

NEW ISSUE

RATING: (AGM Insured) S&P: "AA"  
(Underlying Rating) S&P: "A+"

BOOK-ENTRY ONLY

In the opinion of Bond Counsel, based on existing statutes, regulations, rulings and court decisions, the interest on the Bonds is excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes, subject to the condition that the City comply with all requirements of the Internal Revenue Code that must be satisfied subsequent to the issuance of the Bonds, and the Bonds and interest thereon are exempt from all Arkansas state, county and municipal taxes. In the opinion of Bond Counsel, interest on the Bonds is not an item of tax preference for purposes of the federal alternative minimum tax; provided, however, that with respect to certain corporations, interest on the Bonds will be taken into account in determining annual adjusted financial statement income for the purpose of computing the federal alternative minimum tax. See **LEGAL MATTERS**, Tax Exemption herein.

**\$16,150,000**  
**CITY OF ALMA, ARKANSAS**  
**SALES AND USE TAX BONDS**  
**SERIES 2023**

Dated: Date of Delivery

Due: March 1, as shown below

Principal of and interest on the Bonds are payable from a pledge of receipts derived by the City of Alma, Arkansas (the "City") from a 1% sales and use tax levied by the City. Interest on the Bonds is payable semiannually on March 1 and September 1 in each year, commencing September 1, 2024, and the Bonds mature (on March 1 of each year), bear interest and are priced to yield as follows:

**MATURITY SCHEDULE**

\$4,080,000 Serial Bonds

<u>Maturity</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Rate(%)</u>	<u>Yield(%)</u>	<u>Maturity</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Rate(%)</u>	<u>Yield(%)</u>
2025	\$375,000	5.000	3.480	2029	615,000	5.000	3.500
2026	535,000	5.000	3.480	2030	640,000	5.000	3.550
2027	555,000	5.000	3.500	2034	780,000	5.000	3.750*
2028	580,000	5.000	3.450				

\$2,135,000 5.000% Term Bonds due March 1, 2033 to Yield 3.700%\*  
\$4,465,000 4.125% Term Bonds due March 1, 2039 to Yield 4.310%  
\$5,470,000 4.200% Term Bonds due March 1, 2044 to Yield 4.250%

The Bonds of each maturity will be initially issued as a single registered bond registered in the name of Cede & Co., the nominee of The Depository Trust Company ("DTC"), New York, New York. The Bonds will be available for purchase in book-entry form only, in denominations of \$5,000 or any integral multiple thereof. Except in limited circumstances described herein, purchasers of the Bonds will not receive physical delivery of Bonds. Payments of principal of and interest on the Bonds will be made by Bank OZK, Little Rock, Arkansas, as the Trustee, directly to Cede & Co., as nominee for DTC, as registered owner of the Bonds, to be subsequently disbursed to DTC Participants and thereafter to the Beneficial Owners of the Bonds, all as further described herein.

The scheduled payment of principal of and interest on the Bonds when due will be guaranteed under a municipal bond insurance policy to be issued concurrently with the delivery of the Bonds by Assured Guaranty Municipal Corp.



The Bonds are offered, subject to prior sale, when, as and if issued and received by the Underwriter named below, subject to the approval of legality by Friday, Eldredge & Clark, LLP, Little Rock, Arkansas, Bond Counsel, and subject to certain other conditions.

This cover page contains information for quick reference only. It is not a summary of the issue. Investors must read the entire Official Statement to obtain information essential to the making of an informed investment decision.

**Stephens Inc.**

Dated: November 23, 2023

\*Priced to first optional redemption date, March 1, 2031.

No dealer, broker, salesman or other person has been authorized by the City or the Underwriter to give any information or to make any representations, other than those contained in this Official Statement, and, if given or made, such other information or representations must not be relied upon as having been authorized by any of the foregoing. This Official Statement does not constitute an offer to sell or other solicitation of an offer to buy, nor shall there be any sale of the Bonds by any persons in any state in which it is unlawful for such person to make such offer, solicitation or sale. The information and expressions of opinion herein are subject to change without notice, and neither the delivery of this Official Statement nor any sale made hereunder shall under any circumstances create any implication that there has been no change in the affairs of the City since the date hereof.

The Bonds have not been registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, nor has the Authorizing Ordinance described herein been qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, in reliance upon certain exemptions in such laws from such registration and qualification.

Assured Guaranty Municipal Corp. ("AGM") makes no representation regarding the Bonds or the advisability of investing in the Bonds. In addition, AGM has not independently verified, makes no representation regarding, and does not accept any responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of this Official Statement or any information or disclosure contained herein, or omitted herefrom, other than with respect to the accuracy of the information regarding AGM supplied by AGM and presented under the heading **BOND INSURANCE** and Exhibit B, Specimen Municipal Bond Insurance Policy.

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## OFFICIAL STATEMENT

**\$16,150,000**  
**CITY OF ALMA, ARKANSAS**  
**SALES AND USE TAX BONDS**  
**SERIES 2023**

### INTRODUCTION TO OFFICIAL STATEMENT

This Introduction is subject in all respects to the more complete information contained in this Official Statement. The offering of the bonds to potential investors is made only by means of the entire Official Statement, including the cover page hereof and exhibits hereto. A full review should be made of the entire Official Statement, as well as the Authorizing Ordinance described herein.

This Official Statement of the City of Alma, Arkansas (the "City") is furnished in connection with the offering by the City of its \$16,150,000 principal amount of Sales and Use Tax Bonds, Series 2023 (the "Bonds"). The Bonds are being issued to finance various capital improvements (the "Improvements") for the City, to provide a debt service reserve and to pay expenses of issuing and insuring the Bonds. See **THE BONDS, Purposes for Bonds.**

The City is a city of the first class duly organized under the laws of the State of Arkansas (the "State") and is located in northwestern Arkansas. The City is authorized under Amendment No. 62 to the Constitution of the State ("Amendment 62") and Title 14, Chapter 164, Subchapter 3 of the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated (the "Authorizing Legislation") to issue capital improvement bonds and to expend the proceeds thereof for the intended purposes. See **THE CITY AND THE COUNTY.**

The Bonds are not general obligations of the City, but are special obligations payable solely from collections from a 1% sales and use tax (the "Tax") levied by the City. See **THE TAX** and **THE BONDS, Security.** The Tax is levied under Ordinance No. 2023-09 of the City adopted May 25, 2023 (the "Tax Ordinance"). The issuance of the Bonds and the pledging of the Tax to the payment of the principal of and interest on the Bonds was approved at a special election held August 8, 2023. The Bonds are being issued pursuant to and in full compliance with Amendment 62 and the Authorizing Legislation and Ordinance No. 2023-14 of the City, adopted on November 16, 2023 (the "Authorizing Ordinance"). See **THE AUTHORIZING ORDINANCE.**

The Bonds will be initially issued in book-entry form and purchasers of Bonds will not receive certificates representing their interest in the Bonds purchased. See **THE BONDS, Book-Entry Only System.** The Bonds will contain such other terms and provisions as described herein. See **THE BONDS, Generally.**

The Bonds are issuable only as fully registered bonds, without coupons, in the denomination of \$5,000 or an integral multiple thereof. Interest is payable September 1, 2024, and semiannually thereafter on each March 1 and September 1. Unless the Bonds are in book-entry form, payment of principal of the Bonds will be made to the owners of the Bonds at the principal office of Bank OZK, Little Rock, Arkansas, as trustee and paying agent for the Bonds (the "Trustee"). Interest is payable by check or draft mailed by the Trustee to the registered owners as of the record date for each interest payment date. The record date for payment of interest on the Bonds shall be the fifteenth day of the calendar month next preceding each interest payment date. A Bond may be transferred, in whole or in part (in integral multiples of \$5,000), but only upon delivery of the Bond, together with a written instrument of transfer, to the Trustee. See **THE BONDS, Generally,** and **Book-Entry Only System.**

The scheduled payment of the principal of and interest on the Bonds when due will be guaranteed under a municipal bond insurance policy (the "Insurance Policy") to be issued by Assured Guaranty Municipal Corp. ("AGM" or the "Insurer") simultaneously with the delivery of the Bonds. A specimen municipal bond insurance policy is attached hereto as Exhibit B. It is expected that, based upon the issuance of the Insurance Policy to be issued by the Insurer at the time of delivery of the Bonds, S&P Global Ratings ("S&P") will assign a rating of "AA" (stable outlook) to the Bonds. However, there is no guarantee that such rating will be received. See **BOND INSURANCE** and **MISCELLANEOUS, Ratings.** So long as the Insurer is not in default under the Insurance Policy, it is subrogated to, and may enjoy and exercise, all rights and remedies of the owners of the

Bonds and may direct the Trustee in the exercise of any remedies set forth herein. No remedy set forth herein may be exercised by the Trustee or by any owner of any of the Bonds without the prior written approval of the Insurer. See **THE AUTHORIZING ORDINANCE**, Defaults and Remedies.

The Bonds are subject to extraordinary redemption from proceeds of the Bonds not needed for the purposes intended and from Surplus Tax Receipts (as hereinafter defined). The Bonds are subject to optional redemption on and after March 1, 2031. The Bonds maturing on March 1 in the years 2033, 2039 and 2044 are subject to mandatory sinking fund redemption as described herein. The Trustee shall give at least thirty (30) days notice of redemption. See **THE BONDS**, Redemption.

Under existing law and assuming compliance with certain covenants described herein, (i) interest on the Bonds is excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes, (ii) interest on the Bonds is not an item of tax preference for purposes of the federal alternative minimum tax; provided, however, that with respect to certain corporations, interest on the Bonds will be taken into account in determining annual adjusted financial statement income for purpose of computing the federal alternative minimum tax, and (iii) the Bonds and interest thereon are exempt from all State, county and municipal taxes. See **LEGAL MATTERS**, Tax Exemption.

It is expected that the Bonds will be available for delivery on or about December 21, 2023, through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company in New York, New York.

The City and the Trustee will enter into a Continuing Disclosure Agreement in order to assist the Underwriter in complying with Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 15c2-12(b)(5) (the "Continuing Disclosure Agreement"). See **CONTINUING DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT**.

This Official Statement speaks only as of its date, and the information contained herein is subject to change. Copies of the Authorizing Ordinance and the Continuing Disclosure Agreement summarized herein are available upon request from Stephens Inc., 111 Center Street, Suite 100, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201, Attention: Public Finance.

## **THE BONDS**

Book-Entry Only System. The Depository Trust Company ("DTC"), New York, New York, or its successor, will act as securities depository for the Bonds. The Bonds will each be issued as fully-registered securities registered in the name of Cede & Co. (DTC's partnership nominee) or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. One fully-registered Bond certificate for each maturity will be issued in the principal amount of the maturity, and will be deposited with DTC.

DTC is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a "banking organization" within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a "clearing corporation" within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code, and a "clearing agency" registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. DTC holds securities that its participants ("Direct Participants") deposit with DTC. DTC also facilitates the post-trade settlement among Direct Participants of sales and other securities transactions in deposited securities, through electronic computerized book-entry transfers and pledges between Direct Participants' accounts. This eliminates the need for physical movement of securities certificates. Direct Participants include both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations, and certain other organizations. DTC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation ("DTCC"). DTCC is the holding company for DTC, National Securities Clearing Corporation and Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, all of which are registered clearing agencies. DTCC is owned by the users of its regulated subsidiaries. Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies and clearing corporations that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Direct Participant, either directly or indirectly ("Indirect Participants"). The DTC Rules applicable to its Participants are on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. More information about DTC can be found at [www.dtcc.com](http://www.dtcc.com).

Purchases of Bonds under the DTC system must be made by or through Direct Participants, which will receive a credit for the Bonds on DTC's records. The ownership interest of each actual purchaser of each Bond (referred to herein as "Beneficial Owner") is in turn to be recorded on the Direct and Indirect Participants' records. Beneficial Owners will not receive written confirmation from DTC of their purchase. Beneficial Owners are, however, expected to receive written confirmations providing details of the transaction, as well as periodic statements of their holdings, from the Direct or Indirect Participant through which the Beneficial Owner entered into the transaction. Transfers of ownership interests in the Bonds are to be accomplished by entries made on the books of Participants acting on behalf of Beneficial Owners. Beneficial Owners will not receive certificates representing their ownership interest in Bonds, except in the event that use of the book-entry system for the Bonds is discontinued.

To facilitate subsequent transfers, all Bonds deposited by Direct Participants with DTC are registered in the name of DTC's partnership nominee, Cede & Co. or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. The deposit of Bonds with DTC and their registration in the name of Cede & Co. or such other DTC nominee do not effect any change in beneficial ownership. DTC has no knowledge of the actual Beneficial Owners of the Bonds; DTC's records reflect only the identity of the Direct Participants to whose accounts such Bonds are credited, which may or may not be the Beneficial Owners. Direct and Indirect Participants will remain responsible for keeping account of their holdings on behalf of their customers.

Conveyance of notices and other communications by DTC to Direct Participants, by Direct Participants to Indirect Participants and by Direct Participants and Indirect Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by arrangements among them, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time.

Redemption notices will be sent to Cede & Co. If fewer than all of the Bonds are being redeemed, DTC's practice is to determine by lot the amount of the interest of each Direct Participant to be redeemed.

Neither DTC nor Cede & Co. (nor any other DTC nominee) will consent or vote with respect to the Bonds unless authorized by a Direct Participant in accordance with DTC's MMI Procedures. Under its usual procedures, DTC mails an Omnibus Proxy to the Trustee as soon as possible after the record date. The Omnibus Proxy assigns Cede & Co.'s consenting or voting rights to those Direct Participants to whose accounts the Bonds are credited on the record date (identified in a listing attached to the Omnibus Proxy).

Principal, interest and premium, if any, payments on the Bonds will be made to Cede & Co., or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. DTC's practice is to credit Direct Participants' accounts upon DTC's receipt of funds and corresponding detail information from the City or Trustee, on the payable date in accordance with their respective holdings shown on DTC's records. Payments by Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in "street name," and will be the responsibility of such Participant and not of DTC, the Trustee, or the City, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Payment of principal, interest and premium, if any, to Cede & Co. (or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC) is the responsibility of the Trustee, disbursement of such payments to Direct Participants will be the responsibility of DTC, and disbursement of such payments to the Beneficial Owners shall be the responsibility of Direct and Indirect Participants.

DTC may discontinue providing its services as securities depository with respect to the Bonds at any time by giving reasonable notice to the City or the Trustee. Under such circumstances, in the event that a successor securities depository is not obtained, Bonds are required to be printed and delivered. The City may decide to discontinue use of the system of book-entry transfers through DTC (or a successor securities depository). In that event, Bonds will be printed and delivered.

The information concerning DTC and DTC's book-entry system set forth above has been obtained from DTC. Neither the Underwriter nor the City make any representation or warranty regarding the accuracy or completeness thereof.

**So long as the Bonds are in book-entry only form, Cede & Co., as nominee for DTC, will be treated as the sole owner of the Bonds for all purposes under the Authorizing Ordinance, including receipt of all principal of and interest on the Bonds, receipt of notices, voting and requesting or directing the Trustee to take or not to take, or consenting to, certain actions under the Authorizing Ordinance. The City and the Trustee have no responsibility or obligation to the Participants or the Beneficial Owners with respect to (a) the accuracy of any records maintained by DTC or any Participant; (b) the payment by any Participant of any amount due to any Beneficial Owner in respect of the principal of and interest on the Bonds; (c) the delivery or timeliness of delivery by any Participant of any notice to any Beneficial Owner which is required or permitted under the terms of the Authorizing Ordinance to be given to owners of Bonds; or (d) other action taken by DTC or Cede & Co. as owner of the Bonds.**

Generally. The Bonds are dated, mature and bear interest as set forth on the cover page hereof. The principal of the Bonds is payable upon presentation and surrender at the principal office of the Trustee. Payment of interest on the Bonds will be made to each registered owner thereof by check or draft mailed by the Trustee to such owner at his address as such name and address appear on the registration book of the City kept by the Trustee on the record date which is the fifteenth day of the calendar month next preceding the calendar month in which such interest payment date falls. All such payments will be made in lawful money of the United States of America.

The Bonds are issuable in the form of registered Bonds without coupons in the denomination of \$5,000 each or any integral multiple thereof, interchangeable in accordance with the provisions of the Authorizing Ordinance. In the event any Bond is mutilated, lost or destroyed, the City shall, if not then prohibited by law, execute and the Trustee may authenticate a new Bond in accordance with the provisions therefor in the Authorizing Ordinance.

Each Bond is transferable by the registered owner thereof or by his attorney duly authorized in writing at the principal office of the Trustee. Upon such transfer a new fully registered Bond or Bonds of the same maturity, of authorized denomination or denominations, for the same aggregate principal amount will be issued to the transferee in exchange therefor.

No charge shall be made to any owner of any Bond for the privilege of registration, but any owner of any Bond requesting any such registration shall pay any tax or other governmental charge required to be paid with respect thereto. Except as otherwise provided in the immediately preceding sentence, the cost of preparing each new Bond upon each exchange or transfer and any other expenses of the City or the Trustee incurred in connection therewith shall be paid by the City. Neither the City nor the Trustee shall be required to transfer or exchange any Bonds selected for redemption in whole or in part.

The person in whose name any Bond shall be registered shall be deemed and regarded as the absolute owner thereof for all purposes, and payment of or on account of the principal or interest of any Bond shall be made only to or upon the order of the registered owner thereof or his legal representative, but such registration may be changed as hereinabove provided. All such payments shall be valid and effectual to satisfy and discharge the liability upon such Bond to the extent of the sum or sums so paid.

In any case where the date of maturity of interest on or principal of the Bonds or the date fixed for redemption of any Bonds shall be a Saturday or Sunday or shall be in the State a legal holiday or a day on which banking institutions are authorized by law to close, then payment of interest or principal need not be made on such date but may be made on the next succeeding business day with the same force and effect as if made on the date of maturity or the date fixed for redemption, and no interest shall accrue for the period after the date of maturity or date fixed for redemption.

Redemption. The Bonds are subject to extraordinary, optional and mandatory sinking fund redemption prior to maturity as follows:

(1) Extraordinary Redemption. The Bonds shall be redeemed from proceeds of the Bonds not needed for the purposes intended and from Surplus Tax Receipts (hereinafter defined) at least annually, in inverse order of maturity (and by lot within a maturity in such manner as the Trustee shall determine), in whole

at any time or in part on any interest payment date, at a redemption price equal to the principal amount being redeemed plus accrued interest to the redemption date.

"Surplus Tax Receipts" are collections of the Tax in excess of the amount necessary to (1) insure the prompt payment of the principal of, interest on and Trustee's fees and expenses and other administrative charges in connection with the Bonds, (2) pay the Insurer for any amounts owed with respect to the Insurance Policy and the Reserve Policy (as hereinafter defined) and (3) pay any arbitrage rebate due under Section 148(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code").

In case of any defeasance of the Bonds, redemption of defeased Bonds shall be scheduled on the basis of mandatory redemption requirements and assuming annual collections of the Tax in an amount equal to receipts for the most recent twelve-month period.

(2) Optional Redemption. The Bonds are subject to redemption at the option of the City, from funds from any source, on and after March 1, 2031, in whole or in part at any time, at a redemption price equal to the principal amount being redeemed plus accrued interest to the redemption date. If fewer than all of the Bonds shall be called for redemption, the particular maturities of the Bonds to be redeemed shall be selected by the City in its discretion. If fewer than all of the Bonds of any one maturity shall be called for redemption, the particular Bonds or portion thereof to be redeemed from such maturity shall be selected by lot by the Trustee.

(3) Mandatory Sinking Fund Redemption. To the extent not previously redeemed, the Bonds maturing on March 1 in the years 2033, 2039 and 2044 are subject to mandatory sinking fund redemption by lot in such manner as the Trustee shall determine, on March 1 in the years and in the amounts set forth below, at a redemption price equal to the principal amount being redeemed plus accrued interest to the date of redemption:

Bonds Maturing March 1, 2033

<u>Year</u> <u>(March 1)</u>	<u>Principal Amount</u>
2031	\$675,000
2032	715,000
2033 (maturity)	745,000

Bonds Maturing March 1, 2039

<u>Year</u> <u>(March 1)</u>	<u>Principal Amount</u>
2035	\$820,000
2036	860,000
2037	890,000
2038	930,000
2039 (maturity)	965,000

Bonds Maturing March 1, 2044

<u>Year</u> <u>(March 1)</u>	<u>Principal Amount</u>
2040	\$1,010,000
2041	1,045,000
2042	1,090,000
2043	1,135,000
2044 (maturity)	1,190,000



In the case of any redemption of Bonds prior to maturity, the Trustee shall mail or send via other standard means, including electronic or facsimile communication, a copy of the redemption notice to the registered owners of the Bonds to be redeemed, in each case not less than 30 nor more than 60 days prior to the date of redemption. After the date for redemption no further interest shall accrue on any Bond called for redemption if funds for redemption of such Bond have been deposited with the Trustee as provided in the Authorizing Ordinance.

Notwithstanding the above, so long as the Bonds are issued in book-entry only form, if fewer than all the Bonds of an issue are called for redemption, the particular Bonds to be redeemed will be selected pursuant to the procedures established by DTC. So long as the Bonds are issued in book-entry only form, notice of redemption will be given only to Cede & Co., as nominee for DTC. **The Trustee will not give any notice of redemption to the Beneficial Owners of the Bonds.**

Otherwise, any selection of Bonds by lot shall be effected by the Trustee, by any method chosen by the Trustee in its discretion.

Purposes for Bonds. At the special election held August 8, 2023, there was approved the issuance of the Bonds in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$17,065,000 for the following purposes (collectively, the "Improvements"):

(a) new or improvements to existing streets and roads, and any sidewalks, lighting and utility adjustments and curb, gutter and drainage improvements related thereto (the "Street Improvements") - \$4,300,000;

(b) new or improvements to existing park and recreational facilities and any necessary equipment and parking, drainage, lighting and utility improvements therefor (the "Park and Recreational Improvements") - \$565,000;

(c) equipment, apparatus and new, or improvements to existing, facilities for the City's fire department, including any necessary parking and utility improvements therefor (the "Fire Department Improvements") - \$4,000,000;

(d) equipment, apparatus and new, or improvements to existing, facilities for the City's police department, including any necessary land acquisition and parking and utility improvements therefor (the "Police Department Improvements") - \$4,500,000;

(e) betterments and improvements to the City's water system (the "Water Improvements") - \$1,950,000; and

(f) betterments and improvements to the City's sewer system (the "Sewer Improvements") - \$1,750,000.

The principal amount of the Bonds, plus net original issue premium and the amount of the Reserve Policy (as defined below) allocated to each purpose, is allocated as follows: \$4,297,772.46 for the Street Improvements; \$564,892.96 for the Park and Recreational Improvements; \$3,996,956.31 for the Fire Department Improvements; \$4,498,644.20 for the Police Department Improvements; \$1,948,191.69 for the Water Improvements and \$1,747,836.31 for the Sewer Improvements. The remainder of the voter-approved bonds will not be issued.

The sources and uses of funds to finance the Improvements are estimated by the City as follows:

**SOURCES:**

Principal Amount of Bonds	\$16,150,000
Net Original Issue Premium	<u>283,833</u>
Total Sources	\$16,433,833

**USES:**

Costs of Improvements	\$16,046,004
Underwriter's Discount	242,250
Costs of Issuance and Insurance Policy and Reserve Policy Premiums	<u>145,579</u>
Total Uses	\$16,433,833

The payment of Underwriter's discount, premiums for the Insurance Policy and the Reserve Policy (defined below) and the costs of issuing the Bonds relating to payment of professional fees will be contingent on the Bonds being issued. See **MISCELLANEOUS, Underwriting** for a description of the Underwriter's discount. The City will deposit the net proceeds of the Bonds (principal amount plus any original issue premium and less any original issue discount, Underwriter's discount, premiums for the Insurance Policy and the Reserve Policy, and certain issuance costs) into six construction funds established with the Trustee (each a "Construction Fund" and collectively, the "Construction Fund"). Moneys contained in the Construction Fund will be disbursed in payment of costs of the Improvements, paying necessary expenses incidental thereto and paying expenses of issuing and insuring the Bonds. Each Construction Fund will be designated to reflect the purpose, e.g., Street Improvement Construction Fund, and will have deposited therein a pro rata portion of the Bond proceeds based upon principal amount. Moneys in each Construction Fund shall be used only for the specific Improvements related thereto. Disbursements shall be on the basis of requisitions which shall contain at least the following information: the person to whom payment is being made; the amount of the payment; and the purpose by general classification of the payment. For a description of how the Bond proceeds are to be invested pending use and the provisions governing those investments, see **THE AUTHORIZING ORDINANCE, Investments**.

**Security.** The Bonds are not general obligations of the City but are special obligations, secured by a pledge of collections of the Tax ("Tax receipts"). Tax receipts must be used solely to pay the principal of and interest on the Bonds, to pay Trustee's fees and expenses and other administrative charges, to pay any arbitrage rebate due under Section 148(f) of the Code and to pay the Insurer for any amounts owed with respect to the Insurance Policy and the Reserve Policy (defined below). The Bonds are secured under the Authorizing Ordinance. For a summary of the terms of the Authorizing Ordinance, see **THE AUTHORIZING ORDINANCE**.

The City covenants that it will not issue any additional bonds, or incur any additional obligation, secured by a lien on or pledge of the Tax receipts.

A debt service reserve will be maintained in the Bond Fund that will be funded with a municipal bond debt service reserve insurance policy (the "Reserve Policy") issued by the Insurer. The face amount of the Reserve Policy will be equal to one-half of the maximum annual debt service requirement on the Bonds. See **THE AUTHORIZING ORDINANCE, The Bond Fund**.

### **THE CITY AND THE COUNTY**

**Generally.** The City of Alma is located in Crawford County, Arkansas (the "County") in northwestern Arkansas. The City is situated 125 miles southeast of Tulsa, Oklahoma and 121 miles west of Little Rock, Arkansas.

Population. The following table sets forth the population trends for the City and the County:

<u>Year</u>	<u>City Population</u>	<u>County Population</u>
1980	2,755	36,892
1990	2,959	42,493
2000	4,160	53,247
2010	5,419	61,948
2020	5,825	60,133
2022 (Estimate as of July 1)	5,903	61,075

Transportation. The City is served by U.S. Highway Nos. 64 and 71 as well as Interstate Nos. 40 and 49. The Fort Smith Regional Airport is located ten miles away in Fort Smith, Arkansas. More than 30 motor freight carriers and the two shortline railroads service the Fort Smith metropolitan statistical area, which includes the City.

Government. The government of the City operates under the mayor-city council form of government, pursuant to which a mayor is elected for a 4-year term (term expires December 31, 2026) and six city council members are elected for two-year terms (terms expire December 31, 2024). The following are the Mayor and city council members for the City:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
Jim Fincher	Mayor
Sandra Kilpatrick	Clerk
James McGhee	Insurance
Larry Blasingame	Analyst
Gary Perry	Insurance
Dawn Brown	Sales
Evan Thacker	Engineer

Medical Facilities. Baptist Health - Van Buren is located five miles away in Van Buren, Arkansas. Approximately five physicians and surgeons have offices in the City.

Education. Primary and secondary education for the City’s inhabitants are provided by a public school system. The University of Arkansas - Fort Smith, with a fall 2023 enrollment of approximately 5,514, is located 10 miles from the City.

Financial Institutions. The City is served by branches of BancorpSouth Bank, Bank OZK, Citizens Bank & Trust Co., Today's Bank and U. S. Bank, N. A.

Economy. The economy of the City is a mixture of industry, agriculture and commercial trade. Set forth below are the characteristics of the major employers in the City.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Number of Employees</u>	<u>Product or Service</u>
Alma School District	479	Public Education
Walmart	220	Retail Sales
Morrell Manufacturing	60	Target Manufacturing

Litigation. There is no material litigation pending or threatened against the City that would have a material adverse effect on the financial condition of the City.

Economic Data. Per capita personal income estimates for the County are as follows:<sup>(1)</sup>

<u>Year</u>	<u>Per Capita Personal Income</u>
2017	\$33,208
2018	34,066
2019	35,445
2020	37,829
2021	40,691

Total personal income estimates for the County are as follows: <sup>(1)</sup>

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Personal Income</u>
2017	\$2,013,909,000
2018	2,071,382,000
2019	2,141,445,000
2020	2,273,773,000
2021	2,456,859,000

The annual average unemployment rates for the County and the State since 2018 are as follows according to the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Annual Average Unemployment Rate (%)</u>	
	<u>County</u>	<u>State</u>
2018	3.5	3.7
2019	3.3	3.5
2020	5.5	6.2
2021	3.6	4.1
2022	3.2	3.3

### **THE TAX**

Generally. Pursuant to the Authorizing Legislation and the Tax Ordinance, the City has levied the Tax, which is a tax within the City on all items which are subject to taxation under The Arkansas Gross Receipts Act of 1941 and a tax on the receipts from storing, using or consuming tangible personal property under The Arkansas Compensating (Use) Tax Act of 1949. Pursuant to the Authorizing Ordinance, the City has pledged the Tax receipts to the payment of the Bonds. The Tax was approved as security for the Bonds at the special election held August 8, 2023 and will become effective on January 1, 2024.

The Streamline Sales and Use Tax Agreement ("Streamline") has been adopted by the State and became effective on January 1, 2008. Streamline amended Arkansas sales and use tax law to allow the State to collect sales and use taxes from internet sales from vendors outside the State. Streamline limits the collection of the local sales and use tax on the first \$2,500 of sales proceeds only on the following sales: motor vehicles, aircraft, watercraft, modular homes, manufactured homes or mobile homes. There is no limit of the amount of local sales and use tax to be paid on all other items. The State allows businesses, nonprofits and governmental entities to file for a credit or rebate on a local sales and use tax if the amount on an invoice totals more than \$2,500 on certain qualified purchases. Claims for credit or rebates must be filed with the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration ("DF&A") within one (1) year from the date of purchase or one (1) year from the date of payment, if later. DF&A will then cause the State Treasurer to withhold the amount of the refund from future disbursements to the local government levying the sales and use tax.

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<sup>(1)</sup>Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis; data for 2022 is not yet available.

Pursuant to Act 757 of 2011 (the "Sales Tax Holiday Act"), the State has created an annual sales tax holiday in which clothing (which are less than \$100 per item), clothing accessories or equipment (which are less than \$50 per item), school art supplies, school instructional materials and school supplies are exempt from taxation under The Arkansas Gross Receipts Tax Act of 1941. The annual sales tax holiday is from 12:01 a.m. on the first Saturday in August until 11:59 p.m. the following Sunday.

Set forth in Exhibit A attached hereto is a summary of certain provisions of the statutes authorizing the Tax. The summary does not purport to be complete statements of the laws. Reference is made to the Arkansas Code Annotated §§26-52-101 et seq. and 26-53-101 et seq. for the full text and complete descriptions of such provisions.

Administration. Pursuant to the Authorizing Legislation, the Commissioner of Revenues of the State (the "Commissioner") performs all functions incidental to the administration, collection, enforcement and operation of the Tax. All Tax receipts collected, less certain charges payable and retainage due the Commissioner for administrative services in the amount of 3% of the gross Tax receipts, shall be remitted by the State Treasurer to the Trustee monthly for deposit into the Bond Fund. See **THE AUTHORIZING ORDINANCE, The Bond Fund.**

Historical Tax Receipts. The City has collected a 1% sales and use tax since 2015, which tax terminated on October 1, 2023 (the "Existing 1% Tax"). Collections of the Existing 1% Tax have been as follows for the years indicated (taxes are collected in one month and received by the levying entity two months later):

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
January	\$ 103,715.52	\$ 111,513.98	\$ 117,336.44	\$ 132,816.76	\$ 155,641.41	\$160,649.47
February	128,833.85	118,497.76	123,943.91	143,454.88	162,639.02	178,533.63
March	98,964.55	100,310.53	105,737.41	130,659.67	137,842.18	147,576.14
April	97,557.01	105,574.75	110,519.47	116,497.20	137,094.39	158,176.84
May	113,449.88	114,490.99	124,869.67	160,701.91	155,882.33	165,815.59
June	100,876.16	111,522.25	129,128.96	145,933.31	148,235.38	166,783.47
July	110,418.98	115,773.89	134,565.20	146,366.43	162,563.91	177,647.35
August	114,545.83	118,562.26	132,964.87	156,701.15	162,661.50	171,668.76
September	109,323.00	120,437.00	134,815.99	147,187.63	168,345.28	174,146.42
October	111,930.94	120,851.69	125,763.20	140,103.84	163,619.25	171,017.35
November	109,731.89	109,172.62	132,769.43	147,994.84	170,488.33	N/A
December	<u>109,955.83</u>	<u>118,749.88</u>	<u>133,033.99</u>	<u>147,356.75</u>	<u>160,512.73</u>	<u>N/A</u>
Total	<u>\$1,309,303.44</u>	<u>\$1,365,457.60</u>	<u>\$1,505,448.54</u>	<u>\$1,715,774.37</u>	<u>\$1,885,525.71</u>	<u>\$1,672,015.02</u>

Collections of the Existing 1% Tax for the twelve-month periods ended October 31 have been as follows for the past five years (taxes are collected in one month and received by the levying entity two months later):

<u>Twelve-Month Period (Ended October 31)</u>	<u>Existing 1% Tax Collections</u>
November 1, 2018 – October 31, 2019	\$1,247,490.93
November 1, 2019 – October 31, 2020	1,467,567.62
November 1, 2020 – October 31, 2021	1,686,226.20
November 1, 2021 – October 31, 2022	1,849,876.24
November 1, 2022 – October 31, 2023	2,003,016.08

Future Tax Receipts. Tax receipts will be contingent upon the sale and use of property and services within the City, which activity is generally dependent upon economic conditions within the City. Also, Tax receipts may be affected by changes to transactions exempted from the Tax made by legislation adopted by the General Assembly of the State or by the people of the State in the form of a constitutional amendment or initiated act. In the past the General Assembly of the State has considered new exemptions to the Tax, such as food sales, which, if adopted, would materially reduce Tax receipts. The City has no control over actions of the General Assembly or the people of the State and cannot predict whether changes to the Tax may be made. Accordingly, the City cannot predict with certainty the expected amount of Tax receipts to be received and, therefore, there can be no assurance that Tax receipts will be sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the Bonds.

The United States Supreme Court held in *S. Dakota v. Wayfair, Inc.*, No. 17-494, 2018 WL 3058015 (U.S. June 21, 2018) that in certain circumstances retailers can be required to collect sales tax even in states where they have no physical presence. The Arkansas General Assembly passed Act 822 of 2019, which was signed by the Governor of the State on April 9, 2019, that requires out-of-state sellers without a physical presence in the State to collect and remit sales and use taxes to the State on annual sales of more than \$100,000 from products and services delivered into the State. Alternatively, such sellers would be required to collect and remit sales and use taxes to the State if sales of products and services for delivery in the State consist of 200 or more transactions. These thresholds are identical to those imposed by the United States Supreme Court in *S. Dakota v. Wayfair, Inc.*

## **BOND INSURANCE**

### **BOND INSURANCE POLICY**

Concurrently with the issuance of the Bonds, Assured Guaranty Municipal Corp. ("AGM") will issue its Municipal Bond Insurance Policy for the Bonds (the "Insurance Policy"). The Insurance Policy guarantees the scheduled payment of principal of and interest on the Bonds when due as set forth in the form of the Insurance Policy included as Exhibit B to this Official Statement.

The Insurance Policy is not covered by any insurance security or guaranty fund established under New York, California, Connecticut or Florida insurance law.

### **ASSURED GUARANTY MUNICIPAL CORP.**

AGM is a New York domiciled financial guaranty insurance company and an indirect subsidiary of Assured Guaranty Ltd. ("AGL"), a Bermuda-based holding company whose shares are publicly traded and are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "AGO". AGL, through its subsidiaries, provides credit enhancement products to the U.S. and non-U.S. public finance (including infrastructure) and structured finance markets and participates in the asset management business through ownership interests in Sound Point Capital Management, LP and related entities. Neither AGL nor any of its shareholders or affiliates, other than AGM, is obligated to pay any debts of AGM or any claims under any insurance policy issued by AGM.

AGM's financial strength is rated "AA" (stable outlook) by S&P Global Ratings, a business unit of Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC ("S&P"), "AA+" (stable outlook) by Kroll Bond Rating Agency, Inc. ("KBRA") and "A1" (stable outlook) by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's"). Each rating of AGM should be evaluated independently. An explanation of the significance of the above ratings may be obtained from the applicable rating agency. The above ratings are not recommendations to buy, sell or hold any security, and such ratings are subject to revision or withdrawal at any time by the rating agencies, including withdrawal initiated at the request of AGM in its sole discretion. In addition, the rating agencies may at any time change AGM's long-term rating outlooks or place such ratings on a watch list for possible downgrade in the near term. Any downward revision or withdrawal of any of the above ratings, the assignment of a negative outlook to such ratings or the placement of such ratings on a negative watch list may have an adverse effect on the market price of any security guaranteed by AGM. AGM only guarantees scheduled principal and scheduled interest payments payable by the issuer of bonds insured by AGM on the date(s) when such amounts were initially scheduled to become due and payable (subject to and in accordance with the terms of the relevant insurance policy), and does not guarantee the market price or liquidity of the securities it insures, nor does it guarantee that the ratings on such securities will not be revised or withdrawn.

#### *Current Financial Strength Ratings*

On October 20, 2023, KBRA announced it had affirmed AGM's insurance financial strength rating of "AA+" (stable outlook). AGM can give no assurance as to any further ratings action that KBRA may take.

On July 13, 2023, S&P announced it had affirmed AGM's financial strength rating of "AA" (stable outlook). AGM can give no assurance as to any further ratings action that S&P may take.

On March 18, 2022, Moody's announced it had upgraded AGM's insurance financial strength rating to "A1" (stable outlook) from "A2" (stable outlook). AGM can give no assurance as to any further ratings action that Moody's may take.

For more information regarding AGM's financial strength ratings and the risks relating thereto, see AGL's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022.

#### *Capitalization of AGM*

At September 30, 2023:

- The policyholders' surplus of AGM was approximately \$2,569 million.
- The contingency reserve of AGM was approximately \$908 million.
- The net unearned premium reserves and net deferred ceding commission income of AGM and its subsidiaries (as described below) were approximately \$2,048 million. Such amount includes (i) 100% of the net unearned premium reserve and net deferred ceding commission income of AGM, and (ii) the net unearned premium reserves and net deferred ceding commissions of AGM's wholly owned subsidiary Assured Guaranty UK Limited ("AGUK") and its 99.9999% owned subsidiary Assured Guaranty (Europe) SA ("AGE").

The policyholders' surplus of AGM and the contingency reserves, net unearned premium reserves and net deferred ceding commission income of AGM were determined in accordance with statutory accounting principles. The net unearned premium reserves and net deferred ceding commissions of AGUK and AGE were determined in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### *Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference*

Portions of the following documents filed by AGL with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") that relate to AGM are incorporated by reference into this Official Statement and shall be deemed to be a part hereof:

- (i) the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022 (filed by AGL with the SEC on March 1, 2023);
- (ii) the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2023 (filed by AGL with the SEC on May 10, 2023);
- (iii) the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2023 (filed by AGL with the SEC on August 9, 2023); and
- (iv) the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended September 30, 2023 (filed by AGL with the SEC on November 8, 2023).

All information relating to AGM included in, or as exhibits to, documents filed by AGL with the SEC pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, excluding Current Reports or portions thereof "furnished" under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of Form 8-K, after the filing of the last document referred to above and before the termination of the offering of the Bonds shall be deemed incorporated by reference into this Official Statement and to be a part hereof from the respective dates of filing such documents. Copies of materials incorporated by reference are available over the internet at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>, at AGL's website at <http://www.assuredguaranty.com>, or will be provided upon request to Assured Guaranty Municipal Corp.: 1633 Broadway, New York, New York 10019, Attention: Communications Department (telephone (212) 974-0100). Except for the information referred to above, no information available on or through AGL's website shall be deemed to be part of or incorporated in this Official Statement.

Any information regarding AGM included herein under the caption "BOND INSURANCE – Assured Guaranty Municipal Corp." or included in a document incorporated by reference herein (collectively, the "AGM Information") shall be modified or superseded to the extent that any subsequently included AGM

Information (either directly or through incorporation by reference) modifies or supersedes such previously included AGM Information. Any AGM Information so modified or superseded shall not constitute a part of this Official Statement, except as so modified or superseded.

*Miscellaneous Matters*

AGM makes no representation regarding the Bonds or the advisability of investing in the Bonds. In addition, AGM has not independently verified, makes no representation regarding, and does not accept any responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of this Official Statement or any information or disclosure contained herein, or omitted herefrom, other than with respect to the accuracy of the information regarding AGM supplied by AGM and presented under the heading "BOND INSURANCE".

**THE AUTHORIZING ORDINANCE**

Set forth below is a summary of certain portions of the Authorizing Ordinance. This summary does not purport to be comprehensive and reference is made to the full text of the Authorizing Ordinance for a complete description of its provisions.

Rights of Insurer. Various rights of the City and the holders of the Bonds are subject to rights and powers granted to the Insurer pursuant to the Authorizing Ordinance.

The Bond Fund. (a) The Trustee shall deposit all Tax receipts as and when received into a special fund of the City in the Trustee which is created by the Authorizing Ordinance and designated "2023 Sales and Use Tax Bond Fund" (the "Bond Fund"), for the purpose of providing funds for the payment of principal of and interest on the Bonds as they become due at maturity or at redemption prior to maturity, paying Trustee's fees and expenses and other administrative charges, paying any amounts due the Insurer with respect to the Insurance Policy and the Reserve Policy and paying any arbitrage rebate. Moneys in the Bond Fund shall be used on each interest payment date (or in the case of a rebate payment or payments to the Insurer with respect to the Insurance Policy and the Reserve Policy, on any date) in the following order of priority as and when necessary:

- (1) to pay the interest on the Bonds then due; and
- (2) to pay the principal of the Bonds then due at maturity or upon mandatory sinking fund redemption; and
- (3) to make provision in the Bond Fund for payment of one-half of the principal next due at maturity or upon mandatory sinking fund redemption on the Bonds if principal is not due on such interest payment date; and
- (4) to pay the Insurer for draws under the Reserve Policy; and
- (5) to pay the Trustee's and Insurer's fees and expenses and other administrative charges then due; and
- (6) to make any arbitrage rebate payment due under Section 148(f) of the Code; and
- (7) to redeem Bonds prior to maturity.

(b) There shall be established and maintained in the Bond Fund a Debt Service Reserve Account. There shall be deposited into the Debt Service Reserve Account the Reserve Policy issued by the Insurer, which shall be in the face amount equal to one-half of the maximum annual debt service requirement on the Bonds. If moneys in the Bond Fund are not sufficient to make the payments described in clauses (1) and (2) of subsection (a) above, the Debt Service Reserve Account shall be used for that purpose.



(c) There shall be established and maintained in the Bond Fund a Special Redemption Account into which shall be deposited all funds in the Bond Fund available for the redemption of the Bonds arising from Surplus Tax Receipts and transfers from the Construction Fund. Moneys in the Special Redemption Account shall be used to redeem the Bonds prior to maturity.

(d) When the moneys in the Bond Fund shall be and remain sufficient to pay (1) the principal of all the Bonds then outstanding, (2) interest on the Bonds until the next interest payment date, (3) the Trustee's fees and expenses and other administrative charges, (4) any amounts due the Insurer with respect to the Insurance Policy and the Reserve Policy and (5) all arbitrage rebate payments due the United States under Section 148(f) of the Code, there shall be no obligation to make any further payments into the Bond Fund and any Tax receipts remaining in the Bond Fund after the principal of, premium, if any and interest on the Bonds have been paid may be used by the City for any lawful purpose.

Investments. (a) Moneys held for the credit of the Construction Fund shall be invested and reinvested in Permitted Investments (as hereinafter defined) or other investments permitted by State law, which shall mature, or which shall be subject to redemption by the holder thereof, at the option of such holder, not later than the date or dates when such money will be required for the purposes intended. The Trustee shall so invest and reinvest pursuant to the direction of the City and in the Trustee's discretion in the absence of any direct instructions from the City.

(b) Moneys held for the credit of the Bond Fund shall be invested and reinvested in Permitted Investments, which will mature, or which will be subject to redemption by the holder thereof at the option of the holder, not later than the date or dates on which the money shall be required for the payment of the principal of and interest on the Bonds when due. The Trustee shall so invest and reinvest pursuant to the direction of the City and in the Trustee's discretion in the absence of any direct instructions from the City.

(c) Obligations purchased as an investment of any fund or account shall be deemed at all times a part of such fund. Any profit or loss realized on investments of moneys in any fund shall be charged to said fund.

(d) "Permitted Investments" are defined as (i) direct or fully guaranteed obligations of the United States of America ("Government Securities"), (ii) direct obligations of an agency, instrumentality or government-sponsored enterprise created by an act of the United States Congress and authorized to issue securities or evidences of indebtedness, regardless of whether the securities or evidences of indebtedness are guaranteed for repayment by the United States Government, (iii) certificates of deposit or demand deposits of banks, including the Trustee, which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or, if in excess of insurance coverage, collateralized by Government Securities or other securities authorized by State law to secure public funds or (iv) money market funds invested exclusively in Government Securities and the obligations described in (ii) above.

Certain Covenants. The City covenants that:

(a) It will not take, suffer or permit any action which may cause the interest payable on the Bonds to be included in gross income for federal income tax purposes, including any use of proceeds of the sale of the Bonds or Tax receipts directly or indirectly in such manner as to cause the Bonds to be treated as "arbitrage bonds" within the meaning of Section 148 of the Code.

(b) It will not use or permit the use of the Improvements or the proceeds of the Bonds in such manner as to cause the Bonds to be private activity bonds within the meaning of Section 141 of the Code.

(c) It will faithfully and punctually perform all duties with reference to the Tax and the Bonds, required by the Constitution and laws of the State and by the Authorizing Ordinance, including the collection of the Tax, as therein specified and covenanted, the segregating of the Tax receipts and the applying of the Tax receipts as provided in the Authorizing Ordinance.

(d) It will make any arbitrage rebate payment due the United States under Section 148(f) of the Code from moneys in the Bond Fund.

Defaults and Remedies. (a) Subject to the provisions of subparagraph (g) below, if there be any default in the payment of the principal of and interest on the Bonds, or if the City defaults in the performance of any covenant contained in the Authorizing Ordinance, the Trustee may, and upon the written request of (1) the Insurer or (2) with the consent of the Insurer, the owners of not less than 10% in principal amount of the Bonds then outstanding shall, by proper suit compel the performance of the duties of the officials of the City and officials of the State, under the Authorizing Ordinance, to take any action or obtain any proper relief in law or equity available under the Constitution and laws of the State.

(b) No owner of any Bond shall have any right to institute any suit, action, mandamus or other proceeding in equity or in law for the protection or enforcement of any right under the Authorizing Ordinance or under the Constitution and laws of the State unless (1) such owner or the Trustee shall have given written notice of such default to the Insurer and (2) such owner previously shall have given to the Trustee written notice of the default on account of which such suit, action or proceeding is to be taken, and unless the owners of not less than 10% in principal amount of the Bonds then outstanding shall have made written request of the Trustee after the right to exercise such powers or right of action, as the case may be, shall have accrued, and shall have afforded the Trustee a reasonable opportunity either to proceed to exercise the powers herein granted or granted by the Constitution and laws of the State, or to institute such action, suit or proceeding in its name, and unless, also, there shall have been offered to the Trustee reasonable security and indemnity against the cost, expense and liabilities to be incurred therein or thereby and the Trustee shall have refused or neglected to comply with such request within a reasonable time, and such notification, request and offer of indemnity are in every such case, at the option of the Trustee, to be conditions precedent to the execution of the powers and trust of the Authorizing Ordinance or to any other remedy thereunder. No one or more owners of the Bonds shall have any right in any manner whatever by his or their action to affect, disturb or prejudice the security of the Authorizing Ordinance, or to enforce any right thereunder except in the manner therein provided, that all proceedings at law or in equity shall be instituted, had and maintained in the manner therein provided and for the benefit of all owners of the outstanding Bonds, and any individual rights of action or other right given to one or more of such owners by law are restricted by the Authorizing Ordinance to the rights and remedies therein detailed.

(c) All rights of action under the Authorizing Ordinance or under any of the Bonds secured thereby, enforceable by the Trustee, may be enforced by it without the possession of any of the Bonds, and any such suit, action or proceeding instituted by the Trustee shall be brought in its name and for the benefit of all the owners of the Bonds, subject to the provisions of the Authorizing Ordinance.

(d) No remedy conferred upon or reserved to the Trustee, to the Insurer or to the owners of the Bonds is intended to be exclusive of any other remedy or remedies, and each and every such remedy shall be cumulative and shall be in addition to every other remedy given under the Authorizing Ordinance or given by any law or by the Constitution of the State.

(e) No delay or omission of the Trustee, the Insurer or of any owners of the Bonds to exercise any right or power accrued upon any default shall impair any such right or power or shall be construed to be a waiver of any such default or an acquiescence therein, and every power and remedy given by the Authorizing Ordinance to the Trustee, the Insurer and to the owners of the Bonds, respectively, may be exercised from time to time and as often as may be deemed expedient.

(f) With the prior written consent of the Insurer, the Trustee may, and with prior written consent of the Insurer and upon the written request of the owners of not less than a majority in principal amount of the Bonds then outstanding shall, waive any default which shall have been remedied before the entry of final judgment or decree in any suit, action or proceeding instituted under the provision of the Authorizing Ordinance or before the completion of the enforcement of any other remedy, but no such waiver shall extend to or affect any other existing or any subsequent default or defaults or impair any rights or remedies consequent thereon.

(g) Notwithstanding the above, the Insurer shall be deemed to be the sole holder of the Bonds insured by it for the purpose of exercising any voting right or privilege or giving any consent or direction or taking any other action that the owners of the Bonds are entitled to take pursuant to the Authorizing Ordinance.

Defeasance. The Bonds shall be deemed paid when there has been deposited with the Trustee in the Bond Fund an amount sufficient to pay the principal or redemption price of and interest on the Bonds to the date of maturity or redemption. The Bonds shall also be deemed paid if there shall be irrevocably deposited with the Trustee cash sufficient to make such payment and/or Government Securities which are non-callable direct obligations of the United States of America maturing as to principal and interest in such amounts and at such times as will provide sufficient moneys to make such payment, and all necessary and proper fees, compensation and expenses of the Trustee with respect to which such deposit is made shall have been paid or the payment thereof provided for to the satisfaction of the Trustee.

In case of any defeasance of the Bonds, redemption of defeased Bonds shall be scheduled on the basis of the mandatory redemption requirements and assuming annual collections of the Tax in an amount equal to receipts for the most recent twelve-month period.

On the payment of any Bonds within the meaning of the Authorizing Ordinance, the Trustee shall hold in trust, for the benefit of the owners of such Bonds, all such moneys and/or Government Securities.

When all the Bonds shall have been paid within the meaning of the Authorizing Ordinance, if the Trustee has been paid its fees and expenses or provision has been made therefor and if any arbitrage rebate payment has been paid or provision has been made therefor and if there are no amounts due the Insurer with respect to the Insurance Policy and the Reserve Policy, the Trustee shall take all appropriate action to cause (i) the pledge and lien of the Authorizing Ordinance to be discharged and cancelled, (ii) all moneys held by it pursuant to the Authorizing Ordinance and which are not required for the payment of such Bonds, to be paid over or delivered to or at the direction of the City.

No Additional Bonds. The City covenants that while the Bonds are outstanding it will not issue any additional bonds, or incur any additional obligation, secured by a lien on or pledge of the Tax receipts.

The Trustee. The Trustee shall be responsible for the exercise of good faith and ordinary prudence in the execution of its trusts and duties. The recitals in the Authorizing Ordinance and in the Bonds are the recitals of the City and not of the Trustee. The Trustee shall not be required to take any action unless it shall have been requested to do so in writing by (1) the Insurer or (2) the owners of not less than 10% in principal amount of Bonds then outstanding and shall have been offered reasonable security and indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities to be incurred therein or thereby. The Trustee may resign at any time by 60 days' notice in writing to the City, the Insurer and the owners of the Bonds. The Insurer, the majority in principal amount of the owners of the outstanding Bonds or the City, so long as it is not in default under the Authorizing Ordinance, in each case with the consent of the Insurer, may at any time, with or without cause, remove the Trustee. In addition, the Insurer shall have the right to remove the Trustee for any breach by the Trustee of the terms of the Authorizing Ordinance. Prior to any event of default, the Insurer may remove the Trustee for cause, and after an event of default, the Insurer may remove the Trustee without cause. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Trustee either by resignation or by removal, the City shall forthwith designate a new Trustee acceptable to the Insurer. The Trustee and any successor Trustee shall file a written acceptance and agreement to execute the trusts and duties imposed upon it by the Authorizing Ordinance, but only upon the terms and conditions set forth in the Authorizing Ordinance and subject to the provisions of the Authorizing Ordinance, to all of which the respective owners of the Bonds agree. Such written acceptance shall be filed with the City and the Insurer, and a copy thereof shall be placed in the bond transcript. Any successor Trustee shall have all the powers herein granted to the original Trustee.

Supplemental Ordinances. The terms of the Authorizing Ordinance constitute a contract between the City and the owners of the Bonds and no variation or change in the undertaking set forth in the Authorizing Ordinance shall be made while any of the Bonds are outstanding, except as hereinafter set forth. The owners of not less than 75% in aggregate principal amount of the Bonds then outstanding and the Insurer shall have the right, from time to time, to consent to and approve the adoption by the City of a supplemental ordinance as shall be necessary or desirable for the purpose of modifying, altering, amending, adding to or rescinding, in any particular, any of the terms or provisions contained in the Authorizing Ordinance or in any supplemental ordinance. The Trustee, with the prior written consent of the Insurer, may consent to any change without the consent of 75% of the owners of the aggregate principal amount of Bonds outstanding that the Trustee determines is not to the material prejudice of the owners of the Bonds or in order to cure any ambiguity or formal defect or omission in the

Authorizing Ordinance or any amendment thereto, provided, however, that nothing therein contained shall permit or be construed as permitting (a) an extension of the maturity of the principal of or the interest on any Bond issued thereunder, or (b) a reduction in the principal amount of any Bond or the rate of interest thereon, or (c) the creation of a pledge of Tax receipts superior to or on a parity with the pledge created by the Authorizing Ordinance, or (d) a privilege or priority of any Bond or Bonds over any other Bond or Bonds, or (e) a reduction in the aggregate principal amount of the Bonds required for consent to such supplemental ordinance.

## **CONTINUING DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT**

During the past five years, the City has been a party to certain continuing disclosure agreements in connection with its outstanding bonds. Such agreements require the City to file annual reports with the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board on its Electronic Municipal Market Access system ("EMMA") within the time periods set forth in the agreements. The following summarizes a non-exhaustive discussion of the City's compliance with its continuing disclosure obligations over the past five years.

As part of each annual report, the City has been obligated to file the audited financial statements of the City's general purpose funds or the audited financial statements of the City's water and sewer system (the "System"), as appropriate for the type of bond issue (e.g., water and sewer revenue bonds and sales and use tax bonds). If filed later than the date the annual report that year is due, the audited financial statements must be filed within 30 days of receipt thereof.

During the past five years, the audited financial statements of the System have been filed; however, the audited financial statements of the System for the years ended December 31, 2019, 2020 and 2022 were neither filed when the annual report was due nor filed within 30 days of receipt. Such audited financial statements were filed on EMMA approximately 71, 54 and 34 days late, respectively. Notices concerning the City's failure to timely file such audited financial statements were not filed on EMMA.

During the past five years, the audited financial statements of the City have been filed; however, the audited financial statements of the City for the year ended December 31, 2020 was neither filed when the annual report was due nor filed within 30 days of receipt. Such audited financial statements were filed on EMMA approximately 234 days late. A notice concerning the City's failure to timely file such audited financial statements was not filed on EMMA.

The City's continuing disclosure agreements have also required that certain supplemental financial and operating data be provided as part of the annual report. The supplemental data varies depending on the type of bond issue and how each is secured. During the past five years, the City timely filed all supplemental information required by the continuing disclosure agreements.

The continuing disclosure agreements have also obligated the City to file a notice of the occurrence of any event listed in Securities and Exchange Commission, Rule 15c2-12(b)(5)(i)(C). Such listed events include the redemption of bonds. A notice concerning the mandatory redemption of bonds from surplus tax collections was not filed by the bond trustee. A notice concerning such failure was not filed on EMMA. The City has timely filed notices of all other occurrences of listed events during the past five years.

Set forth below is a summary of certain portions of the Continuing Disclosure Agreement. This summary does not purport to be comprehensive and reference is made to the full text of the Continuing Disclosure Agreement for a complete description of its provisions.

Purpose of the Continuing Disclosure Agreement. The Continuing Disclosure Agreement is executed and delivered by the City and the Trustee for the benefit of the Beneficial Owners of the Bonds and in order to assist the Underwriter in complying with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Rule 15c2-12(b)(5).

Definitions. In addition to the definitions set forth in this Official Statement, the following capitalized terms shall have the following meanings:

"Annual Report" shall mean any annual report provided by the City pursuant to, and as described in, the Continuing Disclosure Agreement.

"Beneficial Owner" of a Bond shall mean any person who has or shares the power, directly or indirectly, to make investment decisions concerning ownership of any Bonds (including persons holding Bonds through nominees, depositories or other intermediaries).

"Dissemination Agent" shall mean the Trustee, acting in its capacity as Dissemination Agent, or any successor Dissemination Agent designated in writing by the City and which has filed with the Trustee a written acceptance of such designation.

"EMMA" shall mean the Electronic Municipal Market Access system as described in 1934 Act Release No. 59062 and maintained by the MSRB for purposes of the Rule.

"Financial Obligation" shall mean a

(A) debt obligation;

(B) derivative instrument entered into in connection with, or pledged as security or a source of payment for, an existing or planned debt obligation; or

(C) guarantee of obligations described in (A) or (B).

The term Financial Obligation shall not include municipal securities as to which a final official statement has been provided to the MSRB consistent with the Rule.

"Listed Events" shall mean any of the events listed hereunder.

"MSRB" shall mean the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board.

"Rule" shall mean Rule 15c2-12(b)(5) adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as the same may be amended from time to time.

Provision of Annual Report. (a) The City shall, or shall cause the Dissemination Agent to, not later than one hundred eighty (180) days after the end of the City's fiscal year (presently December 31), commencing with the report after the end of the 2023 fiscal year, provide to the Insurer and the MSRB, through its continuing disclosure service portal provided through EMMA at <http://www.emma.msrb.org> or any similar system acceptable to the Securities and Exchange Commission, an Annual Report which is consistent with the requirements of the Continuing Disclosure Agreement. The Annual Report shall be in electronic format as prescribed by the MSRB and shall be accompanied by identifying information as prescribed by the MSRB. The Annual Report may be submitted as a single document or as separate documents comprising a package and may cross-reference other information as provided in the Continuing Disclosure Agreement; provided that the Financial Statements (as defined below) may be submitted separately from the balance of the Annual Report and later than the date required above for the filing of the Annual Report if they are not available by that date, but, in such event, such Financial Statements shall be submitted within thirty (30) days after receipt thereof by the City. If the City's fiscal year changes, it shall give notice of such change in the manner as for a Listed Event.

(b) Not later than fifteen (15) days prior to the date specified in subsection (a) for providing the Annual Report to the MSRB, the City shall provide the Annual Report to the Dissemination Agent and the Trustee (if the Trustee is not the Dissemination Agent). If by such date, the Trustee has not received a copy of the Annual Report, the Trustee shall contact the City and the Dissemination Agent to determine if the City is in compliance with the first sentence of this subsection (b).

(c) If the Trustee is unable to verify that an Annual Report (containing the information required in (a) under Content of Annual Report, below) has been provided to the MSRB by the date required in subsection (a), the Trustee shall file a notice with the Insurer and the MSRB.

Content of Annual Report. The City's Annual Report shall contain or incorporate by reference the following:

(a) Tax receipts for the latest calendar year and the four (4) previous years, if available; and

(b) The annual financial statements of the general fund of the City, which (i) need not be audited in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, (ii) shall be prepared using accounting principles prescribed by Arkansas Code Annotated Section 10-4-412, as it may be amended from time to time, or any successor statute and (iii) shall be audited in accordance with, and as required by, State law (the "Financial Statements").

Any or all of the items above may be incorporated by reference from other documents, including official statements of debt issues of the City or related public entities, which are available to the public on the MSRB's website or filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The City shall clearly identify each such other document so incorporated by reference.

Reporting of Listed Events. (a) This caption describes the giving of notices of the occurrence of any of the following events:

1. Principal and interest payment delinquencies.
2. Non-payment related defaults, if material.
3. Unscheduled draws on debt service reserves reflecting financial difficulties.
4. Unscheduled draws on credit enhancements reflecting financial difficulties.
5. Substitution of credit or liquidity providers, or their failure to perform.
6. Adverse tax opinions, the issuance by the Internal Revenue Service of proposed or final determinations of taxability, Notices of Proposed Issue (IRS Form 5701-TEB) or other material notices or determinations with respect to the tax status of the security, or other material events affecting the tax-exempt status of the security.
7. Modification to rights of security holders, if material.
8. Bond calls (excluding mandatory sinking fund redemptions), if material.
9. Defeasances and tender offers.
10. Release, substitution, or sale of property securing repayment of the securities, if material.
11. Rating changes.
12. Bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or similar event of the obligated person.
13. The consummation of a merger, consolidation or acquisition involving an obligated person or the sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the obligated person, other than in the ordinary course of business, the entry into a definitive agreement to undertake such action or the termination of a definitive agreement relating to any such actions, other than pursuant to its terms, if material.
14. Appointment of a successor or additional trustee or the change of name of a trustee, if material.
15. Incurrence of a Financial Obligation of the obligated person, if material, or agreement to covenants, events of default, remedies, priority rights, or other similar terms of a Financial Obligation of the obligated person, any of which affect security holders, if material.

16. Default, event of acceleration, termination event, modification of terms, or other similar events under the terms of a Financial Obligation of the obligated person, any of which reflect financial difficulties.

(b) After the occurrence of a Listed Event (excluding an event described in (a)8 above), the City shall promptly notify the Dissemination Agent (if other than the City) in writing. Such notice shall instruct the Dissemination Agent to report the occurrence.

(c) After the occurrence of a Listed Event (excluding an event described in (a)8 above), whether by notice from the Trustee or otherwise, the City shall file (or shall cause the Dissemination Agent to file), in a timely manner not in excess of ten (10) business days after the occurrence of such Listed Event, a notice of such occurrence with the MSRB, through its continuing disclosure service portal provided through EMMA at <http://www.emma.msrb.org> or any other similar system that is acceptable to the Securities and Exchange Commission, with a copy to the Trustee (if the Trustee is not the Dissemination Agent) and the Insurer. Each notice of the occurrence of a Listed Event shall be captioned "Notice of Listed Event" and shall be filed in electronic format as prescribed by the MSRB and shall be accompanied by identifying information as prescribed by the MSRB. In the event of a Listed Event described in (a)8 above, the Trustee shall make the filing in a timely manner not in excess of ten (10) business days after the occurrence of such Listed Event.

Termination of Reporting Obligation. The City's obligations under the Continuing Disclosure Agreement shall terminate upon the defeasance, prior redemption or payment in full of all the Bonds.

Dissemination Agent. The City may, from time to time, appoint or engage a Dissemination Agent to assist it in carrying out its obligations under the Continuing Disclosure Agreement, and may discharge any such Agent, with or without appointing a successor Dissemination Agent. The Dissemination Agent shall not be responsible in any manner for the content of any notice or report prepared by the City pursuant to the Continuing Disclosure Agreement. If at any time there is not any other designated Dissemination Agent, the Trustee shall be the Dissemination Agent. The initial Dissemination Agent shall be the Trustee.

Amendment; Waiver. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Continuing Disclosure Agreement, the City and the Trustee may amend the Continuing Disclosure Agreement, and any provisions of the Continuing Disclosure Agreement may be waived, provided that the following conditions are satisfied:

(a) If the amendment or waiver relates to the requirements for providing an Annual Report, to the contents of the Annual Report or the reporting of Listed Events, it may only be made in connection with a change in circumstances that arises from a change in legal requirements, change in law, or change in the identity, nature or status of an obligated person with respect to the Bonds, or the type of business conducted;

(b) The undertaking, as amended or taking into account such waiver, would, in the opinion of nationally recognized bond counsel, have complied with the requirements of the Rule at the time of the original issuance of the Bonds, after taking into account any amendments or interpretations of the Rule, as well as any change in circumstances; and

(c) The amendment or waiver either (i) is approved by the Beneficial Owners of the Bonds in the same manner as provided in the Authorizing Ordinance for amendments to the Authorizing Ordinance with the consent of Beneficial Owners, or (ii) does not, in the opinion of the Trustee, materially impair the interests of the Beneficial Owners of the Bonds.

In the event of any amendment or waiver of a provision of the Continuing Disclosure Agreement, the City shall describe such amendment in the next Annual Report, and shall include, as applicable, a narrative explanation of the reason for the amendment or waiver and its impact on the type (or in the case of a change of accounting principles, on the presentation) of financial information or operating data being presented by the City. In addition, if the amendment relates to the accounting principles to be followed in preparing financial statements, (i) notice of such change shall be given in the same manner as for a Listed Event, and (ii) the Annual Report for the year in which the change is made should present a comparison (in narrative

form and also, if feasible, in quantitative form) between the financial statements as prepared on the basis of the new accounting principles and those prepared on the basis of the former accounting principles.

Additional Information. Nothing in the Continuing Disclosure Agreement shall be deemed to prevent the City from disseminating any other information, using the means of dissemination set forth in the Continuing Disclosure Agreement or any other means of communication, or including any other information in any Annual Report or notice of occurrence of a Listed Event, in addition to that which is required by the Continuing Disclosure Agreement. If the City chooses to include any information in any Annual Report or notice of occurrence of a Listed Event in addition to that which is specifically required by the Continuing Disclosure Agreement, the City shall have no obligation under the Continuing Disclosure Agreement to update such information or include it in any future Annual Report or notice of occurrence of a Listed Event.

Default. In the event of a failure of the City or the Trustee to comply with any provision of the Continuing Disclosure Agreement, the Trustee, the Insurer, the City or any Beneficial Owner may (and the Trustee, at the request of the Underwriter or the Beneficial Owners of at least 25% aggregate principal amount of outstanding Bonds, shall) take such actions as may be necessary and appropriate, including seeking mandamus or specific performance by court order, to cause the City or the Trustee, as the case may be, to comply with its obligations under the Continuing Disclosure Agreement. A default under the Continuing Disclosure Agreement shall not be deemed a default under the Authorizing Ordinance, and the sole remedy under the Continuing Disclosure Agreement in the event of any failure of the City or the Trustee to comply with the Continuing Disclosure Agreement shall be an action to compel performance.

Duties of Trustee and Dissemination Agent and Right of Indemnity. The Dissemination Agent (if other than the Trustee) and the Trustee in its capacity as Dissemination Agent shall have only such duties as are specifically set forth in the Continuing Disclosure Agreement, and the City agrees to indemnify and save the Dissemination Agent and the Trustee, their officers, directors, employees and agents, harmless against any loss, expense and liabilities which they may incur arising out of or in the exercise or performance of their powers and duties hereunder, including the costs and expenses (including attorney's fees) of defending against any claim of liability, but excluding liabilities due to the Dissemination Agent's or the Trustee's gross negligence or willful misconduct.

Beneficiaries. The Continuing Disclosure Agreement shall inure solely to the benefit of the City, the Trustee, the Dissemination Agent, the Underwriter, the Insurer and the Beneficial Owners and shall create no rights in any other person or entity.

### **DEBT SERVICE COVERAGE**

Set forth below is estimated debt service coverage information for the Bonds. In arriving at the estimate of annual Tax receipts for this calculation, the City examined the collections of the Existing 1% Tax for the twelve-month period ended October 31, 2023.

Actual Tax receipts collected by the City will depend upon, among other things, the level of retail activity within the City, the economic health of the City and surrounding trade area, possible future actions by the people of the State or General Assembly of the State defining transactions subject to the Tax and granting exemptions from the Tax, such as exemptions for food sales. The figure set forth below is only an estimate and there can be no assurance that future Tax receipts will equal the estimate shown below. See **THE TAX, Future Tax Receipts.**

Based upon the pledge of 100% of estimated Tax receipts, debt service coverage is as follows:

Estimated Tax Receipts Available for Debt Service <sup>(A)</sup>	\$2,003,016
Maximum Annual Debt Service <sup>(B)(1)</sup>	1,240,921
Debt Service Coverage <sup>(A/B)</sup>	1.61x

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<sup>(1)</sup>Using a year ending March 1.



## DEBT SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

The following table shows amounts required to pay scheduled principal and interest on the Bonds during each year ending March 1:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Bond Principal</u>	<u>Bond Interest</u>	<u>Total Debt Service</u>
2025	\$ 375,000	\$ 865,579.55	\$ 1,240,579.55
2026	535,000	705,921.26	1,240,921.26
2027	555,000	679,171.26	1,234,171.26
2028	580,000	651,421.26	1,231,421.26
2029	615,000	622,421.26	1,237,421.26
2030	640,000	591,671.26	1,231,671.26
2031	675,000	559,671.26	1,234,671.26
2032	715,000	525,921.26	1,240,921.26
2033	745,000	490,171.26	1,235,171.26
2034	780,000	452,921.26	1,232,921.26
2035	820,000	413,921.26	1,233,921.26
2036	860,000	380,096.26	1,240,096.26
2037	890,000	344,621.26	1,234,621.26
2038	930,000	307,908.76	1,237,908.76
2039	965,000	269,546.26	1,234,546.26
2040	1,010,000	229,740.00	1,239,740.00
2041	1,045,000	187,320.00	1,232,320.00
2042	1,090,000	143,430.00	1,233,430.00
2043	1,135,000	97,650.00	1,232,650.00
2044	<u>1,190,000</u>	<u>49,980.00</u>	<u>1,239,980.00</u>
Totals	<u>\$16,150,000</u>	<u>\$8,569,084.69</u>	<u>\$24,719,084.69</u>

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## PROJECTED MANDATORY REDEMPTION

The table under the caption **DEBT SERVICE REQUIREMENTS** does not reflect possible redemptions from Surplus Tax Receipts, if available. Surplus Tax Receipts are derived solely from Tax collections in excess of the amounts needed to pay principal of, interest on, and Trustee's fees and expenses and administrative charges in connection with the Bonds when due, to pay any arbitrage rebate and to pay the Insurer for any amounts owed in connection with the Insurance Policy and the Reserve Policy. Based upon sales and use tax collections for the twelve-month period ended October 31, 2023 and no projected growth, the City estimates the Tax collections will be \$2,003,016. **THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT THESE ESTIMATES WILL BE TRUE.** See **THE TAX, Future Tax Receipts**. If these estimates are correct, the Bonds would be paid in full by September 1, 2034 from Surplus Tax Receipts, as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Scheduled Principal</u>	<u>Bonds Redeemed Prior to Maturity</u>	<u>Total Principal Retired</u>
September 1, 2024	--	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000
March 1, 2025	\$ 375,000	455,000	830,000
September 1, 2025	--	395,000	395,000
March 1, 2026	535,000	400,000	935,000
September 1, 2026	--	415,000	415,000
March 1, 2027	555,000	420,000	975,000
September 1, 2027	--	435,000	435,000
March 1, 2028	580,000	440,000	1,020,000
September 1, 2028	--	450,000	450,000
March 1, 2029	615,000	455,000	1,070,000
September 1, 2029	--	470,000	470,000
March 1, 2030	640,000	480,000	1,120,000
September 1, 2030	--	490,000	490,000
March 1, 2031	675,000	500,000	1,175,000
September 1, 2031	--	505,000	505,000
March 1, 2032	715,000	515,000	1,230,000
September 1, 2032	--	530,000	530,000
March 1, 2033	745,000	540,000	1,285,000
September 1, 2033	--	555,000	555,000
March 1, 2034	780,000	560,000	1,340,000
September 1, 2034	<u>--</u>	<u>785,000</u>	<u>785,000</u>
Totals	<u>\$6,215,000</u>	<u>\$9,935,000</u>	<u>\$16,150,000</u>

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## LEGAL MATTERS

Legal Proceedings. There is no litigation pending seeking to restrain or enjoin the Tax or the issuance or delivery of the Bonds, or questioning or affecting the legality of the Tax or Bonds or the proceedings and authority under which the Bonds are to be issued, or questioning the right of the City to adopt the Authorizing Ordinance or to issue the Bonds or the levy and pledge of the Tax by the City.

Legal Opinions. Legal matters incident to the authorization and issuance of the Bonds are subject to the unqualified approving opinion of Friday, Eldredge & Clark, LLP, Little Rock, Arkansas, Bond Counsel.

Tax Exemption. In the opinion of Friday, Eldredge & Clark, LLP, Bond Counsel, under existing law the interest on the Bonds is exempt from all Arkansas state, county and municipal taxes.

In the opinion of Bond Counsel, interest on the Bonds under existing law is excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes and is not an item of tax preference for purposes of the federal alternative minimum tax. The opinions set forth in the preceding sentence are subject to the condition that the City comply with all requirements of the Code that must be satisfied subsequent to the issuance of the Bonds in order that interest thereon be (or continue to be) excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes. These requirements generally relate to arbitrage, the use of the proceeds of the Bonds and the Improvements. Failure to comply with certain of such requirements could cause the interest on the Bonds to be so included in gross income retroactive to the date of issuance of the Bonds. The City has covenanted to comply with all such requirements in the Authorizing Ordinance.

Prospective purchasers of the Bonds should be aware that (i) with respect to insurance companies subject to the tax imposed by Section 831 of the Code, Section 832(b)(5)(B)(i) reduces the deduction for loss reserves by 15 percent of the sum of certain items, including interest on the Bonds, (ii) interest on the Bonds earned by certain foreign corporations doing business in the United States could be subject to a branch profits tax imposed by Section 884 of the Code, (iii) passive investment income including interest on the Bonds, may be subject to federal income taxation under Section 1375 of the Code for Subchapter S corporations that have Subchapter C earnings and profits at the close of the taxable year if greater than 25% of the gross receipts of such Subchapter S corporation is passive investment income and (iv) Section 86 of the Code requires recipients of certain Social Security and certain Railroad Retirement benefits to take into account in determining gross income, receipts or accruals of interest on the Bonds.

Prospective purchasers of the Bonds should be further aware that Section 265 of the Code denies a deduction for interest on indebtedness incurred or continued to purchase or carry the Bonds or, in the case of a financial institution, that portion of a holder's interest expense allocated to interest on the Bonds, except with respect to certain financial institutions (within the meaning of Section 265(b)(5) of the Code).

As shown on the cover page of this Official Statement, certain of the Bonds are being sold at an original issue discount (collectively, the "Discount Bonds"). The difference between the initial public offering prices, as set forth on the cover page, of such Discount Bonds and their stated amounts to be paid at maturity constitutes original issue discount treated as interest which is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes, as described above.

The amount of original issue discount which is treated as having accrued with respect to such Discount Bond is added to the cost basis of the owner in determining, for federal income tax purposes, gain or loss upon disposition of such Discount Bond (including its sale, redemption, or payment at maturity). Amounts received upon disposition of such Discount Bond which are attributable to accrued original issue discount will be treated as tax-exempt interest, rather than as taxable gain, for federal income tax purposes.

Original issue discount is treated as compounding semiannually, at a rate determined by reference to the yield to maturity of each individual Discount Bond, on days which are determined by reference to the maturity date of such Discount Bond. The amount treated as original issue discount on such Discount Bond for a particular semiannual accrual period is equal to the product of (i) the yield of maturity for such Discount Bond (determined by compounding at the close of each accrual period) and (ii) the amount which would have been the tax basis of such Discount Bond at the beginning of the particular accrual period if held by the original purchaser, less the

amount of any interest payable for such Discount Bond during the accrual period. The tax basis is determined by adding to the initial public offering price on such Discount Bond the sum of the amounts which have been treated as original issue discount for such purposes during all prior periods. If such Discount Bond is sold between semiannual compounding dates, original issue discount which would have been accrued for that semiannual compounding period for federal income tax purposes is to be apportioned in equal amounts among the days in such compounding period.

Owners of the Discount Bonds should consult their tax advisors with respect to the determination and treatment of original issue discount accrued as of any date and with respect to the state and local tax consequences of owning a Discount Bond.

As shown on the cover page of this Official Statement, certain of the Bonds are being sold at an original issue premium (collectively, the "Premium Bonds"). An amount equal to the excess of the issue price of a Premium Bond over its stated redemption price at maturity constitutes premium on such Premium Bond. An initial purchaser of a Premium Bond must amortize any premium over such Premium Bond's term using constant yield principles, based on the purchaser's yield to maturity (or, in the case of Premium Bonds callable prior to their maturity, by amortizing the premium to the call date, based on the purchaser's yield to the call date and giving effect to the call premium). As premium is amortized, the amount of the amortization offsets a corresponding amount of interest for the period and the purchaser's basis in such Premium Bond is reduced by a corresponding amount resulting in an increase in the gain (or decrease in the loss) to be recognized for federal income tax purposes upon a sale or disposition of such Premium Bond prior to its maturity. Even though the purchaser's basis may be reduced, no federal income tax deduction is allowed. Purchasers of the Premium Bonds should consult their tax advisors with respect to the determination and treatment of premium for federal income tax purposes and with respect to the state and local tax consequences of owning a Premium Bond.

Current and future legislative proposals, if enacted into law, clarification of the Code or court decisions may cause interest on the Bonds to be subject, directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, to federal income taxation or otherwise prevent holders of the Bonds from realizing the full current benefit of the tax status of such interest. The introduction or enactment of any other legislative proposals or clarification of the Code or court decisions may affect, perhaps significantly, the market price for, or marketability of, the Bonds. Prospective purchasers of the Bonds should consult their own tax advisors regarding any proposed or enacted federal or state tax legislation, regulations or litigation, as to which Bond Counsel expresses no opinion.

It is not an event of default on the Bonds if legislation is enacted reducing or eliminating the exclusion of interest on state and local government bonds from gross income for federal or state income tax purposes.

## MISCELLANEOUS

Underwriting. Under a Bond Purchase Agreement (the "Agreement") entered into by and between the City, as issuer, and Stephens Inc., as underwriter (the "Underwriter"), the Bonds are being purchased at a price of \$16,191,583.30 (principal amount plus net original issue premium of \$283,833.30 less Underwriter's discount of \$242,250). The Agreement provides that the Underwriter will purchase all of the Bonds if any are purchased. The obligation of the Underwriter to accept delivery of the Bonds is subject to various conditions contained in the Agreement, including the absence of pending or threatened litigation questioning the validity of the Bonds or any proceedings in connection with the issuance thereof, and the absence of material adverse changes in the financial or business condition of the City.

The Underwriter intends to offer the Bonds to the public initially at the offering prices set forth on the cover page of this Official Statement, which prices may subsequently change without any requirement of prior notice. The Underwriter reserves the right to join with dealers and other underwriters in offering the Bonds to the public. The Underwriter may offer and sell Bonds to certain dealers (including dealers depositing Bonds into investment trusts) at prices lower than the public offering price.

The City has agreed to indemnify the Underwriter against certain civil liabilities in connection with the offering and sale of the Bonds, including certain liabilities under federal securities laws.

Ratings. S&P Global Ratings ("S&P") will assign its municipal bond rating of "AA" (stable outlook) to the Bonds with the understanding that upon delivery of the Bonds, the Insurance Policy insuring the payment when due of the principal of and interest on the Bonds will be issued by the Insurer. The underlying credit rating for the Bonds is "A+" (stable outlook) by S&P. Any explanation of such ratings may only be obtained from S&P. Generally, rating agencies base their ratings upon information and materials supplied to them and on their own investigations, studies and assumptions. There is no assurance that such ratings, once assigned, will remain for any given period of time or that it will not be lowered or withdrawn entirely by the rating agency if in its judgment circumstances so warrant. Any such downward change or withdrawal of the ratings assigned to the Bonds by S&P may have an adverse effect on the market price of the Bonds. The Underwriter and the City have undertaken no responsibility after issuance of the Bonds to assure the maintenance of the ratings or to oppose any such revision or withdrawal.

Enforceability of Remedies. Rights of the registered owners of the Bonds and the enforceability of the remedies available under the Authorizing Ordinance may depend on judicial action and may be subject to the valid exercise of the constitutional powers of the United States of America and of the sovereign police powers of the State or other governmental units having jurisdiction, and to the application of federal bankruptcy laws or other debtor relief or moratorium laws in general. Therefore, enforcement of those remedies may be delayed or limited, or the remedies may be modified or unavailable, subject to the exercise of judicial discretion in accordance with general principles of equity. Bond Counsel expresses no opinion as to any effect upon any right, title, interest or relationship created by or arising under the Authorizing Ordinance resulting from the application of state or federal bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium or similar debtor relief laws affecting creditors' rights which are presently or may from time to time be in effect.

Information in Official Statement. Any statements made in this Official Statement involving matters of opinion or of estimates, whether or not so expressly stated, are set forth as such and not as representations of fact, and no representation is made that any of the estimates will be realized. This Official Statement is not to be construed as a contract or agreement between the City and the purchasers or owners of any of the Bonds.

The information contained in this Official Statement has been taken from sources considered to be reliable, but is not guaranteed. To the best of the knowledge of the undersigned the Official Statement does not include any untrue statement of a material fact, nor does it omit the statement of any material fact required to be stated therein, or necessary to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

The execution of this Official Statement has been duly authorized by the City.

CITY OF ALMA, ARKANSAS

By /s/ Jim Fincher  
Mayor

Dated: As of the Cover Page hereof.

## EXHIBIT A

### SUMMARY OF STATE SALES AND USE TAX PROVISIONS

Sales Tax. The sales tax portion of the Tax is generally levied upon the gross proceeds and receipts derived from all sales to any person within the City of the following (list not exclusive):

- (a) (i) Tangible personal property;
- (ii) Specified digital products sold;
- (iii) Digital codes;
- (b) Natural or artificial gas, electricity, water, ice, steam, or any other tangible personal property sold as a utility or provided as a public service;
- (c) (i) Service of furnishing rooms, suites, condominiums, townhouses, rental houses or other accommodations by hotels, apartment hotels, lodging houses, tourist camps, tourist courts, property management companies, accommodations intermediaries, or any other provider of accommodations to transient guests;
- (ii) Service of cable television, community antenna television, and any and all other distribution of television, video, or radio services with or without the use of wires provided to subscribers, paying customers or users, including installation, service, rental, repair and other charges having any connection with the providing of the said services;
- (iii) Service of initial installation, alteration, addition, cleaning, refinishing, replacement and repair of motor vehicles, aircraft, farm machinery and implements, motors of all kinds, tires and batteries, boats, electrical appliances and devices, furniture, rugs, flooring, upholstery, household appliances, televisions and radios, jewelry, watches and clocks, engineering instruments, medical and surgical instruments, machinery of all kinds, bicycles, office machines and equipment, shoes, tin and sheet metal, mechanical tools and shop equipment; however, the tax does not apply to (A) the maintenance or repair of railroad parts, railroad cars and equipment brought into the City solely and exclusively for the purpose of being repaired, refurbished, modified, or converted within the City, (B) the service of alteration, addition, cleaning, refinishing, replacement or repair of commercial jet aircraft or commercial jet aircraft components or subcomponents, (C) the repair or remanufacture of industrial metal rollers or platens that have a remanufactured non-metallic material covering on all or a part of the roller or platen surface, (D) the initial installation, alteration, addition, cleaning, refinishing, replacement or repair of non-mechanical, passive or manually operated components of buildings or other improvements or structures affixed to real estate, (E) services performed on watches and clocks received by mail or common carrier from outside this state and which, after the service is performed, are returned by mail or common carrier or in the repairer's own conveyance to points outside this state, (F) services performed by a temporary or leased employee or other contract laborer on items owned or leased by the employer, or (G) service of initial installation of any property that is specifically exempted from the tax imposed by this chapter;
- (iv) Service of providing transportation or delivery of money, property or valuables by armored car; service of providing cleaning or janitorial work; service of pool cleaning and servicing; pager services; telephone answering services; lawn care and landscaping services; service of parking a motor vehicle or allowing a motor vehicle to be parked; service of storing a motor vehicle; service of storing furs; and the service of providing indoor tanning at a tanning salon;
- (d) Printing of all kinds, types and characters, including the service of overprinting, and photography of all kinds;
- (e) (i) Tickets or admissions to places of amusement, to athletic, entertainment, recreational events, or fees for access to or the use of amusement, entertainment, athletic or recreational facilities;

(ii) Membership dues paid to a hunting or fishing club that are paid to obtain access to land for the primary purpose of hunting or fishing are excluded from the tax imposed by this chapter.

(f) Dues and fees to health spas, health clubs and fitness clubs; dues and fees to private clubs which hold any permit from the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board allowing the sale, dispensing or serving of alcoholic beverages of any kind on the premises;

(g) Contracts, including service contracts, maintenance agreements, and extended warranties, which in whole or in part provide for future performance of or payment for services which are subject to gross receipts tax;

(h) Retail sale of any device used in playing bingo and any charge for admittance to facilities or for the right to play bingo or other games of chance;

(i) Prepaid calling service or prepaid wireless calling service and the recharge of such services;

(j) Beer, wine, liquor, or any intoxicating beverages;

(k) Tangible personal property, specified digital products, a digital code, and services sold to financial institutions;

(l) Wrecker and towing services;

(m) Collection and disposal of solid wastes;

(n) Cleaning of parking lots and gutters;

(o) Dry cleaning and laundry services;

(p) Industrial laundry services;

(q) Body piercing, tattooing, and electrolysis services;

(r) Pest control services;

(s) Security and alarm monitoring services;

(t) Boat storage and docking fees;

(u) Furnishing camping spaces or trailer spaces at public or privately-owned campgrounds, except for federal campgrounds, on less than a month-to-month basis;

(v) Locksmith services;

(w) Pet grooming and kennel services; and

(x) Portable toilet lease or rental and services associated with the lease or rental of portable toilets.

(y) (i) Computer software, including prewritten computer software;

(ii) Service of repairing or maintaining computer equipment or hardware in any form;

(iii) However, gross receipts or gross proceeds derived from the sale of a computer software maintenance contract are not taxable;

(z) (i) Any intrastate, interstate, and international telecommunications service that is sourced in this state;

(ii) Any ancillary service; and

(iii) Any installation, maintenance, or repair service of telecommunication equipment;

(aa) The sale of new or used heavy equipment;

(bb) A fishing guide service provided as a part of a guided fishing trip if the fishing guide service is purchased in conjunction with the sale or lease of taxable tangible personal property by the person providing the fishing guide service; and

(cc) Withdrawals from stock.

Exemptions from Sales Tax. As summarized below, several types of transactions have been exempted from the sales tax by the General Assembly of the State. Some of the current exemptions include the sale of:

(a) New or used house trailers, mobile homes, aircraft, motor vehicles, trailers or semi-trailers and a used house trailer, mobile home, aircraft, motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer is taken as a credit or part payment of the purchase price, when the total consideration is less than the following: \$2,000 for aircraft, house trailers and mobile homes (or \$10,000 in case the house trailer or mobile home is a "manufactured home"); and \$4,000 for motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers;

(b) Aircraft held for resale and used for rental or charter, whether by a business or an individual for a period not to exceed one year from the date of purchase of aircraft;

(c) Tangible personal property, specified digital products, a digital code or services by churches, except when such organizations may be engaged in business for profit;

(d) Tangible personal property, specified digital products, a digital code or services by charitable organizations, except when such organizations may be engaged in business for profit;

(e) Food in public, common, high school or college cafeterias and lunchrooms operated primarily for teachers and pupils, and not operated primarily for the public or for profit;

(f) Newspapers;

(g) Property or services to the United States Government; motor vehicles and adaptive equipment to disabled veterans who have purchased said vehicles or equipment with financial assistance of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; specified digital products, a digital code, tangible personal property to and leasing of cars used in promoting scouting or services to the Boy Scouts of America, the Girl Scouts of America or any of the Scout Councils in the State; tangible personal property, specified digital products, a digital code, or service to the Salvation Army, Heifer International, Inc., or Habitat for Humanity; tangible personal property, specified digital products, a digital code, or service to the Boys & Girls Club of America, to the Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas, to 4-H Clubs and FFA Clubs, to the Arkansas 4-H Foundation, the Arkansas FFA Foundation and the Arkansas Division of the Future Farmers of America;

(h) Gasoline or motor vehicle fuel on which the motor vehicle fuel or gasoline tax has been paid to the State, special fuel or petroleum products sold for consumption by vessels, barges and other commercial watercraft and railroads, dyed distillate special fuel on which a tax has been paid and biodiesel fuel;



- purchased;
- (i) Property resales to persons regularly engaged in the business of reselling the articles
- (j) Advertising space in newspapers and publications, billboard advertising services, or on a public transit bus;
- (k) Gate admissions at State, district, county or township fairs or at any rodeo if the receipts derived from gate admissions to the rodeo are used exclusively for the improvement, maintenance and operation of such rodeo, and if no part of the net earnings thereof inures to the benefit of any private stockholder or individual;
- (l) Property or services which the State is prohibited by the constitution or laws of the United States or by the constitution of the State from taxing or further taxing;
- (m) Isolated sales not made by an established business;
- (n) Cotton, seed cotton, lint cotton, baled cotton, whether compressed or not, or cotton seed in its original condition; seed for use in commercial production of an agricultural product or of seed; raw products from the farm, orchard or garden, where such sale is made by the producer of such raw products directly to the consumer and user; livestock, poultry, poultry products and dairy products of producers owning not more than five cows; and baby chickens;
- (o) Foodstuffs to governmental agencies for free distribution to any public, penal and eleemosynary institutions or for free distribution to the poor and needy, and the rental or sale of medical equipment, for the benefit of persons enrolled in and eligible for Medicare or Medicaid programs;
- (p) Tangible personal property, specified digital products, a digital code, or services provided to any hospital or sanitarium operated for charitable and nonprofit purposes or any nonprofit organization whose sole purpose is to provide temporary housing to the family members of patients in a hospital or sanitarium;
- (q) Used tangible personal property when the used property was (1) traded in and accepted by the seller as part of the sale of other tangible personal property and (2) the Arkansas Gross Receipts Tax was collected and paid on the total amount of consideration for the sale of the other tangible personal property without any deduction or credit for the value of the used tangible personal property; provided, however, this exemption does not apply to transactions involving used automobiles or used aircraft;
- (r) Unprocessed crude oil;
- (s) Tangible personal property consisting of machinery and equipment used directly in producing, manufacturing, fabricating, assembling, processing, finishing or packaging of articles of commerce if the machinery and equipment is used to (i) create new manufacturing or processing plants or facilities in the State, (ii) expand existing manufacturing or processing plants or facilities in the State or (iii) replace existing machinery and equipment;
- (t) Property consisting of machinery and equipment required by State or federal law or regulations to be installed and utilized by manufacturing or processing plants or facilities, cities or towns in the State to prevent or reduce air and/or water pollution or contamination;
- (u) Electricity used in the manufacture of aluminum metal by the electrolytic reduction process and sale of articles sold on the premises of the veterans' homes;
- (v) Automobile parts which constitute "core charges," which are received for the purpose of securing a trade-in for the article purchased;
- (w) Bagging and other packaging and tie materials sold to and used by cotton gins for packaging and/or tying baled cotton and from the sale of twine which is used in the production of tomato crops;

- (x) Prescription drugs by licensed pharmacists, hospitals, or physicians, and oxygen sold for human use on prescription of a licensed physician;
- (y) Property or services to humane societies;
- (z) Vessels, barges and towboats of at least fifty tons load displacement and parts and labor used in the repair and construction of the same;
- (aa) Property or sales to all orphans' homes, or children's homes, which are not operated for profit and whether operated by a church, religious organization or other benevolent charitable association;
- (bb) Agricultural fertilizer, agricultural limestone, agricultural chemicals, and water purchased from a public surface-water delivery project to reduce or replace water used for in-ground irrigation or reduce dependence on ground water for agriculture.
- (cc) Sale of tickets or admissions, by municipalities and counties, to places of amusement, to athletic, entertainment, recreational events, or fees for the privilege of having access to or the use of amusement, entertainment, athletic or recreational facilities, including free or complimentary passes, tickets, admissions, dues or fees;
- (dd) New and used farm machinery and equipment;
- (ee) New automobiles to a veteran of the United States Armed Services who is blind as a result of a service-connected injury;
- (ff) Motor vehicles sold to municipalities, counties, school districts, and state supported colleges and universities;
- (gg) School buses sold to school districts and, in certain cases, to other purchasers providing school bus service to school districts;
- (hh) Catalysts, chemicals, reagents, and solutions which are consumed or used in producing, manufacturing, fabricating, processing, or finishing articles of commerce in the State and by manufacturing or processing plants or facilities prevent or reduce air or water pollution or contamination;
- (ii) Feedstuffs used in the commercial production of livestock or poultry;
- (jj) Modular homes constructed from materials on which the State sales tax has been paid;
- (kk) The first 500 kilowatt hours of electricity per month and the total franchise tax billed to each residential customer whose household income is less than \$12,000 per year;
- (ll) Electricity and natural gas to qualified steel manufacturers;
- (mm) Tangible personal property lawfully purchased with food stamps, food coupons, food instruments or vouchers in connection with certain Federal programs;
- (nn) Publications sold through regular subscriptions;
- (oo) Tickets for admission to athletic events and interscholastic activities of public and private elementary and secondary schools in the State and tickets for admission to athletic events at public and private colleges and universities in the State;
- (pp) Durable medical equipment, mobility enhancing equipment, a prosthetic device, and disposable medical supplies prescribed by a physician;
- (qq) Insulin and test strips for testing blood sugar levels in humans;

(rr) Telephone instruments sent into the State for refurbishing or repair and then shipped back to the state of origin;

(ss) Industrial metal rollers sent into the State for repair or remanufacture and then shipped back to the state of origin;

(tt) New motor vehicles purchased by non-profit organizations and used for the performance of contracts with the Department of Human Services, and new motor vehicles purchased with Federal Transit Administration funds if (i) vehicles meet minimum State specifications and (ii) vehicles are used for transportation under the Department of Human Services' programs for the aging, individuals with disabilities, individuals with mental illness, and children and family services;

(uu) Motor fuels to owners or operators of motor buses operated on designated streets according to regular schedule and under municipal franchise which are used for municipal transportation purposes;

(vv) Parts or other tangible personal property incorporated into or which become a part of commercial jet aircraft component or subcomponents;

(ww) Transfer of fill material by a business engaged in transporting or delivering fill material;

(xx) Long-term leases, thirty days or more, of commercial trucks used for interstate transportation of goods under certain conditions;

(yy) Foodstuffs to nonprofit agencies;

(zz) Tangible personal property consisting of forms constructed of plaster, cardboard, fiberglass, natural fibers, synthetic fibers or composites and which are destroyed or consumed during the manufacture of the item;

(aaa) Natural gas used as a fuel in the process of manufacturing glass;

(bbb) Sales to Community Services Clearinghouse, Inc. of Fort Smith;

(ccc) Substitute fuel used in producing, manufacturing, fabrication, assembling, processing, finishing or packaging of articles at manufacturing facilities or processing plants in the State;

(ddd) Railroad rolling stock used in transporting persons or property in interstate commerce;

(eee) Parts or other tangible personal property which become a part of railroad parts, railroad cars and equipment brought into the State for the purpose of being repaired, refurbished, modified or converted within the State;

(fff) Fire protection and emergency equipment to be owned by and exclusively used by a volunteer fire department, and supplies and materials to be used in the construction and maintenance of volunteer fire departments;

(ggg) Gas produced from biomass and sold for the purpose of generating steam, hot air or electricity to be sold to the gas producer;

(hhh) Fuel packaging materials sold to a person engaged in the business of processing hazardous and non-hazardous waste materials into fuel products at an approved site and machinery and equipment, including analytical equipment and chemicals used directly in the processing and packaging of hazardous and non-hazardous waste materials into fuel products at an approved site;

(iii) Electricity and natural gas used in the manufacturing of wall and floor tile by approved manufacturers;

- (jjj) Textbooks, library books, and instructional materials purchased by an Arkansas school district or the State for free distribution to Arkansas school districts or Arkansas public schools;
- (kkk) Tangible personal property, specified digital products, a digital code, or services to the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, Inc.;
- (lll) Electricity used for the production of chlorine and other chemicals using a chlor-alkali manufacturing process;
- (mmm) Tangible personal property, specified digital products, a digital code, or services to a qualified museum;
- (nnn) Livestock reproduction equipment or substances;
- (ooo) Natural gas and electricity used in the manufacturing of tires in the State;
- (ppp) Thermal imaging equipment purchased by a county government for use by law enforcement aircraft;
- (qqq) Tangible property, specified digital products, a digital code, or services to the Arkansas Search Dog Association, Inc.;
- (rrr) Certain new or used trucks to be engaged in interstate commerce;
- (sss) Tangible personal property, specified digital products, a digital code, or services to the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame Foundation;
- (ttt) Sale, lease or rental of kegs used to sell beer wholesale by a wholesale manufacturer of beer;
- (uuu) Repair parts and labor for pollution control machinery and equipment;
- (vvv) Sales by commercial farmers of certain baling twine, net wrap, silage wrap, and similar products;
- (www) Sales of tangible personal property, specified digital products, a digital code, or a service to a nonprofit blood donation organization;
- (xxx) Sales of utilities used by a qualifying agricultural structure and qualifying aquaculture and horticulture equipment;
- (yyy) Sales of utilities used by a grain drying and storage facility;
- (zzz) Dental appliances sold by or to dentists or certain other professionals;
- (aaaa) Machinery, new and used equipment, and related attachments that are sold to or used by a person engaged primarily in the harvesting of timber;
- (bbbb) Sales of tangible personal property at a concession stand operated by a nonprofit youth organization;
- (cccc) (i) Tangible personal property, specified digital products, or a digital code by or to a car wash operator for use in an automatic car wash, a car wash tunnel, or a self-service bay or as part of an ancillary service; (ii) services to a car wash operator; (iii) ancillary services by a car wash operator; and (iv) a car wash operator through an automatic car wash, car wash tunnel, or self-service bay;
- (dddd) Water that is used exclusively in the operation of a poultry farm;

(eeee) Sale of a washer-extractor to a fire department or intergovernmental council of a county;

(ffff) Coins or currency or bullion;

(gggg) Tangible personal property, specified digital products, a digital code, or a service to the Disabled American Veterans Organization;

(hhhh) (i) Data center equipment;

(ii) Eligible data center costs;

(iii) Services purchased for the purpose of and in conjunction with developing, acquiring, constructing, expanding, renovating, refurbishing, and operating a qualified data center; and

(iv) Electricity used by a qualified data center;

(iiii) Sale of a service providing for electronic transmission of a drug prescription directly to a pharmacy; and

(jjjj) Sale of a new or used mortality composting device to a person engaged in the commercial production of livestock or poultry.

Reference is made to "The Arkansas Gross Receipts Act of 1941," Title 26, Chapter 52 of the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated, for more information concerning the sales tax.

Use Tax. The use tax portion of the Tax is levied on every person for the privilege of storing, using, distributing or consuming in the City any article of tangible personal property, specified digital products, a digital code, or a taxable service purchased for storage, use, distribution or consumption. The use tax applies to the use, distribution, storage or consumption of every article of tangible personal property except as hereinafter provided. The use tax does not apply to aircraft, aircraft equipment, and railroad parts, cars, and equipment, nor to tangible personal property owned or leased by aircraft, automotive or railroad companies brought into the City solely and exclusively for refurbishing, conversion, or modification within the City or storage for use outside or inside the City regardless of the length of time any such property is so stored in the City. The use tax is levied on the following described tangible personal property:

(a) Tractors, trailers, semi-trailers, trucks, buses and other rolling stock, including replacement tires, used directly in the transportation of persons or property in intrastate or interstate common carrier transportations;

(b) Railroads (except fuel) consumed in the operation of railroad rolling stock;

(c) Transmission lines and pumping or pressure control equipment used directly in or connected to the primary pipeline facility engaged in intrastate or interstate common carrier transportation of property;

(d) Airplanes and navigation instruments used directly in or becoming a part of flight aircraft engaged in transportations of persons or property in regular scheduled intrastate or interstate common carrier transportation;

(e) Exchange equipment, lines, boards and all accessory devices used directly in and connected to the primary facility engaged in the transmission of messages;

(f) Transmission and distribution pipelines and pumping or pressure control equipment used in connection therewith used directly in primary pipeline facility for the purpose of transporting and delivering natural gas;

(g) Transmission and distribution lines, pumping machinery and controls used in connection therewith in cleaning or treating equipment of a primary water distribution system;

(h) Property of public electric power companies consisting of all machinery and equipment including reactor cores and related accessory devices used in the generation and production of electric power and energy and transmission facilities consisting of the lines, including poles, towers and other supporting structures, transmitting electric power and energy together with substations located on or attached to such lines;

(i) Computer software; and

(j) Tangible personal property, specified digital products, a digital code, and services provided to a financial institution.

Exemptions from Use Tax. Some of the property exempted from the use tax by the General Assembly of the State is as follows:

(a) Property, the storage, use or consumption of which the State is prohibited from taxing under the Constitution or laws of the United States of America or the State;

(b) Sales of tangible personal property, specified digital products, a digital code, or services on which the tax under the Arkansas Gross Receipts Act of 1941 is levied;

(c) Tangible personal property, specified digital products, a digital code, or services which is exempted from the sales tax under the Arkansas Gross Receipts Act of 1941;

(d) Feedstuffs used in the commercial production of livestock or poultry in the State;

(e) Unprocessed crude oil;

(f) Machinery and equipment used directly in producing, manufacturing, fabricating, assembling, processing, finishing or packaging of articles of commerce at manufacturing or processing plants or facilities in the State, including facilities and plants for manufacturing feed, processing of poultry and/or eggs and livestock and the hatching of poultry and such equipment is either (1) purchased to create or expand manufacturing or processing plants in the State, (2) purchased to replace existing machinery and used directly in producing, manufacturing, fabricating, assembling, processing, finishing or packaging of articles of commerce at manufacturing or processing plants in the State, or (3) required by State law to be installed and utilized by manufacturing or processing plants to prevent or reduce air and/or water pollution or contamination;

(g) Modular homes constructed with materials on which the sales or use tax has once been paid;

(h) Aircraft, aircraft equipment, railroad parts, cars, and equipment, and tangible personal property owned or leased by aircraft, airmotive, or railroad companies, brought into the State solely and exclusively for refurbishing, conversion, or modification or for storage for use outside or inside the State;

(i) Vessels, barges, and towboats of at least 50 tons load displacement and parts and labor used in the repair and construction of them;

(j) Sales of motor fuels to the owners or operators of motor buses operated on designated streets according to regular schedule, under municipal franchise, which are used for municipal transportation purposes;

(k) Agricultural fertilizer, agricultural limestone, agricultural chemicals, including agricultural pesticides and herbicides used in commercial production of agricultural products, and vaccines, medications, and medicinal preparations, used in treating livestock and poultry being grown for commercial purposes and other ingredients used in the commercial production of yeast;

- (l) All new and used motor vehicles, trailers or semi-trailers that are purchased for a total consideration of less than \$4,000;
- (m) Any tangible personal property used, consumed, distributed, or stored in the State upon which a like tax, equal to or greater than the Arkansas Compensating (Use) Tax, has been paid in another state;
- (n) Durable medical equipment, mobility enhancing equipment, a prosthetic device, and prescriptive disposable medical supplies prescribed by a physician;
- (o) Fire protection and emergency equipment to be owned by and exclusively used by a volunteer fire department, and supplies and materials to be used in the construction and maintenance of volunteer fire departments;
- (p) Electricity and natural gas used in the manufacturing of wall and floor tile by approved manufacturers;
- (q) Tangible personal property consisting of forms constructed of plaster, cardboard, fiberglass, natural fibers, synthetic fibers or composites and which are destroyed or consumed during the manufacture of the item;
- (r) Natural gas used as a fuel in the process of manufacturing glass;
- (s) Sales to Community Services Clearinghouse Inc. of Fort Smith;
- (t) Prepaid telephone calling cards or prepaid authorization numbers and the recharge of such cards or numbers;
- (u) Foodstuffs to nonprofit agencies;
- (v) Tangible personal property, specified digital products, a digital code or services for a qualified museum;
- (w) Certain new or used trucks to be engaged in interstate;
- (x) Railroad rolling stock manufactured for use in transporting persons or property in interstate commerce;
- (y) Sales of tangible personal property or a service to a nonprofit blood donation organization;
- (z) Sales of utilities used by a qualifying agricultural structure and qualifying aquaculture and horticulture equipment;
  - (aa) Sales of utilities used by grain drying and storage facilities;
  - (bb) Dental appliances sold by or to dentists or certain other professionals;
  - (cc) Coins or currency or bullion;
  - (dd) (i) Data center equipment;
  - (ii) Eligible data center costs;
  - (iii) Services purchased for the purpose of and in conjunction with developing, acquiring, constructing, expanding, renovating, refurbishing, and operating a qualified data center; and

(iv) Electricity used for a qualified data center; and

(ee) Sale of a new or used mortality composting device to a person engaged in the commercial production of livestock or poultry.

Reference is made to "The Arkansas Compensating (Use) Tax Act of 1949," Title 26, Chapter 53 of the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated, for more information concerning the use tax.



EXHIBIT B  
SPECIMEN MUNICIPAL BOND INSURANCE POLICY



## MUNICIPAL BOND INSURANCE POLICY

ISSUER:

Policy No: -N

BONDS: \$ in aggregate principal amount of

Effective Date:

Premium: \$

ASSURED GUARANTY MUNICIPAL CORP. ("AGM"), for consideration received, hereby UNCONDITIONALLY AND IRREVOCABLY agrees to pay to the trustee (the "Trustee") or paying agent (the "Paying Agent") (as set forth in the documentation providing for the issuance of and securing the Bonds) for the Bonds, for the benefit of the Owners or, at the election of AGM, directly to each Owner, subject only to the terms of this Policy (which includes each endorsement hereto), that portion of the principal of and interest on the Bonds that shall become Due for Payment but shall be unpaid by reason of Nonpayment by the Issuer.

On the later of the day on which such principal and interest becomes Due for Payment or the Business Day next following the Business Day on which AGM shall have received Notice of Nonpayment, AGM will disburse to or for the benefit of each Owner of a Bond the face amount of principal of and interest on the Bond that is then Due for Payment but is then unpaid by reason of Nonpayment by the Issuer, but only upon receipt by AGM, in a form reasonably satisfactory to it, of (a) evidence of the Owner's right to receive payment of the principal or interest then Due for Payment and (b) evidence, including any appropriate instruments of assignment, that all of the Owner's rights with respect to payment of such principal or interest that is Due for Payment shall thereupon vest in AGM. A Notice of Nonpayment will be deemed received on a given Business Day if it is received prior to 1:00 p.m. (New York time) on such Business Day; otherwise, it will be deemed received on the next Business Day. If any Notice of Nonpayment received by AGM is incomplete, it shall be deemed not to have been received by AGM for purposes of the preceding sentence and AGM shall promptly so advise the Trustee, Paying Agent or Owner, as appropriate, who may submit an amended Notice of Nonpayment. Upon disbursement in respect of a Bond, AGM shall become the owner of the Bond, any appurtenant coupon to the Bond or right to receipt of payment of principal of or interest on the Bond and shall be fully subrogated to the rights of the Owner, including the Owner's right to receive payments under the Bond, to the extent of any payment by AGM hereunder. Payment by AGM to the Trustee or Paying Agent for the benefit of the Owners shall, to the extent thereof, discharge the obligation of AGM under this Policy.

Except to the extent expressly modified by an endorsement hereto, the following terms shall have the meanings specified for all purposes of this Policy. "Business Day" means any day other than (a) a Saturday or Sunday or (b) a day on which banking institutions in the State of New York or the Insurer's Fiscal Agent are authorized or required by law or executive order to remain closed. "Due for Payment" means (a) when referring to the principal of a Bond, payable on the stated maturity date thereof or the date on which the same shall have been duly called for mandatory sinking fund redemption and does not refer to any earlier date on which payment is due by reason of call for redemption (other than by mandatory sinking fund redemption), acceleration or other advancement of maturity unless AGM shall elect, in its sole discretion, to pay such principal due upon such acceleration together with any accrued interest to the date of acceleration and (b) when referring to interest on a Bond, payable on the stated date for payment of interest. "Nonpayment" means, in respect of a Bond, the failure of the Issuer to have provided sufficient funds to the Trustee or, if there is no Trustee, to the Paying Agent for payment in full of all principal and interest that is Due for Payment on such Bond. "Nonpayment" shall also include, in respect of a Bond, any payment of principal or interest that is Due for Payment made to an Owner by or on behalf of the Issuer which has been recovered from such Owner pursuant to the

United States Bankruptcy Code by a trustee in bankruptcy in accordance with a final, nonappealable order of a court having competent jurisdiction. "Notice" means telephonic or telecopied notice, subsequently confirmed in a signed writing, or written notice by registered or certified mail, from an Owner, the Trustee or the Paying Agent to AGM which notice shall specify (a) the person or entity making the claim, (b) the Policy Number, (c) the claimed amount and (d) the date such claimed amount became Due for Payment. "Owner" means, in respect of a Bond, the person or entity who, at the time of Nonpayment, is entitled under the terms of such Bond to payment thereof, except that "Owner" shall not include the Issuer or any person or entity whose direct or indirect obligation constitutes the underlying security for the Bonds.

AGM may appoint a fiscal agent (the "Insurer's Fiscal Agent") for purposes of this Policy by giving written notice to the Trustee and the Paying Agent specifying the name and notice address of the Insurer's Fiscal Agent. From and after the date of receipt of such notice by the Trustee and the Paying Agent, (a) copies of all notices required to be delivered to AGM pursuant to this Policy shall be simultaneously delivered to the Insurer's Fiscal Agent and to AGM and shall not be deemed received until received by both and (b) all payments required to be made by AGM under this Policy may be made directly by AGM or by the Insurer's Fiscal Agent on behalf of AGM. The Insurer's Fiscal Agent is the agent of AGM only and the Insurer's Fiscal Agent shall in no event be liable to any Owner for any act of the Insurer's Fiscal Agent or any failure of AGM to deposit or cause to be deposited sufficient funds to make payments due under this Policy.

To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, AGM agrees not to assert, and hereby waives, only for the benefit of each Owner, all rights (whether by counterclaim, setoff or otherwise) and defenses (including, without limitation, the defense of fraud), whether acquired by subrogation, assignment or otherwise, to the extent that such rights and defenses may be available to AGM to avoid payment of its obligations under this Policy in accordance with the express provisions of this Policy.

This Policy sets forth in full the undertaking of AGM, and shall not be modified, altered or affected by any other agreement or instrument, including any modification or amendment thereto. Except to the extent expressly modified by an endorsement hereto, (a) any premium paid in respect of this Policy is nonrefundable for any reason whatsoever, including payment, or provision being made for payment, of the Bonds prior to maturity and (b) this Policy may not be canceled or revoked. THIS POLICY IS NOT COVERED BY THE PROPERTY/CASUALTY INSURANCE SECURITY FUND SPECIFIED IN ARTICLE 76 OF THE NEW YORK INSURANCE LAW.

In witness whereof, ASSURED GUARANTY MUNICIPAL CORP. has caused this Policy to be executed on its behalf by its Authorized Officer.

ASSURED GUARANTY MUNICIPAL CORP.

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Officer

A subsidiary of Assured Guaranty Municipal Holdings Inc.  
1633 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10019  
(212) 974-0100