

USS North Carolina Battleship Commission

Wilmington, NC



Financial Statement Audit Report

For the Year Ended September 30, 2024

State Auditor
Dave Boliek

*A Constitutional Office of the
State of North Carolina*





North Carolina Office of the State Auditor

Dave Boliek, State Auditor

Auditor's Transmittal

The Honorable Josh Stein, Governor
The Honorable Phil Berger, President Pro Tempore
The Honorable Destin Hall, Speaker of the House
Honorable Members of the North Carolina General Assembly
Board of Commissioners, USS North Carolina Battleship Commission
Dr. Jay Martin, Executive Director

The North Carolina Office of the State Auditor (OSA) has completed its financial statement audit of the USS North Carolina Battleship Commission. In our audit, we identified a total of \$2.1 million in financial reporting errors for the year ending on September 30, 2024.

As outlined on page 51 of the report, financial reporting errors include, but are not limited to, overstating deferred outflows to pensions by \$430,000, overstating beginning net position by \$248,000, and understating salaries and benefits by \$36,000.

OSA has determined these errors occurred because USS North Carolina Battleship Commission management did not have adequate internal controls to ensure accurate financial reporting. Such errors increase the risk of making financial decisions based on unreliable data and can lead to an increased risk of fraud and undetected errors.

In its response to the report, Executive Director Jay Martin noted that the Battleship Commission agreed with the report's findings and is taking prompt corrective action. The Office of the State Auditor remains readily available to assist the Battleship Commission in the future to ensure accurate financial reporting.

Respectively submitted,

Dave Boliek
State Auditor

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Chapter 147, Article 5A of the North Carolina General Statutes gives the Auditor broad powers to examine all books, records, files, papers, documents, and financial affairs of every state agency and any organization that receives public funding. The Auditor also has the power to summon people to produce records and to answer questions under oath.



Independent Auditor's Report



North Carolina Office of the State Auditor

Dave Boliek, State Auditor

Independent Auditor's Report

Board of Commissioners
USS North Carolina Battleship Commission
Wilmington, North Carolina

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the USS North Carolina Battleship Commission (Commission), and its discretely presented component unit, as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Commission's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, based on our audit and the report of the other auditors, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the USS North Carolina Battleship Commission, and its discretely presented component unit, as of September 30, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We did not audit the financial statements of the Friends of the Battleship North Carolina, Inc., the Commission's discretely presented component unit. Those financial statements were audited by other auditors whose report thereon has been furnished to us, and our opinions, insofar as they relate to the amounts included for the Friends of the Battleship North Carolina, Inc., are based solely on the report of the other auditors.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* (GAGAS), 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 USS North Carolina Battleship Commission 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

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

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Commission'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 GAAS and GAGAS 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 GAAS and GAGAS, 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 Commission's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Commission'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 and other required supplementary information, as listed in the table of contents, 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.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated August 29, 2025 on our consideration of the Commission'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 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 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 the Commission's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Dave Boliek
State Auditor

Raleigh, North Carolina

August 29, 2025



Management's Discussion and Analysis

This section of the financial report presents Management's Discussion and Analysis and provides an overview of the financial activities of the USS North Carolina Battleship Commission (Commission) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, with comparative data for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023.

Since Management's Discussion and Analysis is designed to focus on current activities, resulting changes and currently known facts, please read it in conjunction with the Commission's basic financial statements and notes to the financial statements. The basic financial statements include a Statement of Net Position, Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position, Statement of Cash Flows, and Notes to the Financial Statements. Responsibility for the completeness and fairness of this information rests with the Commission.

While the financial statements reflect on the Commission as a whole, the Commission is an enterprise, non-appropriated fund activity of the State of North Carolina that is required by general statute to be self-sufficient for its annual operations. Funding the annual operation of the Commission is met primarily from revenues generated through admissions, ship tours, educational programs, and gift shop sales, hence a principal focus on the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position. See Note 1A for more information.

Using This Annual Report

The financial statements present financial information in a form similar to that used by corporations.

The Statement of Net Position reports current and noncurrent assets and liabilities separately, as well as deferred inflows and outflows of resources. Over time, increases and decreases in net position are an indicator of the improvement or erosion of the Commission's financial health when considered with nonfinancial facts such as admission levels and the condition of facilities.

The Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position presents information showing how the net position changed during the fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Therefore, revenues and expenses are reported in these statements for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods.

The Statement of Cash Flows provides information regarding the Commission's cash receipts and cash payments during the reported period. This statement reports cash receipts, cash payments, and net changes in cash resulting from operating, noncapital financing, capital and related financing, and investing activities. The statement reconciles the beginning cash on hand as of October 1, 2023, to the ending cash on hand as of September 30, 2024.

Management's Discussion and Analysis will concentrate on the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position, using condensed versions for the purposes of this discussion.

The Notes to the Financial Statements provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the financial statements and may be found at the end of this report.

The financial statements also include a Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Activities, and certain note disclosures for the Commission's discretely presented component unit, Friends of the Battleship North Carolina, Inc. (Friends); however, the Friends is not included in Management's Discussion and Analysis. More information describing the relationship between the Commission and Friends can be found in Note 1A.

Financial Highlights

Overall, net position of the Commission, the operating authority for the USS North Carolina Battleship Memorial (Battleship), increased \$1,688,843.02. See further below for discussion of the Commission's net position.

During fiscal year 2024, the Commission continued to prosper in the Wilmington and eastern North Carolina travel and tourism market as part of the community of attractions. More than ever, this is a separate and distinct destination with visitors coming specifically to see the Battleship. In years past, travelers came to Wilmington and the beaches, visiting the Battleship as one of the many available attractions. However, in 2023, based on Wilmington Visitor Bureau surveys, more travelers came specifically to see the Battleship. The Battleship continued to be ranked the number one regional attraction by TripAdvisor, Yelp, and other agencies, and Visitor Bureau validation as the number two regional destination. During fiscal year 2024, total visitation was 237,885 in comparison to fiscal year 2023 total visitation of 232,033, which helped play a role in total operating revenues increasing \$95,436.22.

Capital contributions during fiscal year 2024 totaled \$1,746,829.29, with most of these funds coming from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. With most of these funds, the Commission was able to continue construction of the Living with Water project, which made up the majority of the \$1,983,992.68 increase in construction in progress.

For fiscal year 2024, success as an attraction and a separate and distinct destination was challenged by construction of the Living with Water project which left the Battleship with greatly diminished parking. Inflation, work force recruitment, and retention have added to the challenges of success.

To fully understand fiscal year 2024, one must recognize the continuum of success and challenges experienced at the Commission. In fiscal year 2021, the Commission had the second best financial operating year. Then during fiscal year 2022, inflation in general and specifically at the gas pump and safety concerns of the travelling public turned what started as an exceptional operating year into an average operating year. During fiscal year 2023, with lower inflation rates in general, lower gas pump prices and COVID-19 safety concerns diminishing, the public returned to traditional travel and tourism patterns, driven to get out and see the sights in America. It was during this visitation rebound in fiscal year 2023, the Commission increased focus on social media and website redesign, additional spending on advertising dollars, updates to the gift shop's merchandise and rental/event pricing, and nurtured the public's interest in Generations Campaign Phase 3, Living with Water project.

In fiscal year 2024, continued business office staffing issues caused by the relatively low pay rate offered by the State of North Carolina and the constriction of revenue created by the diminished availability of parking were significant challenges. On June 1, 2024, a new Executive Director was hired bringing, for the first time, a professional in museums and parks into Commission leadership.

The Executive Director began to refocus on the core mission of the Commission as expressed in its enabling legislation from the North Carolina legislature. This reorientation included building healthier relationships with the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and key community partners.

Statement of Net Position

The following table summarizes the major categories of assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and net position and their corresponding changes.

Condensed Statement of Net Position
For the Years Ended September 30, 2024 and 2023

	2024	2023 (as Restated)	Change
Current Assets	\$ 8,599,748.43	\$ 8,578,894.13	\$ 20,854.30
Noncurrent Assets:			
Capital Assets, Nondepreciable	2,637,444.60	653,451.92	1,983,992.68
Capital Assets, Depreciable, Net	5,188,540.52	5,361,085.60	(172,545.08)
Total Assets	16,425,733.55	14,593,431.65	1,832,301.90
Deferred Outflows Related to Pensions	748,680.00	724,756.00	23,924.00
Deferred Outflows Related to OPEB	449,511.00	465,317.00	(15,806.00)
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	1,198,191.00	1,190,073.00	8,118.00
Current Liabilities	357,222.70	219,228.39	137,994.31
Long-Term Liabilities	3,557,791.50	3,338,885.93	218,905.57
Total Liabilities	3,915,014.20	3,558,114.32	356,899.88
Deferred Inflows Related to Pensions	278,432.00	225,074.00	53,358.00
Deferred Inflows Related to OPEB	798,655.00	1,057,336.00	(258,681.00)
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	1,077,087.00	1,282,410.00	(205,323.00)
Net Position:			
Net Investment in Capital Assets	7,729,804.59	6,014,537.52	1,715,267.07
Restricted	1,719,767.80	1,033,898.93	685,868.87
Unrestricted	3,182,250.96	3,894,543.88	(712,292.92)
Total Net Position	\$ 12,631,823.35	\$ 10,942,980.33	\$ 1,688,843.02

The net increase in current assets of \$20,854.30 was mainly due to increases in restricted cash and cash equivalents and restricted receivables of \$348,531.88 and \$337,336.99, respectively. These increases were the result of the reimbursement of funds related to the Generations Campaign Phase 3, Living with Water project from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. These increases were offset by a decrease of \$612,675.30 in cash and cash equivalents primarily due to use of internally designated funds to help with the completion of the Living with Water project. These were also the primary reasons for the restricted net position increase of \$685,868.87 and the unrestricted net position decrease of \$712,292.92.

Capital assets, nondepreciable increased by \$1,983,992.68 and capital assets, depreciable decreased by \$172,545.08. See the Capital Assets section further below for additional information on these changes.

Current liabilities increased \$137,994.31 primarily due an increase in contract retainage related to the current capital projects discussed further below.

The increase of \$218,905.57 in long-term liabilities primarily resulted from changes in the actuarial adjustments to net other postemployment benefits (OPEB) and net pension liabilities. See Note 9 of the financial statements for more details.

The net decrease of \$205,323.00 in deferred inflows of resources resulted from current year changes in the actuarial assumptions related to the pension plan and other postemployment benefits (OPEB) that are administered by the State of North Carolina. See Notes 11 and 12 of the financial statements for more details.

Capital Assets

As of September 30, 2024, the Battleship recorded \$11,233,771.04, in gross capital assets, \$3,407,785.92 in accumulated depreciation, and \$7,825,985.12 in net capital assets. The following table depicts the changes in the two years presented:

Capital Assets, Net
For the Years Ended September 30, 2024 and 2023

	2024	2023	Change
Capital Assets			
Land	\$ 97,425.80	\$ 97,425.80	\$ -
Construction in Progress	2,540,018.80	556,026.12	1,983,992.68
Buildings	1,172,596.54	1,172,596.54	-
Machinery and Equipment	319,714.40	319,714.40	-
General Infrastructure	7,104,015.50	7,104,015.50	-
Total	<u>11,233,771.04</u>	<u>9,249,778.36</u>	<u>1,983,992.68</u>
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>3,407,785.92</u>	<u>3,235,240.84</u>	<u>172,545.08</u>
Capital Assets, Net	<u><u>\$ 7,825,985.12</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 6,014,537.52</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,811,447.60</u></u>

During fiscal year 2024, construction in progress increased by \$1,983,992.68 due to capitalized costs of \$1,915,815.96 related to the Living with Water project and \$68,176.72 related to the Battleship Uplighting project. The increase in accumulated depreciation of \$172,545.08 is a result of the current year's depreciation. This was also the primary reason for net investment in capital assets increasing \$1,715,267.07.

Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position

The Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position reflects an overall increase in net position for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024. The following table identifies variances between the two fiscal years.

Condensed Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position For the Years Ended September 30, 2024 and 2023

	2024	2023 (as Restated)	Change
Operating Revenues:			
Sales and Services	\$ 1,152,913.29	\$ 1,130,077.03	\$ 22,836.26
Admission Fees	2,538,761.62	2,474,203.00	64,558.62
Other Operating Revenues	299,848.36	291,807.02	8,041.34
Total Operating Revenue	3,991,523.27	3,896,087.05	95,436.22
Less Operating Expenditures	4,355,922.97	4,095,235.30	260,687.67
Operating Income (Loss)	(364,399.70)	(199,148.25)	(165,251.45)
Nonoperating and Other Revenues			
Noncapital Contributions	193,937.90	217,754.44	(23,816.54)
Investment Income	112,475.53	75,380.92	37,094.61
Capital Contributions	1,746,829.29	223,860.44	1,522,968.85
Increase in Net Position	1,688,843.02	317,847.55	\$ 1,370,995.47
Net Position, Beginning of Year	10,942,980.33	10,625,132.78	
Net Position, End of Year	\$ 12,631,823.35	\$ 10,942,980.33	

Fiscal year 2023-2024 total revenues are \$6,044,765.99 and total expenses are \$4,355,922.97.
Fiscal year 2022-2023 total revenues are \$4,413,082.85 and total expenses are \$4,095,235.30.

Total operating revenues saw a minimal increase of \$95,436.22, which was primarily the result of increased visitation previously discussed.

Capital contributions increased by \$1,522,968.85 in fiscal year 2024 mainly due to grants received from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to be used for the Living with Water project.

The following table identifies variances between the two fiscal years for the components of operating expenses.

Operating Expenses
For the Years Ended September 30, 2024 and 2023

	2024	2023 (as Restated)	Change
Operating Expense			
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 2,199,693.64	\$ 2,092,795.22	\$ 106,898.42
Supplies and Services	1,176,875.03	1,058,640.76	118,234.27
Rental Expense	8,333.21	8,119.14	214.07
Cost of Goods Sold	406,662.82	386,498.48	20,164.34
Insurance and Bonding	38,507.82	31,637.92	6,869.90
Other Operating Expenses	353,305.37	342,101.02	11,204.35
Depreciation	172,545.08	175,442.76	(2,897.68)
Total	<u>\$ 4,355,922.97</u>	<u>\$ 4,095,235.30</u>	<u>\$ 260,687.67</u>

Salaries and benefits increased \$106,898.42 primarily due to a legislative salary and related benefits increase, vacation buy-outs of senior and mid-level management positions, and the hiring of an administrative assistant to the Executive Director.

Supplies and services increased \$118,234.27 primarily due to additional supplies purchased for the gift shop, contracted services for the Executive Director position search, and supplies for painting parts of the Battleship that included the 16-inch guns and the crane structure.

Financial Outlook

During fiscal year 2025, the Commission continued to operate as a successful enterprise of the state of North Carolina, serving as a memorial, an attraction, and as a center of education. With trends in visitation, store sales, and rentals recovering from the detrimental impact of greatly reduced parking availability during the Living with Water project construction, the Battleship is continuing to move from attraction to destination. The Commission budget for 2025 supported this effort and this is expected to continue in fiscal year 2026 as a new focus on data driven marketing decisions combines with more aggressive planning. Still, declining consumer confidence nationally and staffing challenges pose serious threats to Battleship success. These challenges are being managed through the development of the Battleship's first strategic plan that, in association with the strategic plan being developed for the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, is expected to help further refine the goals of the Battleship in fiscal year 2026 and beyond.



Financial Statements

USS North Carolina Battleship Commission
Statement of Net Position
September 30, 2024

Exhibit A-1
Page 1 of 2

ASSETS

Current Assets:

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 6,244,606.37
Restricted Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,382,430.81
Receivables (Note 4)	492,431.91
Inventories	291,587.00
Prepaid Items	188,692.34

Total Current Assets	<u>8,599,748.43</u>
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Noncurrent Assets:

Capital Assets - Nondepreciable (Note 7)	2,637,444.60
Capital Assets - Depreciable, Net (Note 7)	<u>5,188,540.52</u>

Total Noncurrent Assets	<u>7,825,985.12</u>
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Total Assets	<u>16,425,733.55</u>
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DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES

Deferred Outflows Related to Pensions	748,680.00
Deferred Outflows Related to Other Postemployment Benefits (Note 12)	<u>449,511.00</u>

Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>1,198,191.00</u>
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LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities:

Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities (Note 8)	266,651.11
Unearned Revenue	61,981.77
Long-Term Liabilities - Current Portion (Note 9)	<u>28,589.82</u>

Total Current Liabilities	<u>357,222.70</u>
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Noncurrent Liabilities:

Long-Term Liabilities (Note 9)	<u>3,557,791.50</u>
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Total Liabilities	<u>3,915,014.20</u>
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DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES

Deferred Inflows Related to Pensions	278,432.00
Deferred Inflows Related to Other Postemployment Benefits (Note 12)	<u>798,655.00</u>

Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>1,077,087.00</u>
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USS North Carolina Battleship Commission
Statement of Net Position
September 30, 2024

Exhibit A-1
Page 2 of 2

NET POSITION

Net Investment in Capital Assets	7,729,804.59
Restricted:	
Expendable:	
Restoration Projects	745,331.67
Restricted for Specific Programs	<u>974,436.13</u>
Total Restricted-Expendable Net Position	<u>1,719,767.80</u>
Unrestricted	<u>3,182,250.96</u>
Total Net Position	<u><u>\$ 12,631,823.35</u></u>

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

***USS North Carolina Battleship Commission
Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and
Changes in Net Position
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024***

Exhibit A-2

OPERATING REVENUES

Sales and Services	\$ 1,152,913.29
Admission Fees	2,538,761.62
Rentals	94,675.00
Commissions	183,330.06
Special Events	10,545.00
Miscellaneous	11,298.30
	<hr/>
Total Operating Revenues	3,991,523.27

OPERATING EXPENSES

Salaries and Benefits	2,199,693.64
Supplies and Services	1,176,875.03
Rental Expense	8,333.21
Cost of Goods Sold	406,662.82
Insurance and Bonding	38,507.82
Other Operating Expenses	353,305.37
Depreciation	172,545.08
	<hr/>
Total Operating Expenses	4,355,922.97
	<hr/>
Operating Loss	(364,399.70)

NONOPERATING REVENUES

Noncapital Contributions	193,937.90
Investment Income	112,475.53
	<hr/>
Nonoperating Revenues	306,413.43
	<hr/>
Loss Before Other Revenues	(57,986.27)
	<hr/>
Capital Contributions	1,746,829.29
	<hr/>
Increase in Net Position	1,688,843.02

NET POSITION

Net Position - October 1, 2023, as Restated (Note 15)	10,942,980.33
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Net Position - September 30, 2024	\$ 12,631,823.35
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The accompanying notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

USS North Carolina Battleship Commission
Statement of Cash Flows
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

Exhibit A-3
Page 1 of 2

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Received from Customers	\$ 3,968,648.86
Payments to Employees and Fringe Benefits	(2,298,777.90)
Payments to Vendors and Suppliers	<u>(1,759,904.96)</u>
Net Cash Used by Operating Activities	<u>(90,034.00)</u>

CASH FLOWS FROM NONCAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES

Noncapital Contributions	<u>191,734.90</u>
Cash Provided by Noncapital Financing Activities	<u>191,734.90</u>

CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL FINANCING AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES

Capital Contributions	1,409,492.30
Acquisition and Construction of Capital Assets	<u>(1,887,812.15)</u>
Net Cash Used by Capital Financing and Related Financing Activities	<u>(478,319.85)</u>

CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

Investment Income	<u>112,475.53</u>
Cash Provided by Investing Activities	<u>112,475.53</u>
Net Decrease in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(264,143.42)
Cash and Cash Equivalents - October 1, 2023	<u>7,891,180.60</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents - September 30, 2024	<u><u>\$ 7,627,037.18</u></u>

USS North Carolina Battleship Commission
Statement of Cash Flows
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

Exhibit A-3
Page 2 of 2

**RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING LOSS TO
NET CASH USED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

Operating Loss	\$ (364,399.70)
Adjustments to Reconcile Operating Loss to Net Cash Used by Operating Activities:	
Depreciation Expense	172,545.08
Changes in Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources:	
Receivables	(21,676.24)
Inventories	(56,383.59)
Prepaid Items	130,399.10
Deferred Outflows Related to Pensions	(23,924.00)
Deferred Outflows Related to Other Postemployment Benefits	15,806.00
Changes in Liabilities and Deferred Inflows of Resources:	
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	32,926.65
Unearned Revenue	(1,198.17)
Net Pension Liability	76,669.00
Net Other Postemployment Benefits Liability	76,726.00
Compensated Absences	77,798.87
Deferred Inflows Related to Pensions	53,358.00
Deferred Inflows Related to Other Postemployment Benefits	(258,681.00)
Net Cash Used by Operating Activities	<u>\$ (90,034.00)</u>

NONCASH INVESTING, CAPITAL, AND FINANCING ACTIVITIES

Assets Acquired through the Assumption of a Liability	\$ 96,180.53
Increase in Receivables Related to Nonoperating Revenues	337,336.99
Decrease in Net Other Postemployment Benefits Liability Related to Noncapital Contributions	(2,203.00)

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

Friends of the Battleship North Carolina, Inc.
Statement of Financial Position
September 30, 2024

Exhibit B-1

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 133,599	\$ 463,314	\$ 596,913
Certificate of Deposit	375,429	-	375,429
Pledges Receivable	-	1,000	1,000
Battleship Receivable	12,913	-	12,913
Other Receivables and Current Assets	13,658	-	13,658
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 535,599</u>	<u>\$ 464,314</u>	<u>\$ 999,913</u>
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	\$ 80,964	\$ -	\$ 80,964
Battleship Payable	22,655	-	22,655
Other Current Liabilities	3,977	-	3,977
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Liabilities	<u>107,596</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>107,596</u>
NET ASSETS			
Without Donor Restrictions	428,003	-	428,003
With Donor Restrictions	-	464,314	464,314
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Net Assets	<u>428,003</u>	<u>464,314</u>	<u>892,317</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 535,599</u>	<u>\$ 464,314</u>	<u>\$ 999,913</u>

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

Friends of the Battleship North Carolina, Inc.
Statement of Activities
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

Exhibit B-2

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUE			
Contributions	\$ 18,824	\$ 26,059	\$ 44,883
Membership Dues	82,700	-	82,700
Interest Income	20,193	6,815	27,008
Special Events	56,759	-	56,759
Other Revenue	12,563	-	12,563
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	35,505	(35,505)	-
Total Support and Revenue	226,544	(2,631)	223,913
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Program	122,315	-	122,315
Administrative	55,698	-	55,698
Fundraising	10,188	-	10,188
Total Operating Expenses	188,201	-	188,201
Change in Net Assets	38,343	(2,631)	35,712
NET ASSETS			
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	389,660	466,945	856,605
Net Assets at End of Year	\$ 428,003	\$ 464,314	\$ 892,317

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



Notes to the Financial Statements

Note 1 - Significant Accounting Policies

A. Financial Reporting Entity - The concept underlying the definition of the financial reporting entity is that elected officials are accountable to their constituents for their actions. As required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), the financial reporting entity includes both the primary government and all of its component units. An organization other than a primary government serves as a nucleus for a reporting entity when it issues separate financial statements. The USS North Carolina Battleship Commission (Commission) is an enterprise fund of the State of North Carolina and an integral part of the State's *Annual Comprehensive Financial Report*.

The accompanying financial statements present all funds belonging to the Commission and its component unit. While the Commission has ultimate responsibility, the Executive Director has been delegated responsibilities for financial accountability of the Commission's funds. The Commission's component unit is discretely presented in the Commission's financial statements. See below for further discussion of the Commission's component unit.

Discretely Presented Component Unit - The Friends of the Battleship North Carolina, Inc. (Friends) is a legally separate nonprofit corporation and is reported as a discretely presented component unit based on the nature and significance of its relationship to the Commission.

The Friends was organized under the laws of North Carolina for the purposes of promoting and supporting the Battleship North Carolina. In fiscal year 2010, the Friends initiated a multi-year fundraising project called the Generations Campaign. Gifts to the Generations Campaign helped support construction of the State Employees Credit Union (SECU) Memorial Walkway, which was designed to provide greater public access to the Battleship; the cofferdam, which creates a dry workspace for completing repairs to the Battleship's hull when needed; and to construct the Piedmont Natural Gas Marine Trail Dock (Dock). The Dock provides access for boat, kayak, and canoe launching. These gifts will also be used to fund upgrades to educational programs enabling the work of memorializing the Battleship North Carolina and educating all those who come aboard to continue.

The Friends reports its financial results under the Financial Accounting Standards (FASB) Codification. As such, certain revenue recognition criteria and presentation features are different from the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) revenue recognition criteria and presentation features. No modifications have been made to the Friend's financial information in the Commission's financial reporting entity for these differences.

During the year ended September 30, 2024, the Friends distributed \$110,909.00 to the Commission for both restricted and unrestricted purposes. Donations included contributions from various grantors to support the Battleship restorations projects, up-lighting the Battleship superstructure, software support for the Interpretations Department, online archiving systems, signage for tour routes, audio visual and media equipment, and volunteer support. Complete financial statements for the Friends can be obtained by mailing a request to Friends of the Battleship North Carolina, Inc., 1 Battleship Rd., Wilmington, NC 28401, or by calling (910) 399-9117.

B. Basis of Presentation - The accompanying financial statements are presented in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). Pursuant to the provisions of GASB Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements - and Management's Discussion and Analysis - for State and Local Governments*, and GASB Statement No. 84, *Fiduciary Activities*, the full scope of the Commission's activities is considered to be a single business-type activity and accordingly, is reported within a single column in the basic financial statements.

C. Basis of Accounting - The financial statements of the Commission have been prepared using the economic resource measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Under the accrual basis, revenues are recognized when earned, and expenses are recorded when an obligation has been incurred, regardless of the timing of the cash flows.

Nonexchange transactions, in which the Commission receives value without directly giving equal value in exchange, include certain grants and donations. Revenues are recognized, net of estimated uncollectible amounts, as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met, if probable of collection.

D. Cash and Cash Equivalents - This classification includes undeposited receipts, petty cash, cash on deposit with private bank accounts, and deposits held by the State Treasurer in the Short-Term Investment Fund (STIF). The STIF maintained by the State Treasurer has the general characteristics of a demand deposit account in that participants may deposit and withdraw cash at any time without prior notice or penalty. Additional information regarding the fair value measurement of investments is disclosed in Note 3.

E. Receivables - Receivables consist of amounts due for commissions, amounts due from the Friends in connection with reimbursement of allowable expenditures made pursuant to the Friends of the Battleship North Carolina, Inc. Generations Campaign Memorandum of Understanding, and amounts due from private sources in connection with reimbursement of allowable expenditures made pursuant to contacts and grants. Receivables are considered fully collectible and accordingly, no allowance for doubtful accounts is required.

F. Inventories - Inventories, consisting of expendable supplies and merchandise for resale, are valued at cost using the average cost method.

G. Capital Assets - Capital assets are stated at cost at date of acquisition or acquisition value at date of donation in the case of gifts. Donated capital assets acquired prior to October 1, 2015 are stated at fair value as of the date of donation. The value of assets constructed includes all material direct and indirect construction costs.

The Commission capitalizes assets that have a value or cost of \$5,000 or greater at the date of acquisition and an estimated useful life of more than one year.

Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets in the following manner:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Estimated Useful Life</u>
Buildings	10-50 years
Machinery and Equipment	2-50 years
General Infrastructure	10-75 years

The Commission does not capitalize the Battleship exhibit or its art and artifact collections. These collections adhere to the Commission's policy to maintain for public exhibition, education, or research; protect, keep unencumbered, care for, and preserve; and require proceeds from their sale to be used to acquire other collection items. Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America permit collections maintained in this manner to be charged to operations at time of purchase rather than be capitalized.

H. Restricted Assets - Certain resources are reported as restricted assets because restrictions on asset use change the nature or normal understanding of the availability of the asset. Resources that are not available for current operations and are reported as restricted include resources whose use is limited by external parties.

I. Noncurrent Long-Term Liabilities - Noncurrent long-term liabilities include compensated absences, net pension liability, and net other postemployment benefits (OPEB) liability that will not be paid within next fiscal year.

The net pension liability represents the Commission's proportionate share of the collective net pension liability reported in the State of North Carolina's 2023 *Annual Comprehensive Financial Report*. This liability represents the Commission's portion of the collective total pension liability less the fiduciary net position of the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System. See Note 11 for further information regarding the Commission's policies for recognizing liabilities, expenses, deferred outflows of resources, and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions.

The net OPEB liability represents the Commission's proportionate share of the collective net OPEB liability reported in the State of North Carolina's 2023 *Annual Comprehensive Financial Report*. This liability represents the Commission's portion of the collective total OPEB liability less the fiduciary net position of the Retiree Health Benefit Fund and Disability Income Plan of North Carolina. See Note 12 for further information regarding the Commission's policies for recognizing liabilities, expenses, deferred outflows of resources, and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB.

J. Compensated Absences - The Commission's policy is to record the cost of vacation leave when earned. The policy provides for a maximum accumulation of unused vacation leave of 30 days which can be carried forward each January 1 or for which an employee can be paid upon termination of employment. When classifying compensated absences into current and noncurrent, leave is considered taken using a last-in, first-out (LIFO) method. Also, any accumulated vacation leave in excess of 30 days at year-end is converted to sick leave. Under this policy, the accumulated vacation leave for each employee at September 30 equals the leave carried forward at the previous December 31 plus the leave earned, less the leave taken between January 1 and September 30.

In addition to the vacation leave described above, compensated absences include the accumulated unused portion of the special annual leave bonuses awarded by the North Carolina General Assembly. The bonus leave balance on December 31 is retained by employees and transferred into the next calendar year. It is not subject to the limitation on annual leave carried forward described above and is not subject to conversion to sick leave.

There is no liability for unpaid accumulated sick leave because the Commission has no obligation to pay sick leave upon termination or retirement. However, additional service credit for retirement pension benefits is given for accumulated sick leave upon retirement.

- K. Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources** - Deferred outflows of resources represent a consumption of net assets that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense) until then. Deferred inflows of resources represent an acquisition of net assets that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until then.

- L. Net Position** - The Commission's net position is classified as follows:

Net Investment in Capital Assets - This represents the Commission's total investment in capital assets, net of outstanding liabilities related to those capital assets.

Restricted Net Position - Expendable - Expendable restricted net position includes resources for which the Commission is legally or contractually obligated to spend in accordance with restrictions imposed by external parties.

Unrestricted Net Position - Unrestricted net position includes resources derived from admission fees, sales and services, unrestricted gifts, royalties, and interest income. It also includes the net position of accrued employee benefits such as compensated absences, pension plans, and other postemployment benefits.

When both restricted and unrestricted funds are available for expenditure, the decision for funding is internally generated by management of the Commission. Both restricted and unrestricted net position include consideration of deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources. See Note 10 for further information regarding deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources that had a significant effect on unrestricted net position.

- M. Revenue and Expense Recognition** - The Commission classifies its revenues and expenses as operating or nonoperating in the accompanying Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position. Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services and producing and delivering goods in connection with the Commission's principal ongoing operations. Operating revenues include activities that have characteristics of exchange transactions, such as (1) admission and fees, (2) sales and services, and (3) contracts for services. Operating expenses are all expense transactions incurred other than those related to capital and noncapital financing or investing activities as defined by GASB Statement No. 9, *Reporting Cash Flows of Proprietary and Nonexpendable Trust Funds and Governmental Entities That Use Proprietary Fund Accounting*.

Nonoperating revenues include activities that have the characteristics of nonexchange transactions. Revenues from nonexchange transactions that represent subsidies or gifts to the Commission, as well as investment income, are considered nonoperating since these are either investing, capital, or noncapital financing activities. Capital contributions are presented separately after nonoperating revenues and expenses.

Note 2 - Deposits and Investments

Unless specifically exempt, the Commission is required by North Carolina General Statute 147-77 to deposit moneys received with the State Treasurer or with a depository institution in the name of the State Treasurer.

At September 30, 2024, the amount shown on the Statement of Net Position as cash and cash equivalents includes \$2,538,085.54, which represents the Commission's equity position in the State Treasurer's Short-Term Investment Fund (STIF). The STIF (a portfolio within the State Treasurer's Investment Pool, an external investment pool that is not registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission or subject to any other regulatory oversight and does not have a credit rating) had a weighted average maturity of 1.4 years as of June 30, 2024. Assets and shares of the STIF are valued at fair value. Deposit and investment risks associated with the State Treasurer's Investment Pool (which includes the State Treasurer's STIF) are included in the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer Investment Programs' separately issued audit report. This separately issued report can be obtained from the Department of State Treasurer, 3200 Atlantic Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27604 or can be accessed from the Department of State Treasurer's website at <https://www.nctreasurer.com/> in the Audited Financial Statements section.

Cash on hand at September 30, 2024 was \$1,213.00. The carrying amount of the Commission's deposits not with the State Treasurer was \$5,087,738.64, and the bank balance was \$5,101,333.81. Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the Commission's deposits may not be returned to it. The Commission does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk. As of September 30, 2024, the Commission's bank balance exposed to custodial credit risk (amounts that are uninsured and uncollateralized) was \$4,601,333.81.

Note 3 - Fair Value Measurements

To the extent available, the Commission's investments are recorded at fair value as of September 30, 2024. GASB Statement No. 72, *Fair Value Measurement and Application*, defines fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. This statement establishes a hierarchy of valuation inputs based on the extent to which the inputs are observable in the marketplace. Inputs are used in applying the various valuation techniques and take into account the assumptions that market participants use to make valuation decisions. Inputs may include price information, credit data, interest and yield curve data, and other factors specific to the financial instrument. Observable inputs reflect market data obtained from independent sources. In contrast, unobservable inputs reflect the entity's assumptions about how market participants would value the financial instrument. Valuation techniques should maximize the use of observable inputs to the extent available.

A financial instrument's level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. The following describes the hierarchy of inputs used to measure fair value and the primary valuation methodologies used for financial instruments measured at fair value on a recurring basis:

- Level 1 Investments whose values are based on quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets in active markets that a government can access at the measurement date.
- Level 2 Investments with inputs - other than quoted prices included within Level 1 - that are observable for an asset, either directly or indirectly.
- Level 3 Investments classified as Level 3 have unobservable inputs for an asset and may require a degree of professional judgment.

Short-Term Investment Fund - At year-end, all of the Commission's investments valued at \$2,538,085.54 were held in the STIF. Ownership interests of the STIF are determined on a fair market valuation basis as of fiscal year end in accordance with the STIF operating procedures. Valuation of the underlying assets is performed by the custodian. Pool investments are measured at fair value in accordance with GASB Statement No. 72. The Commission's position in the pool is measured and reported at fair value and the STIF is not required to be categorized within the fair value hierarchy.

Note 4 - Receivables

Receivables at September 30, 2024, were as follows:

	<u>Amount</u>
Receivables:	
Commission Revenue	\$ 132,439.92
Due from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	337,336.99
Due from Friends of the Battleship North Carolina, Inc.	<u>22,655.00</u>
Total Receivables	<u><u>\$ 492,431.91</u></u>

Note 5 - Reserve Fund

In accordance with North Carolina General Statute 143B-74-1, the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (Secretary) may determine the amount of a reserve fund, established by the Commission, to be maintained and used for contingencies and emergencies. On February 2, 2021, the Secretary determined that the Commission reserve amount to be 50% of the Commission's annual operating budget, excluding any fully funded repair and renovation projects that are \$500,000.00 or more.

Accordingly, 50% of the authorized normal operating budget for fiscal year 2024 of \$4,473,540.01 yields a reserve requirement of \$2,236,770.00. For the reporting purposes, this reserve is included in unrestricted net position. At year-end, the value of the unrestricted portion of the Commission's investments held in the State Treasurer's Short-Term Investment Funds, described in Note 2, exceeded the reserve requirement; therefore, the \$152,226.38 excess is considered available for operations and restoration projects.

Note 6 - Restoration Fund

In 1998, the Commission undertook a capital campaign (Operation Ship Shape) to raise funds for various restoration projects for the Battleship North Carolina. Projects and initiatives identified for funding by this campaign included restoration of the teak deck, restoration/refurbishment of the forward berthing area which came to be known as Overnight Camping, restorations of main deck exhibit area and wardroom, restoration of authentic ship components, relocation of utility lines, support of the State's construction of the cofferdam, and other ongoing maintenance projects.

With \$6,100,000.00 in funds raised (cash and materials), the first completed projects were \$3,500,000.00 for teak deck repairs which consisted of donated deck and contracted services, and \$2,738,395.00 for emergency repairs made to the starboard bow. Design for overnight camping and wardroom renovations were initiated through several design firms, however, the projects have been postponed due to increasing costs.

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, the Commission received contributions totaling \$38,912.83 from visitors touring the Battleship and miscellaneous donations restricted for restoration projects. At year-end, unrestricted net position at year-end includes \$861,406.36 for restoration projects internally designated by the Commission.

Note 7 - Capital Assets

A summary of changes in the capital assets for the year ended September 30, 2024, is presented as follows:

	Balance October 1, 2023	Increases	Decreases	Balance September 30, 2024
Capital Assets, Nondepreciable:				
Land	\$ 97,425.80	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 97,425.80
Construction in Progress	556,026.12	1,983,992.68	-	2,540,018.80
Total Capital Assets, Nondepreciable	653,451.92	1,983,992.68	-	2,637,444.60
Capital Assets, Depreciable:				
Buildings	1,172,596.54	-	-	1,172,596.54
Machinery and Equipment	319,714.40	-	-	319,714.40
General Infrastructure	7,104,015.50	-	-	7,104,015.50
Total Capital Assets, Depreciable	8,596,326.44	-	-	8,596,326.44
Less Accumulated Depreciation for:				
Buildings	958,880.83	27,810.32	-	986,691.15
Machinery and Equipment	273,325.92	6,401.35	-	279,727.27
General Infrastructure	2,003,034.09	138,333.41	-	2,141,367.50
Total Accumulated Depreciation	3,235,240.84	172,545.08	-	3,407,785.92
Total Capital Assets, Depreciable, Net	5,361,085.60	(172,545.08)	-	5,188,540.52
Capital Assets, Net	\$ 6,014,537.52	\$ 1,811,447.60	\$ -	\$ 7,825,985.12

Note 8 - Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities at September 30, 2024, were as follows:

	Amount
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ 130,895.46
Accrued Payroll	26,662.12
Contract Retainage	96,180.53
Accounts Payable - Friends of the Battleship North Carolina, Inc.	12,913.00
Total Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$ 266,651.11

Note 9 - Long-Term Liabilities

A summary of changes in the long-term liabilities for the year ended September 30, 2024, is presented as follows:

	Balance October 1, 2023	Additions	Reductions	Balance September 30, 2024	Current Portion
Compensated Absences	\$ 370,715.45	\$112,405.91	\$ 34,607.04	\$ 448,514.32	\$28,589.82
Net Pension Liability	1,314,583.00	76,669.00	-	1,391,252.00	-
Net Other Postemployment Benefits Liability	1,672,092.00	74,758.00	235.00	1,746,615.00	-
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$ 3,357,390.45	\$263,832.91	\$ 34,842.04	\$ 3,586,381.32	\$28,589.82

Additional information regarding the net pension liability is included in Note 11.

Additional information regarding the net other postemployment benefits liability is included in Note 12.

Note 10 - Net Position

Unrestricted net position has been significantly affected by transactions resulting from the recognition of deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and related long-term liabilities, as shown in the following table:

	Amount
Net Pension Liability and Related Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources	\$ (921,004.00)
Net OPEB Liability and Related Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources	(2,095,759.00)
Effect on Unrestricted Net Position	(3,016,763.00)
Total Unrestricted Net Position Before Recognition of Deferred Outflows of Resources, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Related Long-Term Liabilities	6,199,013.96
Total Unrestricted Net Position	\$ 3,182,250.96

See Notes 11 and 12 for detailed information regarding the amortization of the deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources relating to pensions and OPEB, respectively.

Note 11 - Pension Plans

Defined Benefit Plan

Plan Administration: The State of North Carolina administers the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System (TSERS) plan. This plan is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer, defined benefit pension plan established by the State to provide pension benefits for general employees and law enforcement officers (LEOs) of the State, general employees and LEOs of its component units, and employees of Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and charter schools not in the reporting entity. Membership is comprised of employees of the State (state agencies and institutions), universities, community colleges, and certain proprietary component units along with the LEAs and charter schools that elect to join the Retirement System. Benefit provisions are established by General Statute 135-5 and may be amended only by the North Carolina General Assembly.

Benefits Provided: TSERS provides retirement and survivor benefits. Retirement benefits are determined as 1.82% of the member's average final compensation times the member's years of creditable service. A member's average final compensation is calculated as the average of a member's four highest consecutive years of compensation. General employee plan members are eligible to retire with unreduced retirement benefits at age 65 with five years of membership service, at age 60 with 25 years of creditable service, or at any age with 30 years of creditable service. General employee plan members are eligible to retire with reduced retirement benefits at age 50 with 20 years of creditable service or at age 60 with five years of membership service. Survivor benefits are available to eligible beneficiaries of general members who die while in active service or within 180 days of their last day of service and who also have either completed 20 years of creditable service regardless of age or have completed five years of service and have reached age 60. Eligible beneficiaries may elect to receive a monthly Survivor's Alternate Benefit for life in lieu of the return of the member's contributions that is generally available to beneficiaries of deceased members. The plan does not provide for automatic post-retirement benefit increases.

Contributions: Contribution provisions are established by General Statute 135-8 and may be amended only by the North Carolina General Assembly. Plan members are required to contribute 6% of their annual pay. The contribution rate for employers is set each year by the North Carolina General Assembly in the Appropriations Act and may not be less than the contribution rate required of plan members. The TSERS Board of Trustees establishes a funding policy from which an accrued liability rate and a normal contribution rate are developed by the consulting actuary. The sum of those two rates developed under the funding policy is the actuarially determined contribution rate (ADC). The TSERS Board of Trustees may further adopt a contribution rate policy that is higher than the ADC known as the required employer contribution to be recommended to the North Carolina General Assembly. The Commission's contractually-required contribution rate for the year ended September 30, 2024 was 17.64% of covered payroll. Plan members' contributions to the pension plan were \$87,204.54, and the Commission's contributions were \$256,381.35 for the year ended September 30, 2024.

The TSERS plan's financial information, including all information about the plan's assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fiduciary net position, is included in the State of North Carolina's fiscal year 2023 *Annual Comprehensive Financial Report*. An electronic version of this report is available on the North Carolina Office of the State Controller's website at <https://www.ncosc.gov/> or by calling the State Controller's Financial Reporting Section at 919-707-0500.

TSERS Basis of Accounting: The financial statements of the TSERS plan are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. Plan member contributions are recognized in the period in which the contributions are due. Employer contributions are recognized when due and the employer has a legal requirement to provide the contributions. Benefits and refunds are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the terms of each plan. For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the TSERS plan, and additions to/deductions from the TSERS plan's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by TSERS.

Methods Used to Value TSERS Investment: Pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes, the State Treasurer is the custodian and administrator of the retirement systems. The State Treasurer maintains various investment portfolios in its External Investment Pool. TSERS and other pension plans of the State of North Carolina participate in the Long-Term Investment, Fixed Income Investment, Equity Investment, Real Estate Investment, Alternative Investment, Opportunistic Fixed Income Investment, and Inflation Sensitive Investment portfolios. The Fixed Income Asset Class includes the Long-Term Investment and Fixed Income Investment portfolios. The Global Equity Asset Class includes the Equity Investment portfolio. The investment balance of each pension trust fund represents its share of the fair value of the net position of the various portfolios within the External Investment Pool. Detailed descriptions of the methods and significant assumptions regarding investments of the State Treasurer are provided in the 2023 *Annual Comprehensive Financial Report*.

Net Pension Liability: At September 30, 2024, the Commission reported a liability of \$1,391,252.00 for its proportionate share of the collective net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2023. The total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2022, and update procedures were used to roll forward the total pension liability to June 30, 2023. The Commission's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the present value of future salaries for the Commission relative to the projected present value of future salaries for all participating employers, actuarially-determined. As of June 30, 2023, the Commission's proportion was 0.00834%, which was a decrease of 0.00052 from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2022, which was 0.00886%.

Actuarial Assumptions: The following table presents the actuarial assumptions used to determine the total pension liability for the TSERS plan at the actuarial valuation date:

Valuation Date	12/31/2022
Inflation	2.5%
Salary Increases*	3.25% - 8.05%
Investment Rate of Return**	6.5%

* Salary increases include 3.25% inflation and productivity factor.

** Investment rate of return includes inflation assumption and is net of pension plan investment expense.

TSERS currently uses mortality tables that vary by age, gender, employee group (i.e. teacher, general, law enforcement officer) and health status (i.e. disabled and healthy). The current mortality rates are based on published tables and based on studies that cover significant portions of the U.S. public plan population. The mortality rates also contain a provision to reflect future mortality improvements.

The actuarial assumptions used in the December 31, 2022 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience review for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2019.

Future ad hoc cost-of-living adjustment amounts are not considered to be substantively automatic and are therefore not included in the measurement. The projected long-term investment returns and inflation assumptions are developed through review of current and historical capital markets data, sell-side investment research, consultant whitepapers, and historical performance of investment strategies. Fixed income return projections reflect current yields across the U.S. Treasury yield curve and market expectations of forward yields projected and interpolated for multiple tenors and over multiple year horizons. Global public equity return projections are established through analysis of the equity risk premium and the fixed income return projections. Other asset categories and strategies' return projections reflect the foregoing and historical data analysis. These projections are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in the pension plan's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2023 (the measurement date) are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Fixed Income	0.9%
Global Equity	6.5%
Real Estate	5.9%
Alternatives	8.2%
Opportunistic Fixed Income	5.0%
Inflation Sensitive	2.7%

The information in the preceding table is based on 30-year expectations developed with an investment consulting firm as part of a study that was completed in early 2022, and is part of the asset, liability, and investment policy of the North Carolina Retirement Systems. The long-term nominal rates of return underlying the real rates of return are arithmetic annualized figures. The real rates of return are calculated from nominal rates by multiplicatively subtracting a long-term inflation assumption of 2.25%. Return projections do not include any excess return expectations over benchmark averages. All rates of return and inflation are annualized. The long-term expected real rate of return for the Bond Index Investment Pool as of June 30, 2023 is 0.78%.

Discount Rate: The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 6.5% for the December 31, 2022 valuation. The discount rate is in line with the long-term nominal expected return on pension plan investments. The calculation of the net pension liability is a present value calculation of the future net pension payments. These net pension payments assume that contributions from plan members will be made at the current statutory contribution rate and that contributions from employers will be made at the contractually required rates, actuarially determined. Based on those assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of the current plan

members. 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.

Sensitivity of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate: The following presents the net pension liability of the plan at June 30, 2023 calculated using the discount rate of 6.5%, as well as what the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (5.5%) or 1-percentage-point higher (7.5%) than the current rate:

Net Pension Liability		
1% Decrease (5.5%)	Current Discount Rate (6.5%)	1% Increase (7.5%)
\$ 2,387,065.46	\$ 1,391,252.00	\$ 568,262.50

Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions: For the year ended September 30, 2024, the Commission recognized pension expense of \$183,911.00. At September 30, 2024, the Commission reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to TSERS from the following sources:

Employer Balances of Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions by Classification:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Difference Between Actual and Expected Experience	\$ 99,724.00	\$ 9,028.00
Changes of Assumptions	42,959.00	-
Net Difference Between Projected and Actual Earnings on Pension Plan Investments	340,675.65	-
Change in Proportion and Differences Between Employer's Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	8,940.00	269,404.00
Contributions Subsequent to the Measurement Date	256,381.35	-
Total	\$ 748,680.00	\$ 278,432.00

The amount reported as deferred outflows of resources related to contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to TSERS will be recognized as pension expense as follows:

Schedule of the Net Amount of the Employer's Balances of Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources That will be Recognized in Pension Expense:

Year Ending September 30:	Amount
2025	\$ 39,796.00
2026	(10,509.00)
2027	170,029.00
2028	14,550.65
Total	\$ 213,866.65

Note 12 - Other Postemployment Benefits

The Commission participates in two postemployment benefit plans, the Retiree Health Benefit Fund and the Disability Income Plan of North Carolina, that are administered by the State of North Carolina as pension and other employee benefit trust funds. Each plan's financial information, including all information about the plans' assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fiduciary net position, is included in the State of North Carolina's fiscal year 2023 *Annual Comprehensive Financial Report*. An electronic version of this report is available on the North Carolina Office of the State Controller's website at <https://www.ncosc.gov/> or by calling the State Controller's Financial Reporting Section at 919-707-0500.

A. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Plan Asset Matters

Basis of Accounting: The financial statements of these plans were prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. Employer contributions are recognized when due and the employer has made a formal commitment to provide the contributions. Benefits are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the terms of each plan. For purposes of measuring the net other postemployment benefits (OPEB) liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB, and OPEB expense, information about the fiduciary net position of each plan, and additions to/deductions from each plans' fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the plans.

Methods Used to Value Plan Investments: Pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes, the State Treasurer is the custodian and administrator of the other postemployment benefit funds. The State Treasurer maintains various investment portfolios in its External Investment Pool. The Retiree Health Benefit Fund participates in the External Investment Pool. The Disability Income Plan is invested in the Short-Term Investment Portfolio of the External Investment Pool and the Bond Index External Investment Pool. The investment balance of each other employee benefit trust fund represents its share of the fair value of the net position of the various portfolios within the pool. Detailed descriptions of the methods and significant assumptions regarding investments of the State Treasurer are provided in the 2023 *Annual Comprehensive Financial Report*.

B. Plan Descriptions

1. Health Benefits

Plan Administration: The State of North Carolina administers the North Carolina State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees, referred to as the State Health Plan (the Plan), a healthcare plan exclusively for the benefit of employees of the State, the University of North Carolina System, community colleges, and certain other component units. In addition, Local Education Agencies (LEAs), charter schools, and some select local governments that are not part of the State's financial reporting entity also participate. Health benefit programs and premium rates are determined by the State Treasurer upon approval of the Plan Board of Trustees.

The Retiree Health Benefit Fund (RHBF) has been established by Chapter 135-7, Article 1 of the General Statutes as a fund to provide health benefits to retired and disabled employees and their applicable beneficiaries. RHBF is a cost-sharing,

multiple-employer, defined benefit healthcare plan, exclusively for the benefit of former employees of the State, the University of North Carolina System, and community colleges. In addition, LEAs, charter schools, and some select local governments that are not part of the State's financial reporting entity also participate.

By statute, RHBF is administered by the Board of Trustees of the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System (TSERS). RHBF is supported by a percent of payroll contribution from participating employing units. Each year the percentage is set in legislation, as are the maximum per retiree contributions from RHBF to the Plan. The State Treasurer, with the approval of the Plan Board of Trustees, then sets the employer contributions (subject to the legislative cap) and the premiums to be paid by retirees, as well as the health benefits to be provided through the Plan.

Benefits Provided: Plan benefits received by retired employees and disabled employees from RHBF are OPEB. The healthcare benefits for retired and disabled employees who are not eligible for Medicare are the same as for active employees as described in Note 13. The plan options change when the former employees become eligible for Medicare. The benefits provided include medical and pharmacy coverage for employees and their dependents. Non-Medicare eligible members have two self-funded options administered by the State Health Plan while Medicare members have three options, including one self-funded option and two fully-insured Medicare Advantage/Prescription Drug Plan options. Self-funded medical and pharmacy claims costs are shared between the covered member and the State Health Plan. If the self-funded plan is elected by a Medicare eligible member, the coverage is secondary to Medicare. Fully-insured claims include cost sharing from covered members with the remaining balance paid by the fully-insured carrier.

Those former employees who are eligible to receive medical benefits from RHBF are long-term disability beneficiaries of the Disability Income Plan of North Carolina and retirees of TSERS, the Consolidated Judicial Retirement System (CJRS), the Legislative Retirement System (LRS), the Commission Employees' Optional Retirement Program (ORP), and a small number of local governments, with five or more years of contributory membership service in their retirement system prior to disability or retirement, with the following exceptions: for employees first hired on or after October 1, 2006, and members of the North Carolina General Assembly first taking office on or after February 1, 2007, future coverage as retired employees and retired members of the North Carolina General Assembly is subject to the requirement that the future retiree have 20 or more years of retirement service credit in order to receive coverage on a noncontributory basis. Employees first hired on or after October 1, 2006 and members of the North Carolina General Assembly first taking office on or after February 1, 2007 with 10 but less than 20 years of retirement service credit are eligible for coverage on a partially contributory basis. For such future retirees, the State will pay 50% of the Plan's total noncontributory premium. Employees first hired on or after October 1, 2006 and members of the North Carolina General Assembly first taking office on or after February 1, 2007 with five but less than 10 years of retirement service credit are eligible for coverage on a fully contributory basis.

Section 35.21 (c) & (d) of Session Law 2017-57 repealed retiree medical benefits for employees first hired on or after January 1, 2021. The legislation amended Chapter 135, Article 3B of the General Statutes to require that retirees must earn contributory retirement service in the TSERS (or in an allowed local system unit), CJRS,

or LRS prior to January 1, 2021, and not withdraw that service, in order to be eligible for retiree medical benefits under the amended law. Consequently, members first hired on and after January 1, 2021 will not be eligible to receive retiree medical benefits.

RHBF's benefit and contribution provisions are established by Chapter 135-7, Article 1, and Chapter 135, Article 3B of the General Statutes and may be amended only by the North Carolina General Assembly. RHBF does not provide for automatic post-retirement benefit increases.

Contributions: Contribution rates to RHBF, which are intended to finance benefits and administrative expenses on a pay-as-you-go basis, are determined by the North Carolina General Assembly in the Appropriations Act. The Commission's contractually-required contribution rate for the year ended September 30, 2024 was 7.14% of covered payroll. The Commission's contributions to the RHBF were \$103,773.40 for the year ended September 30, 2024.

In fiscal year 2022, the Plan transferred \$180.51 million to RHBF as a result of cost savings to the Plan over a span of six years. For financial reporting purposes, the transfer was recognized as a nonemployer contributing entity contribution. The contribution was allocated among the RHBF employers and recorded as noncapital contributions. For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, the Commission recognized noncapital contributions for RHBF of \$2,203.00.

2. Disability Income

Plan Administration: As discussed in Note 13, short-term and long-term disability benefits are provided through the Disability Income Plan of North Carolina (DIPNC), a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit plan, to the eligible members of TSERS which includes employees of the State, the University of North Carolina System, community colleges, certain participating component units and LEAs which are not part of the State's reporting entity, and the University Employees' ORP. By statute, DIPNC is administered by the Department of State Treasurer and the Board of Trustees of TSERS.

Benefits Provided: Long-term disability benefits are payable as an OPEB from DIPNC after the conclusion of the short-term disability period or after salary continuation payments cease, whichever is later, while the employee is disabled and does not meet the TSERS conditions for unreduced service retirement. An employee is eligible to receive long-term disability benefits provided the following requirements are met: (1) the employee has five or more years of contributing membership service in TSERS or the University Employees' ORP, earned within 96 months prior to becoming disabled or cessation of salary continuation payments, whichever is later; (2) the employee must make application to receive long-term benefits within 180 days after the conclusion of the short-term disability period or after salary continuation payments cease or after monthly payments for Workers' Compensation cease (excluding monthly payments for permanent partial benefits), whichever is later; (3) the employee must be certified by the Medical Board to be mentally or physically disabled for the further performance of his/her usual occupation; (4) the disability must have been continuous, likely to be permanent, and incurred at the time of active employment; (5) the employee must not be eligible to receive an unreduced retirement benefit from TSERS; and (6) the employee must terminate employment as a permanent, full-time employee. A general

employee is eligible to receive an unreduced retirement benefit from TSERS after:

- (1) reaching the age of 65 and completing five years of membership service;
- (2) reaching the age of 60 and completing 25 years of creditable service; or
- (3) completing 30 years of creditable service, at any age.

For employees who had five or more years of membership service as of July 31, 2007, during the first 36 months of the long-term disability period, the monthly long-term disability benefit is equal to 65% of one-twelfth of an employee's annual base rate of compensation last payable to the participant or beneficiary prior to the beginning of the short-term disability period, plus the like percentage of one-twelfth of the annual longevity payment and local supplements to which the participant or beneficiary would be eligible. The monthly benefits are subject to a maximum of \$3,900 per month reduced by any primary Social Security disability benefits, by an amount equal to the monthly primary Social Security retirement benefit to which the employee might be entitled should the employee be at least age 62, and by monthly payments for Workers' Compensation to which the participant or beneficiary may be entitled, but the benefits payable shall be no less than \$10 a month. After the first 36 months of the long-term disability, the long-term benefit is calculated in the same manner as described above except the monthly benefit is reduced by an amount equal to a monthly primary Social Security disability benefit to which the participant or beneficiary might be entitled had Social Security disability benefits been awarded. When an employee qualifies for an unreduced service retirement allowance from TSERS, the benefits payable from DIPNC will cease, and the employee will commence retirement under TSERS or the University Employees' ORP.

For employees who had less than five years of membership service as of July 31, 2007, and meet the requirements for long-term disability on or after August 1, 2007, benefits are calculated in the same manner as described above except that after the first 36 months of the long-term disability, no further long-term disability benefits are payable unless the employee has been approved and is in receipt of primary Social Security benefits.

Benefit and contribution provisions are established by Chapter 135, Article 6, of the General Statutes and may be amended only by the North Carolina General Assembly. The plan does not provide for automatic post-retirement benefit increases.

Contributions: Although DIPNC operates on a calendar year, disability income benefits are funded by actuarially determined employer contributions that are established in the Appropriations Act by the North Carolina General Assembly and coincide with the State's fiscal year. The Commission's contractually-required contribution rate for the year ended September 30, 2024 was 0.11% of covered payroll. The Commission's contributions to DIPNC were \$1,598.75 for the year ended September 30, 2024.

C. Net OPEB Liability

Retiree Health Benefit Fund: At September 30, 2024, the Commission reported a liability of \$1,743,929.00 for its proportionate share of the collective net OPEB liability for RHBF. The net OPEB liability was measured as of June 30, 2023. The total OPEB liability used to calculate the net OPEB liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2022, and update procedures were used to roll forward the total OPEB liability to June 30, 2023. The Commission's proportion of the net OPEB liability was based

on a projection of the present value of future salaries for the Commission relative to the projected present value of future salaries for all participating employers, actuarially-determined. As of June 30, 2023, the Commission's proportion was 0.00654%, which was a decrease of 0.00049 from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2022, which was 0.00703%.

Disability Income Plan of North Carolina: At September 30, 2024, the Commission reported a liability of \$2,686.00 for its proportionate share of the collective net OPEB liability for DIPNC. The net OPEB liability was measured as of June 30, 2023. The total OPEB liability used to calculate the net OPEB liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2022, and update procedures were used to roll forward the total OPEB liability to June 30, 2023. The Commission's proportion of the net OPEB liability was based on a projection of the present value of future salaries for the Commission relative to the projected present value of future salaries for all participating employers, actuarially-determined. As of June 30, 2023, the Commission's proportion was 0.01010%, which was an increase of 0.00028 from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2022, which was 0.00982%.

Actuarial Assumptions: The total OPEB liabilities for RHBF and DIPNC were determined by actuarial valuations as of December 31, 2022, using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement, unless otherwise specified. The total OPEB liabilities were then rolled forward to June 30, 2023 utilizing update procedures incorporating the actuarial assumptions.

	Retiree Health Benefit Fund	Disability Income Plan of N.C.
Valuation Date	12/31/2022	12/31/2022
Inflation	2.5%	2.5%
Salary Increases*	3.25% - 8.05%	3.25% - 8.05%
Investment Rate of Return**	6.5%	3.0%
Healthcare Cost Trend Rate - Medical***	6.5% grading down to 5% by 2029	N/A
Healthcare Cost Trend Rate - Prescription Drug***	10% grading down to 5% by 2033	N/A
Healthcare Cost Trend Rate - Prescription Drug Rebates***	7% grading down to 5% by 2033	N/A
Healthcare Cost Trend Rate - Medicare Advantage***	0% through 2025, 5% thereafter	N/A
Healthcare Cost Trend Rate - Administrative***	3%	N/A

* Salary increases include 3.25% inflation and productivity factor.

** Investment rate of return is net of OPEB plan investment expense, including inflation.

*** Disability Income Plan of NC eliminated employer reimbursements from the Plan (which included State Health Plan premiums) effective July 1, 2019.

N/A - Not Applicable

The OPEB plans currently use mortality tables that vary by age, gender, employee group (i.e. teacher, other educational employee, general employee, or law enforcement officer) and health status (i.e. disabled or not disabled). The current mortality rates are based on published tables and studies that cover significant portions of the U.S. public plan population. The healthy mortality rates also contain a provision to reflect future mortality improvements.

The projected long-term investment returns and inflation assumptions are developed through review of current and historical capital markets data, sell-side investment research, consultant whitepapers, and historical performance of investment strategies. Fixed income return projections reflect current yields across the U.S. Treasury yield curve and market expectations of forward yields projected and interpolated for multiple tenors and over multiple year horizons. Global public equity return projections are established through analysis of the equity risk premium and the fixed income return projections. Other asset categories and strategies' return projections reflect the foregoing and historical data analysis. These projections are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. DIPNC is primarily invested in the Bond Index Investment Pool as of June 30, 2023.

Best estimates of real rates of return for each major asset class included in RHBF's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2023 (the measurement date) are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Fixed Income	0.9%
Global Equity	6.5%
Real Estate	5.9%
Alternatives	8.2%
Opportunistic Fixed Income	5.0%
Inflation Sensitive	2.7%

The information in the preceding table is based on 30-year expectations developed with an investment consulting firm as part of a study that was completed in early 2022, and is part of the asset, liability, and investment policy of the North Carolina Retirement Systems. The long-term nominal rates of return underlying the real rates of return are arithmetic annualized figures. The real rates of return are calculated from nominal rates by multiplicatively subtracting a long-term inflation assumption of 2.25%. Return projections do not include any excess return expectations over benchmark averages. All rates of return and inflation are annualized. The long-term expected real rate of return for the Bond Index Investment Pool as of June 30, 2023 is 0.78%.

Actuarial valuations of the plans involve estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future. The results of the valuations fluctuate from year to year as actual experience differs from assumptions. This includes demographic experiences (i.e., mortality and retirement) that differ from expected. This also includes financial experiences (i.e., member medical costs and contributions) that vary from expected trends. Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual revision as actual results are compared to past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

The actuarial assumptions used for RHBF are consistent with those used to value the pension benefits of TSERS where appropriate. These assumptions are based on the most recent pension valuations available. The discount rate used for RHBF reflects a pay-as-you-go approach.

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes of the plans are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employer and plan members) and include

the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing of benefit costs between the employer and plan members to that point. The RHBF is funded solely by employer contributions and benefits are dependent on membership requirements.

The actuarial methods and assumptions used for DIPNC include techniques that are designed to reduce the effects of short-term volatility in actuarial accrued liabilities and the actuarial value of assets, consistent with the long-term perspective of the calculations. Prior to July 1, 2019, employers received a reimbursement from DIPNC for employer costs, including the employer's share of the State Health Plan premiums, incurred during the second six months of the first year of a member's short-term disability coverage. With the elimination of the reimbursement to employers, State Health Plan premiums are no longer reimbursed by DIPNC for the benefits that were effective on or after July 1, 2019.

The actuarial assumptions used in the December 31, 2022 valuations were generally based on the results of an actuarial experience study prepared as of December 31, 2019, as amended for updates to certain assumptions (such as medical claims and medical trend rate assumptions) implemented based on annual reviews that have occurred since that experience study.

Discount Rate: The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability for RHBF was 3.65% at June 30, 2023 compared to 3.54% at June 30, 2022. The projection of cash flow used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from employers would be made at the current statutorily determined contribution rate. Based on the above assumptions, the plan's fiduciary net position was not projected to be available to make projected future benefit payments to current plan members. As a result, a municipal bond rate of 3.65% was used as the discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability. The 3.65% rate is based on the Bond Buyer 20-year General Obligation Index as of June 30, 2023.

The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability for DIPNC was 3.00% at June 30, 2023 compared to 3.08% at June 30, 2022. The projection of cash flow used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members would be made at the current contribution rate and that contributions from employers would be made at statutorily required rates, actuarially determined. Based on those assumptions, the plan's fiduciary net position was not projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to the current plan members. In order to develop the blended discount rate of 3.00%, 3.00% was used during the period that the plan was projected to have a fiduciary net position, and a municipal bond rate of 3.65% was used during the period that the plan was projected to have no fiduciary net position. The 3.65% rate is based on the Bond Buyer 20-year General Obligation Index as of June 30, 2023.

Sensitivity of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate: The following presents the Commission's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability of the plans, as well as what the plans' net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower or 1-percentage-point higher than the current discount rate:

		Net OPEB Liability		
		1% Decrease (2.65%)	Current Discount Rate (3.65%)	1% Increase (4.65%)
RHBF	\$	2,055,895.00	\$ 1,743,929.00	\$ 1,487,699.00
		1% Decrease (2.00%)	Current Discount Rate (3.00%)	1% Increase (4.00%)
DIPNC	\$	3,033.00	\$ 2,686.00	\$ 2,333.00

Sensitivity of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Healthcare Cost Trend Rates: The following presents the net OPEB liability of the plans, as well as what the plans' net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using healthcare cost trend rates that are 1-percentage-point lower or 1-percentage-point higher than the current healthcare cost trend rates:

		Net OPEB Liability		
		1% Decrease (Medical - 4% - 5.5%, Pharmacy - 4% - 9%, Pharmacy Rebate - 4% - 6%, Med. Advantage - 0% - 4%, Administrative - 2%)	Current Healthcare Cost Trend Rates (Medical - 5% - 6.5%, Pharmacy - 5% - 10%, Pharmacy Rebate - 5% - 7%, Med. Advantage - 0% - 5%, Administrative - 3%)	1% Increase (Medical - 6% - 7.5%, Pharmacy - 6% - 11%, Pharmacy Rebate - 6% - 8%, Med. Advantage - 0% - 6%, Administrative - 4%)
RHBF	\$	1,438,789.00	\$ 1,743,929.00	\$ 2,134,682.00

Effective with the actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2021, the liability for the State's potential reimbursement of costs incurred by employers was removed because the reimbursement by DIPNC was eliminated for disabilities occurring on or after July 1, 2019. Thus sensitivity to changes in the healthcare cost trend rates is not applicable for DIPNC.

OPEB Expense: For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, the Commission recognized OPEB expense as follows:

OPEB Plan	Amount
RHBF	\$ (133,277.00)
DIPNC	1,177.00
Total OPEB Expense	\$ (132,100.00)

Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB: At September 30, 2024, the Commission reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

**Employer Balances of Deferred Outflows of Resources
Related to OPEB by Classification:**

	RHBF	DIPNC	Total
Differences Between Actual and Expected Experience	\$ 18,470.00	\$ 1,506.00	\$ 19,976.00
Changes of Assumptions	181,702.00	125.00	181,827.00
Net Difference Between Projected and Actual Earnings on OPEB Plan Investments	13,399.00	2,244.00	15,643.00
Changes in Proportion and Differences Between Employer's Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	126,575.85	117.00	126,692.85
Contributions Subsequent to the Measurement Date	103,773.40	1,598.75	105,372.15
Total	\$ 443,920.25	\$ 5,590.75	\$ 449,511.00

**Employer Balances of Deferred Inflows of Resources
Related to OPEB by Classification:**

	RHBF	DIPNC	Total
Differences Between Actual and Expected Experience	\$ 1,643.00	\$ 952.00	\$ 2,595.00
Changes of Assumptions	447,488.00	293.00	447,781.00
Changes in Proportion and Differences Between Employer's Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	344,594.00	3,685.00	348,279.00
Total	\$ 793,725.00	\$ 4,930.00	\$ 798,655.00

Amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources related to contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as reductions of the net OPEB liabilities related to RHBF and DIPNC in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized as OPEB expense as follows:

**Schedule of the Net Amount of the Employer's Balances of
Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of
Resources That will be Recognized in OPEB Expense:**

Year Ending September 30:	RHBF	DIPNC
2025	\$ (157,346.00)	\$ (378.00)
2026	(162,866.00)	(275.00)
2027	(120,417.00)	(22.00)
2028	(12,947.00)	(523.00)
2029	(2.15)	(446.00)
Thereafter	-	706.00
Total	\$ (453,578.15)	\$ (938.00)

Note 13 - Risk Management

The Commission is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. These exposures to loss are handled via a combination of methods, including participation in state-administered insurance programs, purchase of commercial insurance, and self-retention of certain risks. There have been no significant reductions in insurance coverage from the previous year and settled claims have not exceeded coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

A. Employee Benefit Plans

1. State Health Plan

Commission employees are provided comprehensive major medical care benefits. Coverage is funded by contributions to the State Health Plan (Plan), a discretely presented component unit of the State of North Carolina. The Plan is funded by employer and employee contributions. The Plan has contracted with third parties to process claims. See Note 12, Other Postemployment Benefits, for additional information regarding retiree health benefits.

2. Death Benefit Plan of North Carolina

Term life insurance (death benefits) of \$25,000 to \$50,000 is provided to eligible workers who enroll in the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System. This Death Benefit Plan is administered by the State Treasurer and funded via employer contributions. The employer contribution rate was 0.13% for the current fiscal year.

3. Disability Income Plan

Short-term and long-term disability benefits are provided to Commission employees through the Disability Income Plan of North Carolina (DIPNC), part of the State's Pension and Other Employee Benefit Trust Funds. Short-term benefits are paid by the Commission for up to twelve months. The Board of Trustees of the DIPNC may extend the short-term disability benefits for up to an additional twelve months. During the extended period of short-term disability benefits, payments are made directly by the DIPNC to the beneficiary. As discussed in Note 12, long-term disability benefits are payable as other postemployment benefits from DIPNC after the conclusion of the short-term disability period or after salary continuation payments cease, whichever is later, for as long as an employee is disabled.

B. Other Risk Management and Insurance Activities

1. Automobile, Fire, and Other Property Losses

The Commission is required to maintain all risk coverage on all state-owned buildings and contents through the State Property Fire Insurance Fund (Fund), an internal service fund of the State. Fire and lightning coverage is provided at no cost to the Commission for operations supported by the State's General Fund. Other operations not supported by the State's General Fund are charged for the fire and lightning coverage. Coverage for all remaining risks for all buildings is charged to the

Commission. Losses covered by the Fund are subject to a \$5,000 per occurrence deductible. However, some agencies have chosen a higher deductible for a reduction in premium.

All state-owned vehicles are covered by liability insurance through a private insurance company and handled by the North Carolina Department of Insurance. The liability limits for losses are \$1,000,000 per claim and \$10,000,000 per occurrence. The Commission pays premiums to the North Carolina Department of Insurance for the coverage.

2. Public Officers' and Employees' Liability Insurance

The risk of tort claims of up to \$1,000,000 per claimant is retained under the authority of the State Tort Claims Act. In addition, the State provides excess public officers' and employees' liability insurance up to \$2,000,000 per claim and \$10,000,000 in the aggregate per fiscal year via contract with private insurance companies. The Commission pays the premium, based on a composite rate, directly to the private insurer.

3. Employee Dishonesty and Computer Fraud

The Commission is protected for losses from employee dishonesty and computer fraud. This coverage is with a private insurance company and is handled by the North Carolina Department of Insurance. The Commission is charged a premium by the private insurance company. Coverage limit is \$5,000,000 per occurrence. The private insurance company pays 90% of each loss less a \$100,000 deductible.

4. Statewide Workers' Compensation Program

The North Carolina Workers' Compensation Program provides benefits to workers injured on the job. All employees of the State and its component units are included in the program. When an employee is injured, the Commission's primary responsibility is to arrange for and provide the necessary treatment for work related injury. The Commission is responsible for paying medical benefits and compensation in accordance with the North Carolina Workers' Compensation Act. The Commission retains the risk for workers' compensation.

Additional details on the state-administered risk management programs are disclosed in the State's *Annual Comprehensive Financial Report*, issued by the Office of the State Controller.

5. Other Insurance Held by the Commission

The Commission purchased other authorized coverage from private insurance companies through the North Carolina Department of Insurance. The marine pollution control insurance has a \$1,000,000.00 limit for costs and damages incurred from removal, response or remedial action during sudden, accidental, discharge, spillage, leakage or emission of hazardous substance into or upon navigable waters or adjoining shorelines.

Note 14 - Commitments and Contingencies

A. Commitments - The Commission has established an encumbrance system to track its outstanding commitments on construction projects and other purchases. Outstanding commitments on construction contracts were \$1,963,234.58 and on other purchases were \$361,452.00 at September 30, 2024.

B. Pending Litigation and Claims - The Commission is a party to litigation and claims in the ordinary course of its operations. Since it is not possible to predict the ultimate outcome of these matters, no provision for any liability has been made in the financial statements. Commission management is of the opinion that the liability, if any, for any of these matters will not have a material adverse effect on the financial position of the Commission.

Note 15 - Net Position Restatements

During the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, the Commission determined their contributions to the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System and the Retiree Health Benefit Fund were not accurately reported. As a result, deferred outflows related to pensions and other postemployment benefits (OPEB) in the prior year were overstated by \$169,777.00 and \$78,258.00, respectively. In addition, other operating expenses were understated by \$248,305.00 and beginning net position was overstated by the same amount for the year ended September 30, 2023.

As of October 1, 2023, net position as previously reported was restated as follows:

	Amount
October 1, 2023 Net Position as Previously Reported	\$ 11,191,285.33
Restatements:	
To Correct Prior Year Error in Deferred Outflows Related to Pensions	(169,777.00)
To Correct Prior Year Error in Deferred Outflows Related to OPEB	(78,528.00)
October 1, 2023 Net Position as Restated	\$ 10,942,980.33



Required Supplementary Information

USS North Carolina Battleship Commission
Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of the Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability
Cost-Sharing, Multiple-Employer, Defined Benefit Pension Plan
Last Ten Fiscal Years*

Exhibit C-1

Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Proportionate Share Percentage of Collective Net Pension Liability	0.00834%	0.00886%	0.01142%	0.00878%	0.00832%
Proportionate Share of TSERS Collective Net Pension Liability	\$ 1,391,252.00	\$ 1,314,583.00	\$ 534,615.00	\$ 1,061,031.00	\$ 862,203.00
Covered Payroll	\$ 1,349,659.63	\$ 1,304,462.62	\$ 1,327,278.30	\$ 1,300,607.08	\$ 1,229,721.24
Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	103.08%	100.78%	40.28%	81.58%	70.11%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	82.97%	84.14%	94.86%	85.98%	87.56%
	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Proportionate Share Percentage of Collective Net Pension Liability	0.00847%	0.00909%	0.00736%	0.00814%	0.00615%
Proportionate Share of TSERS Collective Net Pension Liability	\$ 843,302.00	\$ 720,941.00	\$ 676,812.00	\$ 299,815.00	\$ 72,129.00
Covered Payroll	\$ 1,195,634.96	\$ 1,101,145.57	\$ 1,140,621.26	\$ 1,018,162.26	\$ 981,120.99
Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	70.53%	65.47%	59.34%	29.45%	7.35%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	87.61%	89.51%	87.32%	94.64%	98.24%

Note: Information is presented for all years that were measured in accordance with the requirements of GASB Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions - An Amendment of GASB Statement No. 27*, as amended.

* The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the prior fiscal year ended June 30.

USS North Carolina Battleship Commission
Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of Commission Contributions
Cost-Sharing, Multiple-Employer, Defined Benefit Pension Plan
Last Ten Fiscal Years

Exhibit C-2

Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ 256,381.35	\$ 234,570.84	\$ 213,670.98	\$ 196,171.73	\$ 168,688.74
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Determined Contribution	256,381.35	234,570.84	213,670.98	196,171.73	168,688.74
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Covered Payroll	\$ 1,453,409.02	\$ 1,349,659.63	\$ 1,304,462.62	\$ 1,327,278.30	\$ 1,300,607.08
Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	17.64%	17.38%	16.38%	14.78%	12.97%
	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ 151,132.74	\$ 128,889.45	\$ 109,894.32	\$ 104,366.85	\$ 93,161.85
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Determined Contribution	151,132.74	128,889.45	109,894.32	104,366.85	93,161.85
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Covered Payroll	\$ 1,229,721.24	\$ 1,195,634.96	\$ 1,101,145.57	\$ 1,140,621.26	\$ 1,018,162.26
Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	12.29%	10.78%	9.98%	9.15%	9.15%

Note: Changes of benefit terms, methods, and assumptions are presented in the Notes to Required Supplementary Information (RSI) schedule following the pension RSI tables.

USS North Carolina Battleship Commission
Notes to Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of Commission Contributions
Cost-Sharing, Multiple-Employer, Defined Benefit Pension Plan
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

Changes of Benefit Terms:

	<u>Cost of Living Increase</u>									
	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.00%	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.00%

Beginning in fiscal year 2015, with the implementation of GASB Statement No. 68, the above table reflects Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) in the period of the legislative session or Board of Trustees meeting when it was passed. The COLA is effective as of July 1 of that period and the fiscal year end plan liability is affected at June 30 of that year because the COLA is included in the actuarial assumptions used to calculate the plan net pension liability.

Effective July 1, 2017, the definition of law enforcement officer related to TSERS members was changed by the General Assembly to include Probation/Parole officers for retirement benefit purposes. The change includes officers with respect to service rendered on or after July 1, 2017, and provides for unreduced retirement at age 55 with five years of service as a law enforcement officer or reduced retirement at age 50 with 15 years of service as a law enforcement officer.

Effective July 1, 2017, retirees and beneficiaries of deceased retirees receiving benefits from the TSERS as of July 1, 2016, received a 1% cost-of-living adjustment. Retirees and beneficiaries of retirees with retirement effective dates between July 1, 2016 and before June 30, 2017 received a prorated amount. These benefit enhancements reflect legislation enacted by the North Carolina General Assembly.

In December 2021 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022, retirees and beneficiaries of deceased retirees receiving benefits from the TSERS as of September 1, 2021, received a one-time cost-of-living supplement payment, equal to 2% of the beneficiary's annual retirement allowance.

Benefit recipients of the TSERS received a one-time benefit supplement payment equal to 4% of the member's annual benefit amount, paid in October 2022, as granted by the North Carolina General Assembly for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. The one-time supplement does not change the ongoing monthly benefits, and absent additional action by governing authorities, the payments will not recur in future years.

Benefit recipients of the TSERS will receive a one-time benefit supplement payment equal to 4% of the member's annual benefit amount, paid in November 2023, as granted by the North Carolina General Assembly for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. The one-time supplement does not change the ongoing monthly benefits, and absent additional action by governing authorities, the payments will not recur in future years.

Methods and Assumptions Used in Calculations of Actuarially Determined Contributions: An actuarial valuation is performed for each year for the plan. The actuarially determined contribution rates in the Schedule of Commission Contributions are calculated by the actuary as a projection of the required employer contribution for the fiscal year beginning 18 months following the date of the valuation results. See Note 11 for more information on the specific assumptions for the plan. The actuarially determined contributions for those items with covered payroll were determined using the actuarially determined contribution rate from the actuary and covered payroll as adjusted for timing differences and other factors such as differences in employee class. Other actuarially determined contributions are disclosed in the schedule as expressed by the actuary in reports to the plans.

Changes of Assumptions: In January 2021, the actuarial assumptions for the TSERS were updated to more closely reflect actual experience.

In 2020, the North Carolina Retirement Systems' consulting actuaries performed the quinquennial investigation of the TSERS actual demographic and economic experience (known as the "Experience Review"). The Experience Review provides the basis for selecting the actuarial assumptions and methods used to determine plan liabilities and funding requirements. The most recent experience review examined the TSERS experience during the period between January 1, 2015, and December 31, 2019. Based on the findings, the Boards of Trustees of the TSERS adopted a number of new actuarial assumptions and methods. The most notable changes to the assumptions include updates to the mortality tables and mortality improvements. These assumptions were adjusted to be based on the Pub-2010 mortality tables reflecting the mortality projection scale MP-2019, released by the Society of Actuaries in 2019. In addition, the assumed rates of retirement, salary increases, and rates of termination from active employment were updated to more closely reflect actual experience.

The discount rate for the TSERS was lowered from 7.00% to 6.50% effective for the December 31, 2020 valuation, with the resulting effect on minimum actuarially determined employer contribution rates (or amounts) to be gradually recognized over a five-year period beginning July 1, 2022.

The Notes to Required Supplementary Information reflect information included in the State of North Carolina's 2023 *Annual Comprehensive Financial Report*.

N/A - Not Applicable

USS North Carolina Battleship Commission
Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of the Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability or Asset
Cost-Sharing, Multiple-Employer, Defined Benefit OPEB Plans
Last Eight Fiscal Years*

Exhibit C-3
Page 1 of 2

Retiree Health Benefit Fund	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Proportionate Share Percentage of Collective Net OPEB Liability	0.00654%	0.00703%	0.00747%	0.00694%	0.00649%
Proportionate Share of Collective Net OPEB Liability	\$ 1,743,929.00	\$ 1,669,171.00	\$ 2,310,720.00	\$ 1,924,410.00	\$ 2,054,345.00
Covered Payroll	\$ 1,349,659.63	\$ 1,304,462.62	\$ 1,327,278.30	\$ 1,300,607.08	\$ 1,229,721.24
Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	129.21%	127.96%	174.09%	147.96%	167.06%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability	10.73%	10.58%	7.72%	6.92%	4.40%
	2019	2018	2017		
Proportionate Share Percentage of Collective Net OPEB Liability	0.00660%	0.00704%	1.48000%		
Proportionate Share of Collective Net OPEB Liability	\$ 1,879,166.00	\$ 2,308,888.00	\$ 2,396,089.00		
Covered Payroll	\$ 1,195,634.96	\$ 1,101,145.57	\$ 1,140,621.26		
Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	157.17%	209.68%	210.07%		
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability	4.40%	3.52%	2.41%		

USS North Carolina Battleship Commission
Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of the Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability or Asset
Cost-Sharing, Multiple-Employer, Defined Benefit OPEB Plans
Last Eight Fiscal Years*

Exhibit C-3
Page 2 of 2

Disability Income Plan of North Carolina	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Proportionate Share Percentage of Collective Net OPEB Liability (Asset)	0.01010%	0.00982%	0.00176%	0.00479%	0.00349%
Proportionate Share of Collective Net OPEB Liability (Asset)	\$ 2,686.00	\$ 2,921.00	\$ (287.00)	\$ (2,356.00)	\$ (1,504.00)
Covered Payroll	\$ 1,349,659.63	\$ 1,304,462.62	\$ 1,327,278.30	\$ 1,300,607.08	\$ 1,229,721.24
Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset) as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	0.20%	0.22%	0.02%	0.18%	0.12%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability	90.61%	90.34%	105.18%	115.57%	113.00%
	2019	2018	2017		
Proportionate Share Percentage of Collective Net OPEB Liability (Asset)	0.00227%	0.00111%	1.48000%		
Proportionate Share of Collective Net OPEB Liability (Asset)	\$ (691.00)	\$ (680.00)	\$ (3,695.00)		
Covered Payroll	\$ 1,195,634.96	\$ 1,101,145.57	\$ 1,140,621.26		
Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset) as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	0.06%	0.06%	0.32%		
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability	108.47%	116.23%	116.06%		

Note: Information is presented for all years that were measured in accordance with the requirements of GASB Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*, as amended.

* The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the prior fiscal year ended June 30.

USS North Carolina Battleship Commission
Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of Commission Contributions
Cost-Sharing, Multiple-Employer, Defined Benefit OPEB Plans
Last Ten Fiscal Years

Exhibit C-4
Page 1 of 2

Retiree Health Benefit Fund	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ 103,773.40	\$ 92,991.55	\$ 82,050.70	\$ 88,662.19	\$ 84,149.28
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Determined Contribution	103,773.40	92,991.55	82,050.70	88,662.19	84,149.28
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Covered Payroll	\$ 1,453,409.02	\$ 1,349,659.63	\$ 1,304,462.62	\$ 1,327,278.30	\$ 1,300,607.08
Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	7.14%	6.89%	6.29%	6.68%	6.47%
	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ 77,103.52	\$ 74,966.31	\$ 65,958.62	\$ 64,445.10	\$ 56,216.12
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Determined Contribution	77,103.52	74,966.31	65,958.62	64,445.10	56,216.12
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Covered Payroll	\$ 1,229,721.24	\$ 1,195,634.96	\$ 1,101,145.57	\$ 1,140,621.26	\$ 1,018,162.26
Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	6.27%	6.27%	5.99%	5.65%	5.52%

USS North Carolina Battleship Commission
Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of Commission Contributions
Cost-Sharing, Multiple-Employer, Defined Benefit OPEB Plans
Last Ten Fiscal Years

Exhibit C-4
Page 2 of 2

Disability Income Plan of North Carolina	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ 1,598.75	\$ 1,349.66	\$ 1,174.02	\$ 1,194.55	\$ 1,300.61
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Determined Contribution	1,598.75	1,349.66	1,174.02	1,194.55	1,300.61
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Covered Payroll	\$ 1,453,409.02	\$ 1,349,659.63	\$ 1,304,462.62	\$ 1,327,278.30	\$ 1,300,607.08
Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	0.11%	0.10%	0.09%	0.09%	0.10%
	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ 1,721.61	\$ 1,673.87	\$ 3,776.93	\$ 4,573.01	\$ 4,276.28
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Determined Contribution	1,721.61	1,673.87	3,776.93	4,573.01	4,276.28
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Covered Payroll	\$ 1,229,721.24	\$ 1,195,634.96	\$ 1,101,145.57	\$ 1,140,621.26	\$ 1,018,162.26
Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	0.14%	0.14%	0.34%	0.40%	0.42%

Note: Changes of benefit terms, methods, and assumptions are presented in the Notes to Required Supplementary Information (RSI) schedule following the OPEB RSI tables.

***USS North Carolina Battleship Commission
Notes to Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of Commission Contributions
Cost-Sharing, Multiple-Employer, Defined Benefit OPEB Plans
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024***

Changes of Benefit Terms: Effective January 1, 2016, benefit terms related to copays, out-of-pocket maximums, and deductibles were changed for three of five options of the Retiree Health Benefit Fund (RHBF). Most of the changes were an increase in the amount from the previous year.

Effective January 1, 2017, benefit terms related to copays, coinsurance maximums, out-of-pocket maximums, and deductibles were changed for two of five options of the RHBF. Most of the changes were an increase in the amount from the previous year.

Effective January 1, 2019, benefit terms related to copays, out-of-pocket maximums, and deductibles were changed for one of four options of the RHBF. Out-of-pocket maximums increased while certain specialist copays decreased related to option benefits.

Effective January 1, 2020, benefit terms related to copays, out-of-pocket maximums, and deductibles were changed for the 70/30 PPO option of the RHBF. Only the copays were adjusted for 80/20 PPO option of the RHBF.

Effective January 1, 2021, members first hired on and after January 1, 2021 will not be eligible to receive retiree medical benefits.

Effective January 1, 2022, the structure of employer contributions to the RHBF was altered by legislation. Previously, non-Medicare-eligible retirees had the same employer contribution rate as active employees. As a result of the legislative change, non-Medicare-eligible retirees have the same employer contribution rate as Medicare-eligible retirees.

Beginning with the Disability Income Plan of North Carolina (DIPNC) actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2017, the valuation included a liability for the State's potential reimbursement of costs incurred by employers for income benefits and health insurance premiums during the second six months of the first year of employee's short-term disability benefit period. Effective with the actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2021, this liability was removed from the actuarial valuation because the reimbursement from DIPNC was eliminated for disabilities occurring on or after July 1, 2019.

Method and Assumptions Used in Calculations of Actuarially Determined Contributions: An actuarial valuation is performed for each plan each year. The actuarially determined contribution rates in the Schedule of Commission Contributions are calculated by the actuary as a projection of the required employer contribution for the fiscal year beginning six months preceding the date of the valuation results for the RHBF. The actuarially determined contribution rates in the Schedule of Commission Contributions are calculated by the actuary as a projection of the required employer contribution for the fiscal year beginning 18 months following the date of the valuation results for the DIPNC. See Note 12 for more information on the specific assumptions for each plan. The actuarially determined contributions were determined using the actuarially determined contribution rate from the actuary and covered payroll as adjusted for timing differences and other factors such as differences in employee class. Other actuarially determined contributions are disclosed in the schedule as expressed by the actuary in reports to the plans.

Changes of Assumptions: Consistent with prior years, for the actuarial valuation measured as of June 30, 2023 for the RHBF, a number of actuarial assumptions were reviewed and updated. The discount rate for the RHBF was updated to 3.65%, from 3.54% as of June 30, 2022. This update was to reflect the Bond Buyer 20-year General Obligation Index as of fiscal year end. Medical and prescription drug claims costs were changed based on most recent experience, and medical and prescription drug trend rates were changed to the current schedule. Enrollment assumptions were updated to model expected migrations among RHBF plan options over the next five years. The expected impact from the Inflation Reduction Act on assumed Medicare Advantage rates was included. The terms of the Pharmacy Benefits Management contract effective January 1, 2023 and the terms of the third party administrator contract effective January 1, 2025 were incorporated in the valuation.

For the actuarial valuation measured as of June 30, 2023 for DIPNC, the discount rate was updated to 3.00%, from 3.08% as of June 30, 2022. This was a result of an update to reflect the Bond Buyer 20-year General Obligation Index as of fiscal year end, combined with a change in the degree to which the plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to the current plan members.

In 2020, the North Carolina Retirement Systems' consulting actuaries performed the quinquennial investigation of each retirement system's actual demographic and economic experience (known as the "Experience Review"). The Experience Review provides the basis for selecting the actuarial assumptions and methods used to determine plan liabilities and funding requirements. The most recent experience review examined each plan's experience during the period between January 1, 2015, and December 31, 2019. Based on the findings, the Boards of Trustees of the TSERS and the Committee on Actuarial Valuation of Retired Employees' Health Benefits adopted a number of new actuarial assumptions and methods for the RHBF and the DIPNC. The most notable changes to the assumptions include updates to the mortality tables and mortality improvements. These assumptions were adjusted to be based on the Pub-2010 mortality tables reflecting the mortality projection scale MP-2019, released by the Society of Actuaries in 2019. In addition, the assumed rates of retirement, salary increases, and rates of termination from active employment were updated to more closely reflect actual experience. Also in 2020, disability rates were adjusted to the non-grandfathered assumptions used in the TSERS actuarial valuation to better align with the anticipated incidence of disability.

For the DIPNC actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2018, for individuals who may become disabled in the future, the Social Security disability income benefit (which is an offset to the DIPNC benefit) was updated to be based on assumed Social Security calculation parameters in the year of the disability. The assumed costs related to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act regarding the Health Insurance Provider Fee for the fully insured plans and Excise Tax were removed when those pieces were repealed in December 2019 and first recognized in the 2020 OPEB report.

The Notes to Required Supplementary Information reflect information included in the State of North Carolina's 2023 *Annual Comprehensive Financial Report*.



Independent Auditor's Report



North Carolina Office of the State Auditor

Dave Boliek, State Auditor

Independent Auditor's 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*

Board of Commissioners
USS North Carolina Battleship Commission
Wilmington, North Carolina

We have audited, in accordance with the 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 USS North Carolina Battleship Commission (Commission), and its discretely presented component unit, as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Commission's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated August 29, 2025. Our report includes a reference to other auditors who audited the financial statements of the Friends of the Battleship North Carolina, Inc., as described in our report on the Commission's financial statements. The financial statements of the Friends of the Battleship North Carolina, Inc., were not audited in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, and accordingly, this report does not include reporting on internal control over financial reporting or compliance and other matters associated with the Friends of the Battleship North Carolina, Inc.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

A deficiency in internal control 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 such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Commission's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses and therefore, material weaknesses may exist that were not identified.

We did identify a deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying Finding, Recommendation, and Response section, that we consider to be a material weakness.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Commission'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 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*.

Commission's Response to Finding

Government Auditing Standards require us to perform limited procedures on the Commission's response to the finding identified in our audit and describe in the accompanying Finding, Recommendation, and Response section. The Commission's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements, and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

Purpose of this Report

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



Dave Boliek
State Auditor

Raleigh, North Carolina

August 29, 2025



Finding, Recommendation, and Response

Matters Related to Financial Reporting

Inadequate Internal Controls Increased the Risk of Fraud and Undetected Errors

USS North Carolina Battleship Commission (Commission) management did not have adequate internal controls, including review procedures, to ensure accurate financial reporting. Auditors found that during the fiscal year, Commission management did not:

- Complete and review the reconciliations for three out of six bank accounts between October 1, 2023 and September 30, 2024. As of September 30, 2024, these three bank accounts held \$5.1 million (67%) of the Commission's \$7.6 million total cash balance.
- Perform the annual review of user access to the financial system to ensure access level aligned with job responsibilities.
- Provide evidence of an independent review and approval of journal entries. Specifically, auditors tested 182 out of 301 journal entries recorded during the period and found that 17 (9%) journal entries had no evidence of an independent review and approval.

Inadequate internal controls over financial reporting resulted in several misstatements. Specifically:

- Transactions associated with the pension and other postemployment benefits plans were not recorded correctly. As a result:
 - Deferred outflows related to pensions were overstated by \$430 thousand.
 - Deferred outflows related to other postemployment benefits were overstated by \$191 thousand.
 - Beginning net position was overstated by \$248 thousand.
 - Noncapital contributions were overstated by \$169 thousand.
 - Other operating expenses were understated by \$168 thousand.
 - Salaries and benefits were understated by \$36 thousand.
- Current unrestricted cash was understated by \$41 thousand because the wrong cash account was used to record a payment, which also overstated current restricted cash by the same amount.
- Noncapital contributions were overstated by \$81 thousand because a receivable was incorrectly recorded for a transaction that had not taken place, which also overstated receivables by the same amount.
- Net investment in capital assets was overstated by \$96 thousand, restricted expendable net position was understated by \$378 thousand, and unrestricted net position was overstated by \$282 thousand because of errors in the calculations.
- Additional audit adjustments were required to correct misstatements in the financial statements and note to the financial statements.

If these errors had not been identified and corrected, financial statement users would have been misinformed about the Commission's financial condition or operating results. In addition, Commission management could have made financial decisions based on unreliable or incomplete information.

There is also an increased risk that:

- Fraud could occur and go undetected.
- Cash management issues could arise from not reconciling bank accounts, resulting in the Commission not having funds available to meet obligations.
- Audit costs could continue to increase, resulting in the diversion of resources otherwise available to Commission management for use towards its principal purpose.

The financial reporting errors occurred due to the centralization of key accounting and financial reporting responsibilities to a single individual. This concentration of responsibilities eliminated necessary segregation of duties, which significantly reduced the Commission's ability to prevent or detect errors.

North Carolina General Statutes¹ require that Commission management establish and maintain a proper system of internal controls in accordance with the standards established by the North Carolina Office of the State Controller. Included in those standards is the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations (COSO) *Internal Control – Integrated Framework*² which establishes objectives for the preparation of financial reporting for use by the entity, stakeholders, and other external parties.

In addition, North Carolina General Statute 143B-1376 requires the State's Chief Information Officer to establish statewide information technology security standards. The *Statewide Information Security Manual* requires the review of standard user accounts at least annually.

Recommendation: Commission management should strengthen internal controls by reallocating key accounting and financial reporting responsibilities to reduce reliance on a single individual and ensure proper segregation of duties.

In addition, Commission management should implement a formal review and approval process to increase internal oversight.

Commission's Response: See page 53 for the Commission's response to this finding.

¹ Chapter 143D, Article 2.

² Committee of Sponsoring Organizations, *Internal Control – Integrated Framework*, May 2013.



USS North Carolina
Battleship Commission

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Veronica A. Carter

The Honorable
Pamela B. Cashwell

The Honorable
Lee Lilley

Jay C. Martin, Ph.D.
Executive Director

August 19, 2025

Dave Boliek, State Auditor
Office of the State Auditor
20601 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

Re: Draft Audit Finding

Dear Auditor Boliek:

The USS North Carolina Battleship Commission "Commission" appreciates the thoroughness of the September 30, 2024, annual audit. The Commission agrees with the findings and recommendations made by the Office of the State Auditor in the FY 2024 audit letter dated July 29, 2025.

The Commission is taking prompt corrective action to strengthen internal controls and comply with the North Carolina General Statutes. The Commission began addressing the deficiencies in July 2025 by working with the state auditors to correct our financial statements. All journal entries have been made to correct the misstatements. We are reallocating key accounting and financial reporting responsibilities to immediately reduce reliance on one person in our financial department.

The Commission is also working with the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Office of Budget and Finance to identify and engage an accounting firm on the statewide term contract for assistance. The Commission will utilize the firm to help strengthen our internal controls by ensuring proper segregation of duties and implementing a formal review and approval process to increase our internal oversight by December 31, 2025.

The Executive Director of the USS North Carolina Battleship will be responsible for ensuring these corrective actions are timely completed.

The Commission is committed to achieving a high standard of financial reporting and internal controls. We have had a history of clean audit reviews. We are committed to reestablishing adequate internal controls by reallocating accounting personnel to ensure proper segregation of duties and increasing managerial oversight. The Commission would like to thank the Office of the State Auditor for bringing the deficiencies to our attention.

Sincerely,

Jay C. Martin, Ph.D.
Executive Director, USS North Carolina Battleship Memorial
USS North Carolina Battleship Commission

Ordering Information

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State of North Carolina
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