruction of assets; errors or omissions; injuries to employees; or natural disasters for which the County carries commercial insurance. The County has entered into a joint powers agreement with other Minnesota counties to form the Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT). The County is a member of both the MCIT Workers' Compensation and Property and Casualty Divisions. For other risk, the County carries commercial insurance. There were no significant reductions in insurance from the prior year. The amount of settlements did not exceed insurance coverage for the past three fiscal years.

The Workers' Compensation Division of MCIT is self-sustaining based on the contributions charged, so that total contributions plus compounded earnings on these contributions will equal the amount needed to satisfy claims liabilities and other expenses. MCIT participates in the Workers' Compensation Reinsurance Association with coverage at $500,000 per claim in 2023 and 2024. Should the MCIT Workers' Compensation Division liabilities exceed assets, MCIT may assess the County in a method and amount to be determined by MCIT.

The Property and Casualty Division of MCIT is self-sustaining, and the County pays an annual premium to cover current and future losses. MCIT carries reinsurance for its property lines to protect against catastrophic losses. Should the MCIT Property and Casualty Division liabilities exceed assets, MCIT may assess the County in a method and amount to be determined by MCIT.

The County has entered into a joint powers agreement with MCIT to authorize the Board to exercise the common powers of the participating governmental units in connection with certain matters pertaining to the administration and funding of group employee benefits and other financial risk management services. The County may choose to participate in any of the services offered. The County may withdraw from the pool at any time giving a 90-day written notice. There is no contingent liability after withdrawal.

Contingent Liabilities

The County has entered into an agreement with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and a local lending institution to jointly administer the Agricultural Best Management Loan Program to individuals to implement projects that prevent or mitigate nonpoint source water pollution. While the County is not liable for the repayment of the loans in any manner, it does have certain responsibilities under the agreement. The County has met those responsibilities for 2023.

The County, in connection with the normal conduct of its affairs, is involved in various claims, judgments, and litigation. Although the outcome of these lawsuits is not presently determinable, in the opinion of the County Attorney, the resolution of these matters will not have a material adverse effect on the financial condition of the County.

Jointly-Governed Organizations

Houston County, in conjunction with other local governments, has formed joint powers boards to provide a variety of services. The County appoints at least one member to the following organizations:

The Southeast Minnesota Emergency Medical Services (SEEMS) Joint Powers Board consists of Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, and Winona Counties. The purpose of SEEMS is to ensure quality patient care is available throughout the 11-county area by maximizing the response capabilities of emergency medical personnel and to promote public education on injury prevention and appropriate response during a medical emergency. Each member county appoints one member to the Joint Powers Board. During the year, Houston County paid $5,000 for membership and $5,000 of American Rescue Plan funds to SEEMS.

The Region One – Southeast Minnesota Homeland Security and Emergency Management Organization was established to provide for regional coordination of planning, training, purchase of equipment, and allocating emergency services and staff in order to better respond to emergencies and natural or other disasters within the region. There are 16 counties participating, with one member from each entity being represented on the Joint Powers Board. Houston County's responsibility does not extend beyond making this appointment.

The Minnesota Criminal Justice Data Communications Network Joint Powers Agreement exists to create access for the County Sheriff and County Attorney to systems and tools available from the State of Minnesota, Department of Public Safety, and the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to carry out criminal justice. During the year, the County made no payments to the joint powers.

Houston County, in conjunction with other local governments, participates in the State of Minnesota's Sentencing to Service (STS) program. STS is a project of the State Department of Administration's Strive Toward Excellence in Performance (STEP) program. STEP's goal is a statewide effort to make positive improvements in public services. It gives the courts an alternative to jail or fines for the nonviolent offenders who can work on a variety of community or state projects. Private funding, funds from various foundations and initiative funds, as well as the Minnesota Departments of Corrections and Natural Resources, provide the funds needed to operate the STS program. Houston County has no operational or financial control over the STS program and did not provide funding to the program during the year.

The Southeast Minnesota Immunization Connection (SEMIC) Joint Powers Board promotes an implementation and maintenance of a regional immunization information system to ensure age-appropriate immunizations through complete and accurate records. During the year, Houston County made no payments to SEMIC.

The Southeast Service Cooperative delivers numerous services to support administrative and instructional functions to its members and to improve learning opportunities. During the year, Houston County made payments of $300 to the Cooperative.

The Workforce Development provides various job training services to several counties. During the year, Houston County paid $380,000 to the Workforce Development.

The Southeastern Minnesota Community Action Council (SEMCAC) provides various services on behalf of member counties to assist people to achieve or maintain independence and self-reliance through their own and community resources. SEMCAC provides services in Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Houston, Mower, Steele, and Winona Counties. It also provides housing and redevelopment for Houston County through Bluff Country. During the year, Houston County paid $5,000 to SEMCAC and $50,000 in American Rescue Plan funds.

Under Minnesota Joint Powers Law, Minn. Stat. § 471.59, Minnesota counties have created the Minnesota Counties Computer Cooperative (MCCC) to jointly provide for the establishment, operation, and maintenance of data processing systems, facilities, and management information systems. During the year, Houston County paid $123,980 to the MCCC.

Joint Ventures

Southeastern Minnesota Library

The Southeastern Minnesota Library provides regional library services to counties and cities in southeastern Minnesota. During the year, Houston County paid $219,697 to the Library.

Southeast Minnesota Regional Emergency Communications Board

The Southeast Minnesota Regional Emergency Communications Board (formerly known as Southeast Minnesota Regional Radio Board) was formed in 2008 under the authority of Minn. Stat. §§ 471.59 and 403.39. It is governed by a membership of 11 counties and one city. The Board consists of one County Commissioner from each member county and one City Council member from the member city. The Board was formulated to provide for the regional administration of enhancements to the Allied Radio Matrix Emergency Response (ARMER) system owned and operated by the State of Minnesota and to enhance and improve interoperable public safety communications along with coordination of 911 and public safety broadband data services within the region.

The financial activities of the Board are accounted for by Olmsted County as the fiscal agent. During 2023, Houston County paid $1,500 to the Board.

Southeast Minnesota Violent Crime Enforcement Team (SEMVCET)

Houston County and other regional counties and cities have formed the Southeast Minnesota Violent Crime Enforcement Team under the authority of Minn. Stat. § 471.59, to work cooperatively in the enforcement of controlled substance laws and crime-related offenses. The SEMVCET is governed by a governing board made up of members known as “Directors.” The chief law enforcement officer from each member county and member city shall serve as a Director.

Olmsted County has been appointed as the fiscal agent for the SEMVCET. During 2023, Houston County paid $7,879 to the SEMVCET.

Family Services Collaborative

The Houston County Family Services Collaborative was established in 1995 under the authority of Minn. Stat. §§ 471.59 and 124D.23 (now Minn. Stat. § 142D.15). The Collaborative includes Houston County, four Houston County school districts, and SEMCAC, each of which appoints members to the Collaborative's governing board. The purpose of the Collaborative is to provide a coordinated approach to support and nurture individuals and families through prevention and intervention so as to ensure success for every child.

Control of the Collaborative is vested in a Board of Directors. Houston County appoints two members to this Board. Houston County acts as fiscal agent for the Collaborative. The Collaborative is financed by state grants and appropriations from participating members. During 2023, Houston County provided no funding.

In the event of withdrawal from the Collaborative, the withdrawing party shall give a 30-day notice. The withdrawing party remains liable for fiscal obligations incurred prior to the effective date of withdrawal and shall not be entitled to any compensation as long as the Collaborative continues in existence. Should the Collaborative cease to exist, all property, real and personal, at the time of termination shall be distributed by the governing board.

Currently, the Collaborative does not prepare complete financial statements; therefore, the Collaborative does not have audited financial statements. Financial information can be obtained by contacting the following: Houston County Public Health and Human Services, Accounting Unit, 304 South Marshall Street, Caledonia, Minnesota 55921.

Required Supplementary Information

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Exhibit A-1

Budgetary Comparison Schedule
General Fund
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Budgeted Amounts Original	Budgeted Amounts Final	Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget
Revenues				
Taxes	$ 7,539,577	$ 7,534,279	$ 7,483,985	$ (50,294)
Licenses and permits	89,813	90,115	88,116	(1,999)
Intergovernmental	2,225,371	2,371,596	3,959,661	1,588,065
Charges for services	1,737,646	1,757,869	1,781,735	23,866
Fines and forfeits	4,500	3,600	2,342	(1,258)
Gifts and contributions	4,000	-	6,505	6,505
Investment earnings	167,200	363,033	468,131	105,098
Miscellaneous	185,588	202,178	227,288	25,110
Total Revenues	**$ 11,953,695**	**$ 12,322,670**	**$ 14,017,763**	**$ 1,695,093**
Expenditures				
Current				
General government				
Commissioners	$ 205,863	$ 211,879	$ 186,487	$ 25,392
Courts	66,600	66,600	39,979	26,621
County auditor	394,512	407,658	385,982	21,676
Motor vehicle/license bureau	122,737	129,156	108,067	21,089
County assessor	639,800	568,524	559,212	9,312
Elections	16,300	21,032	20,724	308
Finance	212,026	215,584	207,500	8,084
Data processing	637,876	640,578	625,694	14,884
Fleet	14,602	14,602	1,752	12,850
Personnel	256,467	265,038	262,946	2,092
Attorney	579,697	592,731	605,126	(12,395)
Recorder	247,406	266,041	265,589	452
Surveyor	223,266	219,000	212,395	6,605
Planning and zoning	267,327	269,650	251,014	18,636
Buildings and plant	690,546	1,218,021	1,244,340	(26,319)
Veterans service	155,256	174,452	161,022	13,430
GIS	100,550	100,550	81,484	19,066
Other general government	307,752	302,142	988,690	(686,548)
Total general government	**$ 5,138,583**	**$ 5,683,238**	**$ 6,208,003**	**$ (524,765)**
Public safety				
Sheriff	$ 2,588,082	$ 2,508,584	$ 2,794,331	$ (285,747)
Boat and water safety	17,443	17,443	12,591	4,852
Emergency services	43,797	43,885	42,505	1,380
Coroner	61,162	61,162	60,723	439
E-911 system	188,327	196,327	93,877	102,450
County jail	1,969,631	1,816,349	1,823,688	(7,339)
Community corrections	201,427	191,174	228,511	(37,337)
Civil defense	-	-	80	(80)
Total public safety	**$ 5,069,869**	**$ 4,834,924**	**$ 5,056,306**	**$ (221,382)**

The notes to the required supplementary information are an integral part of this schedule.

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Exhibit A-1
(Continued)

Budgetary Comparison Schedule
General Fund
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with
	Original	Final	Amounts	Final Budget
Expenditures				
Current (Continued)				
Sanitation				
Solid waste	$ 791,757	$ 805,963	$ 797,214	$ 8,749
Recycling	272,282	272,571	249,753	22,818
Total sanitation	**$ 1,064,039**	**$ 1,078,534**	**$ 1,046,967**	**$ 31,567**
Health				
Transportation	$ 16,500	$ 16,500	$ 16,500	$ -
Health center (waivered services)	5,500	5,500	5,500	-
Total health	**$ 22,000**	**$ 22,000**	**$ 22,000**	**$ -**
Culture and recreation				
Historical society	$ 42,500	$ 42,500	$ 42,500	$ -
Parks	72,548	89,000	89,010	(10)
Other culture and recreation	100,000	127,882	127,882	-
Total culture and recreation	**$ 215,048**	**$ 259,382**	**$ 259,392**	**$ (10)**
Conservation of natural resources				
County extension	$ 190,413	$ 190,881	$ 196,080	$ (5,199)
Soil and water conservation	129,000	129,000	129,000	-
Agriculture society/County fair	24,000	24,000	24,000	-
Water planning	22,672	22,672	26,506	(3,834)
Total conservation of natural resources	**$ 366,085**	**$ 366,553**	**$ 375,586**	**$ (9,033)**
Economic development				
Community development	$ 99,517	$ 79,803	$ 89,693	$ (9,890)
Airport	84,311	84,311	452,276	(367,965)
Other economic development	4,702	4,692	4,692	-
Total economic development	**$ 188,530**	**$ 168,806**	**$ 546,661**	**$ (377,855)**
Intergovernmental				
County/regional library	**$ 189,650**	**$ 189,697**	**$ 189,697**	**$ -**
Debt service				
Principal	$ -	$ -	$ 67,213	$ (67,213)
Interest	-	-	6,778	(6,778)
Total debt service	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 73,991**	**$ (73,991)**
Total Expenditures	**$ 12,253,804**	**$ 12,603,134**	**$ 13,778,603**	**$ (1,175,469)**

Exhibit A-1
(Continued)

Budgetary Comparison Schedule
General Fund
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with
	Original	Final	Amounts	Final Budget
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	**$ (300,109)**	**$ (280,464)**	**$ 239,160**	**$ 519,624**
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Issuance of leases	-	-	123,525	123,525
Net Change in Fund Balance	**$ (300,109)**	**$ (280,464)**	**$ 362,685**	**$ 643,149**
Fund Balance – January 1, as restated	**7,802,113**	**7,802,113**	**7,802,113**	**-**
Fund Balance – December 31	**$ 7,502,004**	**$ 7,521,649**	**$ 8,164,798**	**$ 643,149**

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Exhibit A-2

Budgetary Comparison Schedule
Road and Bridge Special Revenue Fund
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with
	Original	Final	Amounts	Final Budget
Revenues				
Taxes	$ 2,207,085	$ 2,207,085	$ 2,191,054	$ (16,031)
Licenses and permits	5,000	4,265	4,195	(70)
Intergovernmental	5,174,823	5,291,303	5,177,414	(113,889)
Charges for services	160,500	273,170	320,859	47,689
Investment earnings	17,000	38,540	45,954	7,414
Miscellaneous	1,100	1,100	2,734	1,634
Total Revenues	**$ 7,565,508**	**$ 7,815,463**	**$ 7,742,210**	**$ (73,253)**
Expenditures				
Current				
Highways and streets				
Administration	$ 340,240	$ 336,502	$ 329,524	$ 6,978
Maintenance	3,123,440	3,077,752	2,843,239	234,513
Construction	3,068,547	3,329,216	3,305,106	24,110
Equipment maintenance and shop	1,277,354	1,282,000	1,015,565	266,435
Total highways and streets	**$ 7,809,581**	**$ 8,025,470**	**$ 7,493,434**	**$ 532,036**
Intergovernmental				
Highways and streets	**$ 414,485**	**$ 299,065**	**$ 299,065**	**$ -**
Debt service				
Principal	$ -	$ -	$ 85,671	$ (85,671)
Interest	-	-	6,722	(6,722)
Total debt service	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 92,393**	**$ (92,393)**
Total Expenditures	**$ 8,224,066**	**$ 8,324,535**	**$ 7,884,892**	**$ 439,643**
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	**$ (658,558)**	**$ (509,072)**	**$ (142,682)**	**$ 366,390**
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Issuance of leases	$ -	$ -	$ 163,597	$ 163,597
Proceeds from sale of capital assets	122,000	63,219	63,219	-
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	**$ 122,000**	**$ 63,219**	**$ 226,816**	**$ 163,597**
Net Change in Fund Balance	**$ (536,558)**	**$ (445,853)**	**$ 84,134**	**$ 529,987**
Fund Balance – January 1	**5,280,099**	**5,280,099**	**5,280,099**	**-**
Increase (decrease) in inventories	**-**	**-**	**63,045**	**63,045**
Fund Balance – December 31	**$ 4,743,541**	**$ 4,834,246**	**$ 5,427,278**	**$ 593,032**

The notes to the required supplementary information are an integral part of this schedule.

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Exhibit A-3

Budgetary Comparison Schedule
Health and Human Services Special Revenue Fund
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with
	Original	Final	Amounts	Final Budget
Revenues				
Taxes	$ 2,102,726	$ 2,102,726	$ 2,088,362	$ (14,364)
Intergovernmental	4,083,863	4,083,863	4,319,538	235,675
Charges for services	731,984	731,984	781,208	49,224
Investment earnings	1,100	1,100	30,126	29,026
Miscellaneous	347,623	347,623	586,718	239,095
Total Revenues	**$ 7,267,296**	**$ 7,267,296**	**$ 7,805,952**	**$ 538,656**
Expenditures				
Current				
Human services				
Income maintenance	$ 2,524,098	$ 2,526,603	$ 2,878,996	$ (352,393)
Social services	4,086,150	4,101,597	3,864,068	237,529
Total human services	**$ 6,610,248**	**$ 6,628,200**	**$ 6,743,064**	**$ (114,864)**
Health				
Public health	**$ 695,372**	**$ 700,109**	**$ 707,474**	**$ (7,365)**
Debt service				
Principal	$ -	$ -	$ 4,250	$ (4,250)
Interest	-	-	116	(116)
Total debt service	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 4,366**	**$ (4,366)**
Total Expenditures	**$ 7,305,620**	**$ 7,328,309**	**$ 7,454,904**	**$ (126,595)**
Net Change in Fund Balance	**$ (38,324)**	**$ (61,013)**	**$ 351,048**	**$ 412,061**
Fund Balance – January 1	**1,871,890**	**1,871,890**	**1,871,890**	**-**
Fund Balance – December 31	**$ 1,833,566**	**$ 1,810,877**	**$ 2,222,938**	**$ 412,061**

The notes to the required supplementary information are an integral part of this schedule.

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Schedule of Changes in Total OPEB Liability and Related Ratios
Other Postemployment Benefits
December 31, 2023

	2023	2022
Total OPEB Liability		
Service cost	$ 41,883	$ 54,132
Interest	11,666	11,171
Differences between expected and actual experience	(63,899)	-
Changes of assumption or other inputs	(56,627)	-
Benefit payments	(28,459)	(28,107)
Net change in total OPEB liability	**$ (95,436)**	**$ 37,196**
Total OPEB Liability – Beginning	**555,587**	**518,391**
Total OPEB Liability – Ending	**$ 460,151**	**$ 555,587**
Covered-employee payroll	$ 9,198,650	$ 8,412,242
Total OPEB liability (asset) as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	5.00%	6.60%

This schedule is intended to show information for ten years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

Exhibit A-4

2021	2020	2019	2018
$ 52,555	$ 35,003	$ 33,983	$ 30,723
20,522	18,872	15,844	15,145
(84,822)	-	6,213	-
58,665	-	(12,316)	-
(31,752)	(24,339)	(32,103)	(23,849)
$ 15,168	**$ 29,536**	**$ 11,621**	**$ 22,019**
503,223	**473,687**	**462,066**	**440,047**
$ 518,391	**$ 503,223**	**$ 473,687**	**$ 462,066**
$ 8,167,225	$ 8,057,857	$ 7,823,162	$ 8,044,084
6.35%	6.25%	6.05%	5.74%

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Exhibit A-5

Schedule of Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability
PERA General Employees Retirement Plan
December 31, 2023

Measurement Date	Employer's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability/ Asset	Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) (a)	State's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability Associated with Houston County (b)	Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability and the State's Related Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) (a + b)	Covered Payroll (c)	Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) as a Percentage of Covered Payroll (a/c)	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability
2023	0.0925 %	$ 5,172,496	$ 142,663	$ 5,315,159	$ 7,611,622	67.96 %	83.10 %
2022	0.0940	7,230,990	212,044	7,443,034	7,120,887	101.55	76.67
2021	0.0956	3,958,705	120,978	4,079,683	6,808,140	58.15	87.00
2020	0.0910	5,455,866	168,408	5,624,274	6,477,278	84.23	79.06
2019	0.0907	5,014,600	155,827	5,170,427	6,417,384	78.14	80.23
2018	0.0889	4,931,808	161,920	5,093,728	5,978,318	82.49	79.53
2017	0.0953	6,083,889	76,526	6,160,415	6,490,088	93.74	75.90
2016	0.1007	8,176,341	106,770	8,283,111	5,560,161	147.05	68.91
2015	0.0959	4,967,497	N/A	4,967,497	5,828,943	85.22	78.19

This schedule is intended to show information for ten years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.
The measurement date for each year is June 30.
N/A – Not Applicable

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Exhibit A-6

Schedule of Contributions
PERA General Employees Retirement Plan
December 31, 2023

Year Ending	Statutorily Required Contributions (a)	Actual Contributions in Relation to Statutorily Required Contributions (b)	Contribution (Deficiency) Excess (b - a)	Covered Payroll (c)	Actual Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll (b/c)
2023	$ 583,000	$ 583,000	$ -	$ 7,773,320	7.50 %
2022	551,573	551,573	-	7,354,315	7.50
2021	522,185	522,185	-	6,962,469	7.50
2020	494,564	494,564	-	6,594,193	7.50
2019	494,277	494,277	-	6,590,363	7.50
2018	451,479	451,479	-	6,019,720	7.50
2017	475,785	475,785	-	6,343,799	7.50
2016	475,097	475,097	-	6,334,627	7.50
2015	420,031	420,031	-	5,600,413	7.50

This schedule is intended to show information for ten years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.
The County's year-end is December 31.

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Exhibit A-7

Schedule of Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability
PERA Public Employees Police and Fire Plan
December 31, 2023

Measurement Date	Employer's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability/ Asset	Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) (a)	State's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability Associated with Houston County (b)	Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability and the State's Related Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) (a + b)	Covered Payroll (c)	Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) as a Percentage of Covered Payroll (a/c)	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability
2023	0.0956 %	$ 1,650,888	$ 66,532	$ 1,717,420	$ 1,256,039	131.44 %	86.47 %
2022	0.0971	4,046,993	176,863	4,223,856	1,130,303	358.04	70.53
2021	0.0915	675,407	30,386	705,793	1,075,636	62.79	93.66
2020	0.0969	1,277,246	30,065	1,307,311	1,093,427	116.81	87.19
2019	0.0987	1,050,761	N/A	1,050,761	1,041,876	100.85	89.26
2018	0.0960	1,018,998	N/A	1,018,998	1,007,966	101.09	88.84
2017	0.0970	1,309,615	N/A	1,309,615	1,026,852	127.54	85.43
2016	0.1040	4,173,700	N/A	4,173,700	968,970	430.74	63.88
2015	0.1000	1,136,234	N/A	1,136,234	920,237	123.47	86.61

This schedule is intended to show information for ten years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.
The measurement date for each year is June 30.
N/A – Not Applicable

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Exhibit A-8

Schedule of Contributions
PERA Public Employees Police and Fire Plan
December 31, 2023

Year Ending	Statutorily Required Contributions (a)	Actual Contributions in Relation to Statutorily Required Contributions (b)	Contribution (Deficiency) Excess (b - a)	Covered Payroll (c)	Actual Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll (b/c)
2023	$ 230,629	$ 230,629	$ -	$ 1,302,989	17.70 %
2022	208,507	208,507	-	1,178,009	17.70
2021	193,622	193,622	-	1,093,908	17.70
2020	194,137	194,137	-	1,096,819	17.70
2019	181,624	181,624	-	1,071,529	16.95
2018	165,017	165,017	-	1,018,624	16.20
2017	161,164	161,164	-	994,840	16.20
2016	166,829	166,829	-	1,029,809	16.20
2015	152,447	152,447	-	941,029	16.20

This schedule is intended to show information for ten years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.
The County's year-end is December 31.

The notes to the required supplementary information are an integral part of this schedule.

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Exhibit A-9

Schedule of Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability
PERA Public Employees Local Government Correctional Service Retirement Plan
December 31, 2023

Measurement Date	Employer's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability/ Asset	Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) (a)	Covered Payroll (b)	Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) as a Percentage of Covered Payroll (a/b)	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability
2023	0.4781 %	$ 216,125	$ 1,120,953	19.28 %	95.94 %
2022	0.5064	1,683,274	1,112,424	151.32	74.58
2021	0.4984	(81,877)	1,102,121	(7.43)	101.61
2020	0.4846	131,491	1,054,569	12.47	96.67
2019	0.4590	63,549	979,064	6.49	98.17
2018	0.4800	79,686	989,429	8.05	97.64
2017	0.4900	1,396,505	1,111,491	125.64	67.89
2016	0.4500	1,643,914	821,174	200.19	58.16
2015	0.4300	66,478	776,864	8.56	96.95

This schedule is intended to show information for ten years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.
The measurement date for each year is June 30.

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Exhibit A-10

Schedule of Contributions
PERA Public Employees Local Government Correctional Service Retirement Plan
December 31, 2023

Year Ending	Statutorily Required Contributions (a)	Actual Contributions in Relation to Statutorily Required Contributions (b)	Contribution (Deficiency) Excess (b - a)	Covered Payroll (c)	Actual Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll (b/c)
2023	$ 98,564	$ 98,564	$ -	$ 1,126,444	8.75 %
2022	99,410	99,410	-	1,136,109	8.75
2021	97,013	97,013	-	1,108,714	8.75
2020	93,150	93,150	-	1,064,568	8.75
2019	89,606	89,606	-	1,024,075	8.75
2018	85,308	85,308	-	974,945	8.75
2017	86,822	86,822	-	992,251	8.75
2016	81,965	81,965	-	936,732	8.75
2015	69,914	69,914	-	799,026	8.75

This schedule is intended to show information for ten years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.
The County's year-end is December 31.

Note 1 – Budgetary Information

Annual budgets are adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles for all governmental funds, except the EDA Special Revenue Fund. All annual appropriations lapse at fiscal year-end.

On or before mid-June of each year, all departments and agencies submit requests for appropriations to the County Finance Director so that a budget can be prepared. Before September 30, the proposed budget is presented to the County Board for review. The Board holds public hearings, and a final budget must be prepared and adopted no later than December 31.

The appropriated budget is prepared by fund, function, and department. The County's department heads may make transfers of appropriations within a department. Transfers of appropriations between departments require approval of the County Board. The legal level of budgetary control (the level at which expenditures may not legally exceed appropriations) is the fund level. During the year, the Board made supplementary appropriations to the General Fund, the Road and Bridge Special Revenue Fund, and the Health and Human Services Special Revenue Fund.

Note 2 – Excess of Expenditures Over Budget

The following individual major funds had expenditures in excess of the final budget for the year ended December 31, 2023:

Excess of Expenditures Over Budget

	Expenditures	Budget	Excess
General Fund	$ 13,778,603	$ 12,603,134	$ 1,175,469
Health and Human Services Special Revenue Fund	7,454,904	7,328,309	126,595

The excess expenditures over budget is due to not budgeting for spending of COVID-19 State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Note 3 – Other Postemployment Benefits

In 2018, Houston County implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*. See Note 2 in the notes to the financial statements for additional information regarding the County's other postemployment benefits.

Assets have not been accumulated in a trust that meets the criteria in paragraph four of GASB Statement 75 to pay related benefits.

The following changes in actuarial assumptions occurred:

2023

- The health care trend rates were changed to better anticipate short-term and long-term medical increases.
- The mortality tables were updated from the Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Headcount-Weighted Mortality tables (general, safety) with MP-2020 Generational Improvement Scale to the Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Headcount-Weighted Mortality tables (general, safety) with MP-2021 Generational Improvement Scale.
- The retirement, withdrawal, and salary increase rates for public safety employees were updated to reflect the latest experience study.
- The inflation rate changed from 2.00 percent to 2.50 percent.
- The discount rate changed from 2.00 percent to 4.00 percent.
- These changes decreased the liability $56,627.

2022

- No changes.

2021

- The health care trend rates were changed to better anticipate short-term and long-term medical increases.
- The mortality tables were updated from the RP-2014 Mortality tables (blue collar for public safety, white collar for others) with MP-2018 Generational Improvement Scale to the Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Headcount-Weighted Mortality tables (general, safety) with MP-2020 Generational Improvement Scale.
- The salary increase rates were changed from a flat 3.00 percent per year for all employees to rates which vary by service and contract group.
- The retirement and withdrawal tables for non-public safety employees were updated.
- The inflation rate was changed from 2.50 percent to 2.00 percent.
- The discount rate was changed from 3.80 percent to 2.00 percent.

2020

- No changes.

2019

- The health care trend rates were changed to better anticipate short-term and long-term medical increases.

- The mortality tables were updated from the RP-2014 Mortality tables (blue collar for public safety, white collar for others) with MP-2016 Generational Improvement Scale to the RP-2014 Mortality Tables (blue collar for public safety, white collar for others) with MP-2018 Generational Improvement Scale.

- The retirement and withdrawal tables for public safety employees were updated.

- The discount rate was changed from 3.30 percent to 3.80 percent.

2018

- The actuarial cost method changed from the Projected Unit Credit to Entry Age, level percentage of pay.

- The discount rate used changed from 3.50 percent to 3.30 percent.

Note 4 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans – Changes in Significant Plan Provisions, Actuarial Methods, and Assumptions

The following changes were reflected in the valuation performed on behalf of the Public Employees Retirement Association for the fiscal year June 30:

General Employees Retirement Plan

2023

- The investment return assumption and single discount rate were changed from 6.50 percent to 7.00 percent.

- A one-time direct state aid contribution of $170.1 million occurred on October 1, 2023.

- The vesting period for those hired after June 30, 2010, was changed from five years of allowable service to three years of allowable service.

- The benefit increase delay for early retirements on or after January 1, 2024, was eliminated.

- For Basic Plan members, a one-time, non-compounding benefit increase of 4.00 percent, minus the actual 2024 adjustment, will be payable in a lump sum for calendar year 2024 by March 31, 2024.

- For Coordinated Plan members, a one-time, non-compounding benefit increase of 2.50 percent, minus the actual 2024 adjustment, will be payable in a lump sum for calendar year 2024 by March 31, 2024.

2022

- The mortality improvement scale was changed from Scale MP-2020 to Scale MP-2021.

2021

- The investment return and single discount rates were changed from 7.50 percent to 6.50 percent.

- The mortality improvement scale was changed from Scale MP-2019 to Scale MP-2020.

2020

- The price inflation assumption was decreased from 2.50 percent to 2.25 percent.
- The payroll growth assumption was decreased from 3.25 percent to 3.00 percent.
- Assumed salary increase rates were changed as recommended in the June 30, 2019, experience study. The net effect is assumed rates that average 0.25 percent less than previous rates.
- Assumed rates of retirement were changed as recommended in the June 30, 2019, experience study. The changes result in more unreduced (normal) retirements and slightly fewer Rule of 90 and early retirements.
- Assumed rates of termination were changed as recommended in the June 30, 2019, experience study. The new rates are based on service and are generally lower than the previous rates for years two to five and slightly higher thereafter.
- Assumed rates of disability were changed as recommended in the June 30, 2019, experience study. The change results in fewer predicted disability retirements for males and females.
- The base mortality table for healthy annuitants and employees was changed from the RP-2014 table to the Pub-2010 General Employee Mortality table, with adjustments. The base mortality table for disabled annuitants was changed from the RP-2014 Disabled Annuitant Mortality table to the Pub-2010 General/ Teacher Disabled Retiree Mortality table, with adjustments.
- The mortality improvement scale was changed from Scale MP-2018 to Scale MP-2019.
- The assumed spouse age difference was changed from two years older for females to one year older.
- The assumed number of married male new retirees electing the 100 percent Joint and Survivor option changed from 35 percent to 45 percent. The assumed number of married female new retirees electing the 100 percent Joint and Survivor option changed from 15 percent to 30 percent. The corresponding number of married new retirees electing the Life annuity option was adjusted accordingly.
- Augmentation for current privatized members was reduced to 2.00 percent for the period July 1, 2020, through December 31, 2023, and 0.00 percent thereafter. Augmentation was eliminated for privatizations occurring after June 30, 2020.

2019

- The mortality projection scale was changed from Scale MP-2017 to Scale MP-2018.

2018

- The mortality projection scale was changed from Scale MP-2015 to Scale MP-2017.
- The assumed benefit increase rate was changed from 1.00 percent per year through 2044 and 2.50 percent per year thereafter, to 1.25 percent per year.

- The augmentation adjustment in early retirement factors is eliminated over a five-year period starting July 1, 2019, resulting in actuarial equivalence after June 30, 2024.

- Interest credited on member contributions decreased from 4.00 percent to 3.00 percent, beginning July 1, 2018.

- Deferred augmentation was changed to 0.00 percent, effective January 1, 2019. Augmentation that has already accrued for deferred members will still apply.

- Contribution stabilizer provisions were repealed.

- Post-retirement benefit increases were changed from 1.00 percent per year with a provision to increase to 2.50 percent upon attainment of 90 percent funding to 50 percent of the Social Security cost-of-living adjustment, not less than 1.00 percent and not more than 1.50 percent, beginning January 1, 2019.

- For retirements on or after January 1, 2024, the first benefit increase is delayed until the retiree reaches normal retirement age; does not apply to the Rule of 90 retirees, disability benefit recipients, or survivors.

- Actuarial equivalent factors were updated to reflect revised mortality and interest assumptions.

2017

- The Combined Service Annuity (CSA) loads were changed from 0.80 percent for active members and 60 percent for vested and non-vested deferred members (30 percent for deferred Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund members). The revised CSA loads are now 0.00 percent for active member liability, 15 percent for vested deferred member liability, and 3.00 percent for non-vested deferred member liability.

- The assumed post-retirement benefit increase rate was changed from 1.00 percent per year for all years to 1.00 percent per year through 2044 and 2.50 percent per year thereafter.

- Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund plan provisions change the employer supplemental contribution to $21 million in calendar years 2017 and 2018 and returns to $31 million through calendar year 2031. The state's required contribution is $16 million in PERA's fiscal years 2018 and 2019 and returns to $6 million annually through calendar year 2031.

2016

- The assumed post-retirement benefit increase rate was changed from 1.00 percent per year through 2035 and 2.50 percent per year thereafter, to 1.00 percent for all future years.

- The assumed investment rate was changed from 7.90 percent to 7.50 percent. The single discount rate was also changed from 7.90 percent to 7.50 percent.

- Other assumptions were changed pursuant to the experience study dated June 30, 2015. The assumed payroll growth and inflation were decreased by 0.25 percent. Payroll growth was reduced from 3.50 percent to 3.25 percent. Inflation was reduced from 2.75 percent to 2.50 percent.

Public Employees Police and Fire Plan

2023

- The investment return assumption was changed from 6.50 percent to 7.00 percent.
- The single discount rate changed from 5.40 percent to 7.00 percent.
- A one-time direct state aid contribution of $19.4 million occurred on October 1, 2023.
- The vesting requirement for new hires after June 30, 2014, was changed from a graded 20-year vesting schedule to a graded ten-year vesting schedule, with 50 percent vesting after five years, increasing incrementally to 100 percent after ten years.
- A one-time, non-compounding benefit increase of 3.00 percent will be payable in a lump sum for calendar year 2024 by March 31, 2024.
- Psychological treatment is required effective July 1, 2023, prior to approval for a duty disability benefit for a psychological condition relating to the member's occupation.
- A total and permanent duty disability benefit was added effective July 1, 2023.

2022

- The single discount rate changed from 6.50 percent to 5.40 percent.
- The mortality improvement scale was changed from Scale MP-2020 to Scale MP-2021.

2021

- The investment return and single discount rates were changed from 7.50 percent to 6.50 percent.
- The inflation assumption was changed from 2.50 percent to 2.25 percent.
- The payroll growth assumption was changed from 3.25 percent to 3.00 percent.
- The base mortality table for healthy annuitants and employees was changed from the RP-2014 table to the Pub-2010 Public Safety Mortality table. The mortality improvement scale was changed from Scale MP-2019 to Scale MP-2020.
- The base mortality table for disabled annuitants was changed from the RP-2014 Healthy Annuitant Mortality table (with future mortality improvement according to Scale MP-2019) to the Pub-2010 Public Safety Disabled Annuitant Mortality table (with future mortality improvement according to Scale MP-2020).
- Assumed rates of salary increase were modified as recommended in the July 14, 2020, experience study. The overall impact is a decrease in gross salary increase rates.
- Assumed rates of retirement were changed as recommended in the July 14, 2020, experience study. The changes result in slightly more unreduced retirements and fewer assumed early retirements.

- Assumed rates of withdrawal were changed from select and ultimate rates to service-based rates. The changes result in more assumed terminations.

- Assumed rates of disability were increased for ages 25-44 and decreased for ages over 49. Overall, proposed rates result in more projected disabilities.

- Assumed percent married for active female members was changed from 60 percent to 70 percent. Minor changes to form of payment assumptions were applied.

<u>2020</u>

- The mortality projection scale was changed from Scale MP-2018 to Scale MP-2019.

<u>2019</u>

- The mortality projection scale was changed from Scale MP-2017 to Scale MP-2018.

<u>2018</u>

- The mortality projection scale was changed from Scale MP-2016 to Scale MP-2017.

- Post-retirement benefit increases changed to 1.00 percent for all years with no trigger.

- An end date of July 1, 2048, was added to the existing $9.0 million state contribution. Additionally, annual state aid will equal $4.5 million in fiscal years 2019 and 2020, and $9.0 million thereafter, until the plan reaches 100 percent funding, or July 1, 2048, if earlier.

- Member contributions were changed effective January 1, 2019, and January 1, 2020, from 10.80 percent to 11.30 and 11.80 percent of pay, respectively. Employer contributions were changed effective January 1, 2019, and January 1, 2020, from 16.20 percent to 16.95 and 17.70 percent of pay, respectively. Interest credited on member contributions decreased from 4.00 percent to 3.00 percent, beginning July 1, 2018.

- Deferred augmentation was changed to 0.00 percent, effective January 1, 2019. Augmentation that has already accrued for deferred members will still apply.

- Actuarial equivalent factors were updated to reflect revised mortality and interest assumptions.

<u>2017</u>

- The assumed salary increases were changed as recommended in the June 30, 2016, experience study. The net effect is proposed rates that average 0.34 percent lower than the previous rates.

- The assumed rates of retirement were changed, resulting in fewer retirements.

- The CSA load was 30 percent for vested and non-vested, deferred members. The CSA load has been changed to 33 percent for vested members and 2.00 percent for non-vested members.

- The base mortality table for healthy annuitants was changed from the RP-2000 fully generational table to the RP-2014 fully generational table (with a base year of 2006), with male rates adjusted by a factor of 0.96. The mortality improvement scale was changed from Scale AA to Scale MP-2016. The base mortality table for disabled annuitants was changed from the RP-2000 disabled mortality table to the mortality table assumed for healthy retirees.

- The assumed termination rates were decreased to 3.00 percent for the first three years of service. Rates beyond the select period of three years were adjusted, resulting in more expected terminations overall.
- The assumed percentage of married female members was decreased from 65 percent to 60 percent.
- The assumed age difference was changed from separate assumptions for male members (wives assumed to be three years younger) and female members (husbands assumed to be four years older) to the assumption that males are two years older than females.
- The assumed percentage of female members electing joint and survivor annuities was increased.
- The assumed post-retirement benefit increase rate was changed from 1.00 percent for all years to 1.00 percent per year through 2064 and 2.50 percent thereafter.
- The single discount rate was changed from 5.60 percent per annum to 7.50 percent per annum.

2016

- The assumed post-retirement benefit increase rate was changed from 1.00 percent per year through 2037 and 2.50 percent per year thereafter, to 1.00 percent for all future years.
- The assumed investment rate was changed from 7.90 percent to 7.50 percent. The single discount rate was changed from 7.90 percent to 5.60 percent.
- The assumed payroll growth and inflation were decreased by 0.25 percent. Payroll growth was reduced from 3.50 percent to 3.25 percent. Inflation was reduced from 2.75 percent to 2.50 percent.

Public Employees Local Government Correctional Service Retirement Plan

2023

- The investment return rate was changed from 6.50 percent to 7.00 percent.
- The single discount rate changed from 5.42 percent to 7.00 percent.
- A one-time direct state aid contribution of $5.3 million occurred on October 1, 2023.
- A one-time, non-compounding benefit increase of 2.50 percent, minus the actual 2024 adjustment, will be payable in a lump sum for calendar year 2024 by March 31, 2024.
- The maximum benefit increase will revert back to 2.50 percent, if the maximum increase is 1.50 percent and the Plan's funding ratio improves to 85 percent for two consecutive years on a market value of assets basis.

2022

- The single discount rate changed from 6.50 percent to 5.42 percent.
- The mortality improvement scale was changed from Scale MP-2020 to Scale MP-2021.
- The benefit increase assumption was changed from 2.00 percent per annum to 2.00 percent per annum through December 31, 2054, and 1.50 percent per annum thereafter.

2021

- The investment return and single discount rates were changed from 7.50 percent to 6.50 percent.
- The inflation assumption was changed from 2.50 percent to 2.25 percent.
- The payroll growth assumption was changed from 3.25 percent to 3.00 percent.
- The base mortality table for healthy annuitants and employees was changed from the RP-2014 table to the Pub-2010 Public Safety Mortality table. The mortality improvement scale was changed from Scale MP-2019 to Scale MP-2020.
- The base mortality table for disabled annuitants was changed from the RP-2014 Healthy Annuitant Mortality table (with future mortality improvement according to Scale MP-2019) to the Pub-2010 Public Safety Disabled Annuitant Mortality table (with future mortality improvement according to Scale MP-2020).
- Assumed rates of salary increase were modified as recommended in the July 10, 2020, experience study. The overall impact is a decrease in gross salary increase rates.
- Assumed rates of retirement were changed as recommended in the July 10, 2020, experience study. The changes result in slightly more unreduced retirements and fewer assumed early retirements.
- Assumed rates of withdrawal were changed as recommended in the July 10, 2020, experience study. The new rates predict more terminations, both in the three-year select period (based on service) and the ultimate rates (based on age).
- Assumed rates of disability were lowered.
- Assumed percent married for active members was lowered from 85 percent to 75 percent.
- Minor changes to form of payment assumptions were applied.

2020

- The mortality projection scale was changed from Scale MP-2018 to Scale MP-2019.

2019

- The mortality projection scale was changed from Scale MP-2017 to Scale MP-2018.

2018

- The single discount rate was changed from 5.96 percent per annum to 7.50 percent per annum.
- The mortality projection scale was changed from Scale MP-2016 to Scale MP-2017.
- The assumed post-retirement benefit increase was changed from 2.50 percent per year to 2.00 percent per year.
- The augmentation adjustment in early retirement factors is eliminated over a five-year period starting July 1, 2019, resulting in actuarial equivalence after June 30, 2024.
- Interest credited on member contributions decreased from 4.00 percent to 3.00 percent, beginning July 1, 2018.
- Deferred augmentation was changed to 0.00 percent, effective January 1, 2019. Augmentation that has already accrued for deferred members will still apply.
- Post-retirement benefit increases were changed from 2.50 percent per year with a provision to reduce to 1.00 percent if the funding status declines to a certain level, to 100 percent of the Social Security cost-of-living adjustment, not less than 1.00 percent and not more than 2.50 percent, beginning January 1, 2019. If the funding status declines to 85 percent for two consecutive years, or 80 percent for one year, the maximum increase will be lowered to 1.50 percent.
- Actuarial equivalent factors were updated to reflect revised mortality and interest assumptions.

2017

- The base mortality table for healthy annuitants was changed from the RP-2000 fully generational table to the RP-2014 fully generational table (with a base year of 2006), with male rates adjusted by a factor of 0.96. The mortality improvement scale was changed from Scale AA to Scale MP-2016 and is applied to healthy and disabled members. The base mortality table for disabled annuitants was changed from the RP-2000 disabled mortality table to the RP-2014 disabled annuitant mortality table (with future mortality improvement according to Scale MP-2016).
- The CSA load was 30 percent for vested and non-vested, deferred members. The CSA load has been changed to 35 percent for vested members and 1.00 percent for non-vested members.
- The single discount rate was changed from 5.31 percent per annum to 5.96 percent per annum.

2016

- The assumed investment rate was changed from 7.90 percent to 7.50 percent. The single discount rate was changed from 7.90 percent to 5.31 percent.
- The assumed payroll growth and inflation were decreased by 0.25 percent. Payroll growth was reduced from 3.50 percent to 3.25 percent. Inflation was reduced from 2.75 percent to 2.50 percent.

Supplementary Information

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Exhibit B-1

Budgetary Comparison Schedule
Debt Service Fund
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with
	Original	Final	Amounts	Final Budget
Revenues				
Taxes	$ 1,327,111	$ 1,327,111	$ 1,330,216	$ 3,105
Intergovernmental	264,765	264,765	266,803	2,038
Total Revenues	**$ 1,591,876**	**$ 1,591,876**	**$ 1,597,019**	**$ 5,143**
Expenditures				
Debt service				
Principal	$ 1,240,750	$ 1,240,750	$ 1,155,000	$ 85,750
Interest	351,126	351,126	354,353	(3,227)
Administrative (fiscal) charges	-	-	5,925	(5,925)
Total Expenditures	**$ 1,591,876**	**$ 1,591,876**	**$ 1,515,278**	**$ 76,598**
Net Change in Fund Balance	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 81,741**	**$ 81,741**
Fund Balance – January 1	**1,784,481**	**1,784,481**	**1,784,481**	**-**
Fund Balance – December 31	**$ 1,784,481**	**$ 1,784,481**	**$ 1,866,222**	**$ 81,741**

Fiduciary Funds

Custodial Funds

Custodial funds are used to account for assets held by a governmental unit as an agent for individuals, private organizations, other governmental units, and other funds.

The Sheriff's Holding Fund accounts for funds on deposit for inmates of the Houston County Jail, bail money on deposit for out-of-County warrants and civil execution sales, as well as being a holding account for foreclosure sales and redemptions.

The State Revenue Fund accounts for the transfer of County collections to the State of Minnesota (mortgage registry tax, game and fish license sales, motor vehicle license sales, state deed tax sales, and state revenue taxes) and the apportionment of state-aid payments for police and fire departments to cities and towns.

The Crooked Creek Watershed Fund (CCWSCD) accounts for reimbursements to the Watershed District for operations and the collection of assessments to pay the Watershed District's bonded debt and interest.

The Estate Recoveries Fund accounts for the State of Minnesota's share of estate recoveries associated with the Medical Assistance Program.

The Taxes and Penalties Fund accounts for the collection and distribution of miscellaneous agency property taxes (current and delinquent) and prepaid taxes.

The School Districts Fund accounts for property taxes collected and remitted by the County to the various school districts in the County.

The Townships and Cities Fund accounts for the taxes and other amounts received by the County for the various towns and cities.

The Root River Soil and Water Conservation District Fund (RRSWCD) accounts for the assets of the Root River Soil and Water Conservation District held by the County.

The Family Collaborative Fund accounts for monies received and expended by the Family Services Collaborative.

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Combining Statement of Fiduciary Net Position
Fiduciary Funds – Custodial Funds
December 31, 2023

	Sheriff's Holding	State Revenue	CCWSCD	Estate Recoveries
Assets				
Cash and pooled investments	$ 5,406	$ -	$ 1,117	$ 53,465
Investments	-	-	-	-
Taxes receivable for other governments	-	1,792	590	-
Interest receivable	-	-	-	-
Due from other governments	-	53,953	-	-
Total Assets	**$ 5,406**	**$ 55,745**	**$ 1,707**	**$ 53,465**
Liabilities				
Due to other governments	**$ -**	**$ 53,210**	**$ 1,117**	**$ 53,465**
Deferred Inflows of Resources				
Prepaid taxes	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
Net Position				
Restricted for individuals, organizations, and other governments	**$ 5,406**	**$ 2,535**	**$ 590**	**$ -**

Taxes and Penalties	School Districts	Townships and Cities	RRSWCD	Family Collaborative	Total Custodial Funds
$ 109,908	$ 44,044	$ 148,312	$ 1,241,630	$ 70,829	$ 1,674,711
-	-	-	380,592	50,000	430,592
-	95,650	115,601	-	-	213,633
-	-	-	-	152	152
-	-	-	-	16,980	70,933
$ 109,908	**$ 139,694**	**$ 263,913**	**$ 1,622,222**	**$ 137,961**	**$ 2,390,021**
$ 22,306	**$ 44,044**	**$ 148,312**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 322,454**
$ 87,602	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 87,602**
$ -	**$ 95,650**	**$ 115,601**	**$ 1,622,222**	**$ 137,961**	**$ 1,979,965**

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Combining Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position
Fiduciary Funds – Custodial Funds
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Sheriff's Holding	State Revenue	CCWSCD	Estate Recoveries
Additions				
Contributions from individuals	$ 74,603	$ -	$ -	$ -
Refunds collected for tax abatements	-	-	-	-
Interest earnings	-	-	-	-
Property tax collections for other governments	-	-	74,148	-
Fees collected for the state	-	3,759,461	-	258,106
Payments from federal	-	-	-	-
Payments from the state	-	53,953	-	-
Payments from other entities	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-		-	-
Total Additions	**$ 74,603**	**$ 3,813,414**	**$ 74,148**	**$ 258,106**
Deductions				
Payments of property tax to other governments	$ -	$ -	$ 74,164	$ -
Payments to the state	-	3,812,338	-	258,106
Administrative expense	-	-	-	-
Distributions to participants	77,453	-	-	-
Payments to other entities	-	-	-	-
Total Deductions	**$ 77,453**	**$ 3,812,338**	**$ 74,164**	**$ 258,106**
Change in Net Position	**$ (2,850)**	**$ 1,076**	**$ (16)**	**$ -**
Net Position – January 1	**8,256**	**1,459**	**606**	**-**
Net Position – December 31	**$ 5,406**	**$ 2,535**	**$ 590**	**$ -**

Exhibit C-2

Taxes and Penalties	School Districts	Townships and Cities	RRSWCD	Family Collaborative	Total Custodial Funds
$ -	$ -	$ 21,688	$ -	$ -	$ 96,291
3,544	-	-	-	-	3,544
-	-	-	2,589	1,596	4,185
203,755	8,007,876	9,755,895	-	-	18,041,674
-	-	-	-	-	4,017,567
-	-	-	9,450	-	9,450
-	-	-	863,218	71,292	988,463
-	-	248	174,731	-	174,979
-	-	-	17,650	-	17,650
$ 207,299	**$ 8,007,876**	**$ 9,777,831**	**$ 1,067,638**	**$ 72,888**	**$ 23,353,803**
$ 3,544	$ 8,011,411	$ 9,823,672	$ -	$ -	$ 17,912,791
-	-	-	-	188	4,070,632
-	-	-	394,148	1,942	396,090
-	-	-	391,398	-	468,851
203,755	-	-	-	60,000	263,755
$ 207,299	**$ 8,011,411**	**$ 9,823,672**	**$ 785,546**	**$ 62,130**	**$ 23,112,119**
$ -	**$ (3,535)**	**$ (45,841)**	**$ 282,092**	**$ 10,758**	**$ 241,684**
-	**99,185**	**161,442**	**1,340,130**	**127,203**	**1,738,281**
$ -	**$ 95,650**	**$ 115,601**	**$ 1,622,222**	**$ 137,961**	**$ 1,979,965**

Other Schedules

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Exhibit D-1

Schedule of Intergovernmental Revenue
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Appropriations and Shared Revenue		
State		
Highway users tax	$	3,651,344
PERA contribution		233,015
Disparity reduction aid		97,433
Police aid		130,673
County program aid		1,080,056
Aquatic invasive species aid		22,612
SCORE		72,440
Riparian protection aid		54,396
Market value credit – agricultural		337,799
Enhanced 911		186,302
Next generation 911 aid		46,557
Public safety aid		399,848
Medical assistance aid		87,010
Local homeless prevention aid		46,242
Statewide local housing aid		96,037
Total appropriations and shared revenue	**$**	**6,541,764**
Reimbursement for Services		
State		
Minnesota Department of Human Services	**$**	**1,299,637**
Payments		
Local		
Local Grant CVSO ASSN	$	2,000
Southeast Service Cooperative		17,226
Payments in lieu of taxes		413,839
Total payments	**$**	**433,065**
Grants		
State		
Minnesota Department/Board of		
Public Safety	$	94,572
Health		261,750
Natural Resources		137,140
Historical Society		15,217
Human Services		641,337
Veterans Affairs		10,000
Corrections		75,196
Transportation		106,487
Water and Soil Resources		104,228
Secretary of State		6,358
Pollution Control Agency		92,855
Peace Officer Standards and Training Board		13,133
Total state	**$**	**1,558,273**

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Exhibit D-1
(Continued)

Schedule of Intergovernmental Revenue
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Grants (Continued)		
Federal		
Department of		
Agriculture	$	288,106
Justice		2,587
Transportation		1,350,180
Treasury		849,773
Education		2,100
Health and Human Services		1,391,507
Homeland Security		6,424
Total federal	**$**	**3,890,677**
Total state and federal grants	**$**	**5,448,950**
Total Intergovernmental Revenue	**$**	**13,723,416**

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Exhibit D-2

Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Federal Grantor Pass-Through Agency Program or Cluster Title	Assistance Listing Number	Pass-Through Grant Numbers	Expenditures
U.S. Department of Agriculture			
Passed Through Minnesota Department of Health			
WIC Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children	10.557	222MN004W1003	$ 64,200
Passed Through Minnesota Department of Human Services			
SNAP Cluster			
State Administrative Matching Grants for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	10.561	232MN101S2520	223,906
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture			**$ 288,106**
U.S. Department of Justice			
Direct			
Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program	16.607		**$ 2,587**
U.S. Department of Transportation			
Direct			
Airport Improvement Program, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Programs, and COVID-19 Airports Programs	20.106		$ 300,948
COVID-19 – Airport Improvement Program, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Programs, and COVID-19 Airports Programs	20.106		728
(Total Airport Improvement Program, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Programs, and COVID-19 Airports Programs 20.106 $301,676)			
Passed Through Minnesota Department of Transportation			
Highway Planning and Construction	20.205	1052544	1,325,000
Passed Through Minnesota Department of Public Safety			
Highway Safety Cluster			
State and Community Highway Safety	20.600	A-ENFRC23-2023-HOUSTONSO-059	9,127
Minimum Penalties for Repeat Offenders for Driving While Intoxicated	20.608	A-ENFRC23-2023-HOUSTONSO-059	4,396
Highway Safety Cluster			
National Priority Safety Programs	20.616	A-ENFRC23-2023-HOUSTONSO-059	2,657
Total U.S. Department of Transportation			**$ 1,642,856**
U.S. Department of the Treasury			
Direct			
COVID-19 – Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds	21.027		**$ 849,773**
U.S. Department of Education			
Passed Through Minnesota Department of Health			
Special Education – Grants for Infants and Families	84.181	BO4MC32551	**$ 2,100**
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services			
Passed Through Minnesota Department of Health			
Public Health Emergency Preparedness	93.069	NU90TP921911-01-00	$ 31,511
Early Hearing Detection and Intervention	93.251	H61MC00035	1,075
COVID-19 – Immunization Cooperative Agreements	93.268	NH23IP922628	2,188
COVID-19 – Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Diseases (ELC)	93.323	NU50CK000508	1,341
Public Health Emergency Response: Cooperative Agreement for Emergency Response: Public Health Crisis Response	93.354	NU90TP922188	5,033
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	93.558	2301MNTANF	29,517
(Total Temporary Assistance for Needy Families 93.558 $147,692)			
Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant to the States	93.994	B0452933	26,507

The notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards are an integral part of this schedule.

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Exhibit D-2
(Continued)

Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Federal Grantor Pass-Through Agency Program or Cluster Title	Assistance Listing Number	Pass-Through Grant Numbers	Expenditures
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Continued)			
Passed Through Minnesota Department of Human Services			
MaryLee Allen Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program	93.556	2301MNFPSS	1,024
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	93.558	2301MNTANF	118,175
(Total Temporary Assistance for Needy Families 93.558 $147,692)			
Child Support Services	93.563	2301MNCEST	38,258
Child Support Services	93.563	2301MNCSES	243,737
(Total Child Support Services 93.563 $281,995)			
Refugee and Entrant Assistance State/Replacement Designee Administered Programs	93.566	2301MNRCMA	797
CCDF Cluster			
Child Care and Development Block Grant	93.575	2301MNCCDF	5,552
Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Grants	93.590	2202MNBCAP	4,248
Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services Program	93.645	2301MNCWSS	1,623
Foster Care Title IV-E	93.658	2301MNFOST	122,927
Social Services Block Grant	93.667	2301MNSOSR	105,515
John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood	93.674	2301MNCILP	1,384
COVID-19 – Elder Abuse Prevention Interventions Program	93.747	2101MNAPC6	1,661
Children's Health Insurance Program	93.767	2305MN5021	931
Medicaid Cluster			
Medical Assistance Program	93.778	2305MN5MAP	5,593
Medical Assistance Program	93.778	2305MN5ADM	641,203
(Total Medical Assistance Program 93.778 $646,796)			
Total U.S. Department of Health and Human Services			**$ 1,389,800**
U.S. Department of Homeland Security			
Passed Through Minnesota Department of Natural Resources			
Boating Safety Financial Assistance	97.012	227936	**$ 6,424**
Total Federal Awards			**$ 4,181,646**

The County did not pass through any federal awards to subrecipients during the year ended December 31, 2023.

Totals by Cluster	
Total expenditures for SNAP Cluster	$ 223,906
Total expenditures for Highway Safety Cluster	11,784
Total expenditures for CCDF Cluster	5,552
Total expenditures for Medicaid Cluster	646,796

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 1 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Reporting Entity

The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards presents the activities of federal award programs expended by Houston County. The County's reporting entity is defined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

Basis of Presentation

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards includes the federal grant activity of Houston County under programs of the federal government for the year ended December 31, 2023. The information in this schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Because the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards presents only a selected portion of the operations of Houston County, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net position, or cash flows of Houston County.

Expenditures reported on the schedule are reported on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the Uniform Guidance, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement.

Note 2 – De Minimis Cost Rate

Houston County has elected to not use the ten percent de minimis indirect cost rate allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

Note 3 – Reconciliation to Schedule of Intergovernmental Revenue

Reconciliation to Schedule of Intergovernmental Revenue

Federal grant revenue per Schedule of Intergovernmental Revenue	$ 3,890,677
Grants received more than 60 days after year-end, considered unavailable revenue in 2023	
Airport Improvement Program, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Programs, and COVID-19 Airports Programs (AL No. 20.106)	370,794
MaryLee Allen Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program (AL No. 93.556)	256
Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services Program (AL No. 93.645)	255
Unavailable revenue in 2022, recognized as revenue in 2023	
Airport Improvement Program, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Programs, and COVID-19 Airports Programs (AL No. 20.106)	(69,846)
COVID-19 – Airport Improvement Program, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Programs, and COVID-19 Airports Programs (AL No. 20.106)	(8,272)
MaryLee Allen Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program (AL No. 93.556)	(418)
Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Grants (AL No. 93.590)	(1,023)
Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services Program (AL No. 93.645)	(746)
John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (AL No. 93.674)	(31)
Expenditures per Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards	$ 4,181,646

Management and Compliance Section

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Julie Blaha
State Auditor

Office of the State Auditor

Suite 500
525 Park Street
Saint Paul, MN 55103

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*

Independent Auditor's Report

Board of County Commissioners
Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Houston County, Minnesota, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated April 9, 2025.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Houston County's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control over financial reporting.

A *deficiency in internal control over financial reporting* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Houston County's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial

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statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Minnesota Legal Compliance

In connection with our audit, we noted that Houston County failed to comply with the provisions of the miscellaneous provisions section of the *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Counties*, promulgated by the State Auditor pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 6.65, insofar as they relate to accounting matters, as described in the Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs as item 2023-001. Also, in connection with our audit, nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that Houston County failed to comply with the provisions of the contracting – bid laws, depositories of public funds and public investments, conflicts of interest, public indebtedness, and claims and disbursements sections of the *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Counties*, insofar as they relate to accounting matters. However, our audit was not directed primarily toward obtaining knowledge of such noncompliance. Accordingly, had we performed additional procedures, other matters may have come to our attention regarding the County's noncompliance with the above referenced provisions, insofar as they relate to accounting matters.

Houston County's Response to Findings

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on Houston County's response to the finding identified in our audit and described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs and Corrective Action Plan. The County's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance, and the provisions of the *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Counties* and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the County's internal control over financial reporting and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

/s/Julie Blaha

Julie Blaha
State Auditor

/s/Chad Struss

Chad Struss, CPA
Deputy State Auditor

April 9, 2025

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Julie Blaha
State Auditor

Office of the State Auditor

Suite 500
525 Park Street
Saint Paul, MN 55103

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program and Report on Internal Control Over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance

Independent Auditor's Report

Board of County Commissioners
Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited Houston County's compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) *Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of Houston County's major federal programs for the year ended December 31, 2023. Houston County's major federal programs are identified in the Summary of Auditor's Results section of the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs.

In our opinion, Houston County complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of Houston County and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with 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 opinion on compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of Houston County's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to Houston County's federal programs.

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Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on Houston County's compliance based on our audit. 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 auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material, if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about Houston County's compliance with the requirements of each major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, we:

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit;

- identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, 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 Houston County's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances; and

- obtain an understanding of Houston County's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Houston County's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

A *deficiency in internal control over compliance* exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A *material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that were not identified.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

/s/Julie Blaha	*/s/Chad Struss*
Julie Blaha State Auditor	Chad Struss, CPA Deputy State Auditor

April 9, 2025

Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Section I – Summary of Auditor's Results

Financial Statements

Type of report the auditor issued on whether the financial statements audited were prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles: **Unmodified**

Internal control over financial reporting:
- Material weaknesses identified? **No**
- Significant deficiencies identified? **None reported**

Noncompliance material to the financial statements noted? **No**

Federal Awards

Internal control over the major federal programs:
- Material weaknesses identified? **No**
- Significant deficiencies identified? **None reported**

Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for the major federal programs: **Unmodified**

Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with 2 CFR 200.516(a)? **No**

Identification of the major federal programs:

Assistance Listing Number	Name of Federal Program or Cluster
20.205	Highway Planning and Construction
21.027	COVID-19 – Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between Type A and Type B programs: $750,000.

Houston County qualified as a low-risk auditee? **No**

Section II – Financial Statement Findings

No matters were reported.

Section III – Federal Award Findings and Questioned Costs

No matters were reported.

Section IV – Other Findings and Recommendations

2023-001 **<u>Publication Requirements</u>**
Prior Year Finding Number: 2022-002
Year of Finding Origination: 2018
Type of Finding: Minnesota Legal Compliance

Criteria: Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 375.12, County Board minutes must be published within 30 days of the meeting and include an individualized, itemized list of County Board-approved payments over $2,000. For claims $2,000 or less, the total number of claims and total amount shall be stated. The County can publish summaries of the minutes to meet the requirement of Minn. Stat. § 331A.01. However, the County must still publish claims as required by Minn. Stat. § 375.12. Furthermore, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 375.17, the County is to annually publish its financial statements including a listing of vendors.

Condition: Houston County does not publish an itemized list of County Board-approved payments over $2,000 with the total number of claims and total amount for payments under $2,000 as provided by Minn. Stat. § 375.12. Houston County also did not publish the 2022 financial statements and vendor listing in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 375.17.

Context: Claims are published in total by fund with the Board minutes publication. The County includes the financial statements on the County's website.

Effect: The County is not in compliance with Minn. Stat. §§ 375.12 and 375.17.

Cause: The County Board does not wish to incur the additional cost of publication and continues to make the information physically available at the County Government Center for public inspection.

Recommendation: We recommend the County comply with Minn. Stat. § 375.12 and publish an itemized list of County Board-approved payments over $2,000 with the total number of claims and total amount for payments under $2,000. We also recommend the County publish financial statements annually in the County's official newspaper, in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 375.17.

View of Responsible Official: Concur

HOUSTON COUNTY
Finance Department
304 South Marshall Street
Caledonia, Minnesota 55921
Phone: (507) 725-5839 Fax: (507) 725-8724

Representation of Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Corrective Action Plan
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Finding Number: 2023-001
Finding Title: Publication Requirements

Name of Contact Person Responsible for Corrective Action:
Carol Lapham, Finance Director

Corrective Action Planned:
Payment and Board proceedings publications will be modified to ensure the publication requirements are met.

Anticipated Completion Date:
06/30/2025

HOUSTON COUNTY
Finance Department
304 South Marshall Street
Caledonia, Minnesota 55921
Phone: (507) 725-5839 Fax: (507) 725-8724

Representation of Houston County
Caledonia, Minnesota

Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Finding Number: 2022-001
Year of Finding Origination: 2022
Finding Title: Suspension and Debarment
Program: 21.027 COVID-19 – Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Summary of Condition: For three covered transactions tested, the verification for suspended or debarred vendors was not performed before entering into the covered transactions.

Summary of Corrective Action Previously Reported: All vendors receiving 21.027 COVID-19 funding will be verified on SAM that they are not suspended or debarred.

Status: Fully Corrected. Corrective action was taken.

Finding Number: 2022-002
Year of Finding Origination: 2018
Finding Title: Publication Requirements

Summary of Condition: Houston County does not publish an itemized list of County Board-approved payments over $2,000 with the total number of claims and total amount for payments under $2,000 as provided by Minn. Stat. § 375.12. Houston County also did not publish the 2021 financial statements and vendor listing in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 375.17.

Summary of Corrective Action Previously Reported: Payment and Board proceedings publications will be modified to ensure the publication requirements are met.

Status: Not Corrected. Claims payments were included in the Board meeting agendas but were not included in the official minutes. Houston County will add the required publication information to the published Board minutes or will include a reference as to where the information is available on the County Website.

Corrective action taken was not significantly different than the action previously reported.

Finding Number: 2021-002
Year of Finding Origination: 2021
Finding Title: Eligibility Intake Function
Program: Medical Assistance Program 93.778

Summary of Condition: The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) maintains the computer system, MAXIS, which is used by Houston County to support the eligibility determination process. While periodic supervisory case reviews are performed to monitor compliance with grant requirements for eligibility, not all documentation was available or input correctly into MAXIS. Three case files in the sample of 40 MAXIS case files tested did not have support for asset information or asset information was not properly entered into MAXIS.

Summary of Corrective Action Previously Reported: Complete health care case reviews will be performed monthly in which we look at assets being entered correctly.

Status: Not Corrected. Houston County continues to review health care cases on a monthly basis in which we look at assets being entered correctly. The audit this year brought to light an issue with having verification of the value of cars being on file. Houston County was not applying the policy correctly. We have received updated information and are now printing NADA verifications into our case file at application. We are working through current cases in order to bring all cases into compliance.

We continue to review assets on our MA cases. MA-ABD cases have been in an asset disregard period since 03/2020 due to COVID. The asset disregard ended in July of 2024, and we are now reviewing assets on all of our cases. The state has also implemented Ex Parte renewals (desk reviews) for certain populations and clients who are eligible no longer receive paper renewals to complete. Part of the Ex Parte renewal is to run and electronic search via AVS in order to look for assets. If the AVS results and the information we have in MAXIS are below the asset limit for the case, we are not to ask for verification and we are able to approve the case. We are trying to find the balance with the new directions and having cases that haven't had to provide verification in 5 years. We are working with the state to find the new balance as clients are not required to verify assets if they are below the guidelines. If a case does have to complete a paper renewal, we are reviewing and requesting the asset verifications needed. We also switched EDMS systems and some of our data, including notes on documents, did not convert as we thought. We do work with the previous host county and have been able to retrieve some data but not all.

Corrective action taken was not significantly different than the action previously reported.