

This Preliminary Official Statement and the information contained herein are subject to completion or amendment without notice. Under no circumstances shall this Preliminary Official Statement constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy nor shall there be any sale of these securities in any jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful prior to registration or qualification under the securities laws of any such jurisdiction.

PRELIMINARY OFFICIAL STATEMENT DATED OCTOBER 18, 2021

NEW ISSUE

BOOK-ENTRY ONLY

In the opinion of Bond Counsel, based on existing statutes, regulations, rulings and court decisions, the interest on the Series 2021 Bonds is excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes, subject to the condition that the County comply with all requirements of the Internal Revenue Code that must be satisfied subsequent to the issuance of the Series 2021 Bonds, and the Series 2021 Bonds and interest thereon are exempt from all Arkansas state, county and municipal taxes. In the opinion of Bond Counsel, interest on the Series 2021 Bonds is not an item of tax preference for purposes of the federal alternative minimum tax and the Series 2021 Bonds are "qualified tax-exempt obligations" within the meaning of Section 265 of the Internal Revenue Code. See LEGAL MATTERS, Tax Exemption herein.

\$1,935,000*
SEARCY COUNTY, ARKANSAS
SALES AND USE TAX REFUNDING BONDS
SERIES 2021

Dated: Date of Delivery

Due: March 1, as shown below

Principal of and interest on the Series 2021 Bonds are payable from a pledge of receipts derived by Searcy County, Arkansas (the "County") from a 0.5% sales and use tax levied by the County. Interest on the Series 2021 Bonds is payable semiannually on March 1 and September 1 in each year, commencing September 1, 2022, and the Series 2021 Bonds mature (on March 1 of each year), bear interest and are priced to yield as follows:

MATURITY SCHEDULE*

\$585,000 Serial Bonds

<u>Maturity</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Rate (%)</u>	<u>Yield (%)</u>
2023	\$70,000		
2024	80,000		
2025	85,000		
2026	85,000		
2027	90,000		
2028	85,000		
2029	90,000		
	\$180,000	_____ %	Term Bonds Due March 1, 2031 to Yield _____ %
	\$490,000	_____ %	Term Bonds Due March 1, 2036 to Yield _____ %
	\$680,000	_____ %	Term Bonds Due March 1, 2042 to Yield _____ %

The Series 2021 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 Series 2021 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 Series 2021 Bonds will not receive physical delivery of Series 2021 Bonds. Payments of principal of and interest on the Series 2021 Bonds will be made by Simmons Bank, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, as the Trustee, directly to Cede & Co., as nominee for DTC, as registered owner of the Series 2021 Bonds, to be subsequently disbursed to DTC Participants and thereafter to the Beneficial Owners of the Series 2021 Bonds, all as further described herein. It is expected that the Series 2021 Bonds will be available for delivery at the facilities of DTC in New York, New York on or about December 7, 2021.

The Series 2021 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 _____, 2021.

* Preliminary; subject to change.

No dealer, broker, salesman, or other person has been authorized by the County 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 Series 2021 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 County since the date hereof.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION TO OFFICIAL STATEMENT	1
THE SERIES 2021 BONDS	2
Book-Entry Only System	2
Generally	4
Redemption	5
Purposes for Series 2021 Bonds	6
Security	6
COVID-19 Disclosure	7
THE COUNTY	7
Location	7
Population	7
Transportation	7
Government	7
Medical Facilities	7
Litigation	7
Economy	8
THE TAX	9
Generally	9
Administration	9
Historical Tax Receipts	10
Future Tax Receipts	10
THE AUTHORIZING ORDINANCE	11
The Revenue Fund	11
The Bond Fund	11
Investments	12
Certain Covenants	12
Defaults and Remedies	12
Defeasance	13
Additional Parity Bonds	14
The Trustee	14
Supplemental Ordinances	14

CONTINUING DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT	14
Past Compliance	14
Purpose of the Continuing Disclosure Agreement	15
Definitions	15
Provision of Annual Report	16
Content of Annual Report	16
Reporting of Listed Events	16
Termination of Reporting Obligation	18
Dissemination Agent	18
Amendment; Waiver	18
Additional Information	18
Default	19
Duties of Trustee and Dissemination Agent and Right of Indemnity	19
Beneficiaries	19
DEBT SERVICE COVERAGE	20
DEBT SERVICE REQUIREMENTS	21
LEGAL MATTERS	22
Legal Proceedings	22
Legal Opinions	22
Tax Exemption	22
MISCELLANEOUS	24
Underwriting	24
Enforceability of Remedies	24
Information in Official Statement	25
EXHIBIT A - Summary of State Sales and Use Tax Provisions	

OFFICIAL STATEMENT

\$1,935,000*
SEARCY COUNTY, ARKANSAS
SALES AND USE TAX REFUNDING BONDS
SERIES 2021

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 Series 2021 Bonds to potential investors is made only by means of the entire Official Statement, including the cover page hereof and exhibit hereto. A full review should be made of the entire Official Statement, as well as the Authorizing Ordinance described herein.

This Official Statement of Searcy County, Arkansas (the "County") is furnished in connection with the offering by the County of its \$1,935,000* principal amount of Sales and Use Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2021 (the "Series 2021 Bonds"). The Series 2021 Bonds are being issued to current refund the County's Sales and Use Tax Bonds, Series 2017 (the "Bonds Refunded") and pay expenses of issuing the Series 2021 Bonds. See **THE SERIES 2021 BONDS, Sources and Uses of Funds.**

The County is a county duly organized under the laws of the State of Arkansas (the "State"). The County 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 purpose. See **THE COUNTY.**

The Series 2021 Bonds are not general obligations of the County, but are special obligations payable solely from collections from a 0.5% sales and use tax (the "Tax") levied by the County. See **THE TAX** and **THE SERIES 2021 BONDS, Security.** The Tax is levied under Ordinance No. 2016-22 of the County adopted July 11, 2016 (the "Tax Ordinance"). The issuance of the indebtedness represented by the Bonds Refunded and the pledging of the Tax to the payment of the principal of and interest on that indebtedness was approved at a special election held November 8, 2016. The Series 2021 Bonds are being issued pursuant to and in full compliance with Amendment 62 and the Authorizing Legislation and Ordinance No. _____ - _____ of the County, adopted on _____, 2021 (the "Authorizing Ordinance"). See **THE AUTHORIZING ORDINANCE.**

The Series 2021 Bonds will be initially issued in book-entry form and purchasers of Series 2021 Bonds will not receive certificates representing their interest in the Series 2021 Bonds purchased. See **THE SERIES 2021 BONDS, Book-Entry Only System.** The Series 2021 Bonds will contain such other terms and provisions as described herein. See **THE SERIES 2021 BONDS, Generally.**

The County has reserved the right in the Authorizing Ordinance to issue additional bonds on a parity of security with the Series 2021 Bonds (the "Additional Parity Bonds").

The Series 2021 Bonds are issuable only as fully registered bonds, without coupons, in the denomination of \$5,000 or any integral multiple thereof. Interest is payable September 1, 2022 and semiannually thereafter on each March 1 and September 1. Payment of principal of the Series 2021 Bonds will be made to the owners of the Series 2021 Bonds at the principal office of Simmons Bank, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, as trustee and paying agent (the "Trustee"). Interest is payable by check 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 Series 2021 Bonds shall be the fifteenth day of the calendar month next preceding each interest payment date. A Series 2021 Bond may be transferred, in whole or in part (in integral multiples of \$5,000), but only upon delivery of the Series 2021 Bond, together with a

* Preliminary; subject to change.

written instrument of transfer, to the Trustee. See **THE SERIES 2021 BONDS, Generally and Book-Entry Only System.**

The Series 2021 Bonds are subject to optional redemption on and after March 1, 2027. The Series 2021 Bonds maturing on March 1 in the years of 2031,* 2036* and 2042* are also subject to mandatory sinking fund redemption as described herein. The Trustee shall give at least thirty (30) days notice of redemption. See **THE SERIES 2021 BONDS, Redemption.**

Under existing law and assuming compliance with certain covenants described herein, (i) interest on the Series 2021 Bonds is excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes, (ii) interest on the Series 2021 Bonds is not an item of tax preference for purposes of the federal alternative minimum tax, (iii) the Series 2021 Bonds are "qualified tax-exempt obligations" within the meaning of Section 265 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") and (iv) the Series 2021 Bonds and interest thereon are exempt from all State, county and municipal taxes. See **LEGAL MATTERS, Tax Exemption.**

It is expected that the Series 2021 Bonds will be available for delivery on or about December 7, 2021, through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company in New York, New York.

The County 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 1720, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201, Attention: Public Finance.

THE SERIES 2021 BONDS

Book-Entry Only System. The Depository Trust Company ("DTC"), New York, New York, or its successor, will act as securities depository for the Series 2021 Bonds. The Series 2021 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 Series 2021 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

* Preliminary; subject to change.

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.

Purchases of Series 2021 Bonds under the DTC system must be made by or through Direct Participants, which will receive a credit for the Series 2021 Bonds on DTC's records. The ownership interest of each actual purchaser of each Series 2021 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 Series 2021 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 Series 2021 Bonds, except in the event that use of the book-entry system for the Series 2021 Bonds is discontinued.

To facilitate subsequent transfers, all Series 2021 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 Series 2021 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 Series 2021 Bonds; DTC's records reflect only the identity of the Direct Participants to whose accounts such Series 2021 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 Series 2021 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 Series 2021 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 County 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 Series 2021 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 Series 2021 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 County 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 County, 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 Series 2021 Bonds at any time by giving reasonable notice to the County or the Trustee. Under such circumstances, in the event that a successor securities depository is not obtained, Series 2021 Bonds are required to be printed and delivered. The County may decide to discontinue use of the system of book-entry transfers through DTC (or a successor securities depository). In that event, Series 2021 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 County make any representation or warranty regarding the accuracy or completeness thereof.

So long as the Series 2021 Bonds are in book-entry only form, Cede & Co., as nominee for DTC, will be treated as the sole owner of the Series 2021 Bonds for all purposes under the Authorizing Ordinance, including receipt of all principal of and interest on the Series 2021 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 County 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 Series 2021 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 Series 2021 Bonds; or (d) other action taken by DTC or Cede & Co. as owner of the Series 2021 Bonds.

Generally. The Series 2021 Bonds are dated, mature and bear interest as set forth on the cover page hereof. The principal of the Series 2021 Bonds is payable upon presentation and surrender at the office of the Trustee. Payment of interest on the Series 2021 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 County 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 Series 2021 Bonds are issuable in the form of registered Series 2021 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 Series 2021 Bond is mutilated, lost or destroyed, the County shall, if not then prohibited by law, execute and the Trustee may authenticate a new Series 2021 Bond in accordance with the provisions therefore in the Authorizing Ordinance.

Each Series 2021 Bond is transferable by the registered owner thereof or by his attorney duly authorized in writing at the office of the Trustee. Upon such transfer a new fully registered Series 2021 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 therefore.

No charge shall be made to any owner of any Series 2021 Bond for the privilege of registration, but any owner of any Series 2021 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 Series 2021 Bond upon each exchange or transfer and any other expenses of the County or the Trustee incurred in connection therewith shall be paid by the County. Neither the County nor the Trustee shall be required to transfer or exchange any Series 2021 Bonds selected for redemption in whole or in part.

The person in whose name any Series 2021 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 Series 2021 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 Series 2021 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 Series 2021 Bonds or the date fixed for redemption of any Series 2021 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 Series 2021 Bonds are subject to optional and mandatory sinking fund redemption as follows:

(1) Optional Redemption. The Series 2021 Bonds are subject to redemption at the option of the County, from funds from any source, on and after March 1, 2027, 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 Series 2021 Bonds shall be called for redemption, the particular maturities of the Series 2021 Bonds to be redeemed shall be selected by the County in its discretion. If fewer than all of the Series 2021 Bonds of any one maturity shall be called for redemption, the particular Series 2021 Bonds or portion thereof to be redeemed from such maturity shall be selected by lot by the Trustee.

(2) Mandatory Sinking Fund Redemption.* To the extent not previously redeemed, the Series 2021 Bonds maturing on March 1 in the years 2031, 2036, and 2042 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:

Series 2021 Bonds Maturing March 1, 2031

<u>Years</u>	<u>Principal Amount</u>
2030	\$90,000
2031 (maturity)	90,000

Series 2021 Bonds Maturing March 1, 2036

<u>Years</u>	<u>Principal Amount</u>
2032	\$95,000
2033	95,000
2034	95,000
2035	100,000
2036 (maturity)	105,000

Series 2021 Bonds Maturing March 1, 2042

<u>Years</u>	<u>Principal Amount</u>
2037	\$105,000
2038	110,000
2039	110,000
2040	115,000
2041	120,000
2042 (maturity)	120,000

* Preliminary; subject to change.

In the case of any redemption of Series 2021 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 Series 2021 Bonds to be redeemed, in each case not less than 30 days prior to the date of redemption. After the date for redemption no further interest shall accrue on any Series 2021 Bond called for redemption if funds for redemption of such Series 2021 Bond have been deposited with the Trustee as provided in the Authorizing Ordinance.

Notwithstanding the above, so long as the Series 2021 Bonds are issued in book-entry only form, if fewer than all the Series 2021 Bonds of an issue are called for redemption, the particular Series 2021 Bonds to be redeemed will be selected pursuant to the procedures established by DTC. So long as the Series 2021 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 Series 2021 Bonds.**

Purposes for Series 2021 Bonds. The Series 2021 Bonds are being issued to refund the Bonds Refunded and pay costs of issuing the Series 2021 Bonds. A portion of the proceeds of the Series 2021A Bonds will be deposited with the trustee for the owners of the Bonds Refunded on the date the Series 2021 Bonds are issued and used to pay scheduled principal and interest on the Bonds Refunded due on March 1, 2022, and to redeem the Bonds Refunded maturing after March 1, 2022 on March 1, 2022.

The sources and uses of funds to accomplish the refunding of the Bonds Refunded are estimated by the County as follows:

SOURCES:*

Principal Amount of Series 2021 Bonds	\$1,935,000
Existing Funds for Bonds Refunded	214,848
Net Original Issue Premium	<u>913</u>
 Total Sources	 \$2,150,761

USES:*

Refunding of Bonds Refunded	\$2,078,784
Costs of Issuance and Underwriter's Discount	<u>71,977</u>
 Total Uses	 \$2,150,761

The payment of Underwriter's discount and the costs of issuing the Series 2021 Bonds relating to the payment of professional fees will be contingent on the Series 2021 Bonds being issued. See **MISCELLANEOUS, Underwriting** for a description of the Underwriter's discount.

Security. The Series 2021 Bonds are not general obligations of the County but are special obligations, secured by a pledge of collections of the Tax ("Tax receipts"). Tax receipts will be used to pay the principal of and interest on the Series 2021 Bonds and any Additional Parity Bonds when due, to pay Trustee's and administrative fees and to maintain any required debt service reserves. The balance of the Tax receipts will be released from the pledge in favor of the Series 2021 Bonds and any Additional Parity Bonds and may be used by the County for any lawful purpose for which Tax receipts may be used. The Series 2021 Bonds are secured under the Authorizing Ordinance. For a summary of the terms of the Authorizing Ordinance, see **THE AUTHORIZING ORDINANCE**.

* Preliminary; subject to change.

COVID-19 Disclosure. The World Health Organization has declared a pandemic following the global outbreak of COVID-19, a respiratory disease caused by a new strain of coronavirus.

To date, the COVID-19 pandemic has not negatively impacted the operational and financial status of the County. The County expects that its available funds will be sufficient to fund its essential services and make all debt service payments. The County is not aware of any major businesses in the County that have closed due to COVID-19 that would have a materially adverse effect on sales and use tax collections or other revenues within the County.

THE COUNTY

Location. The County is located in the northern portion of the State. The county seat is Marshall, which is located 98 miles north of Little Rock, Arkansas, 110 miles northeast of Fort Smith, Arkansas, 115 miles east of Fayetteville, Arkansas and 75 miles southeast of Branson, Missouri.

Population. The following table sets forth the population trend for the County since 1970.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>
1970	7,731
1980	8,847
1990	7,841
2000	8,261
2010	8,195

Transportation. The County is served by U.S. Highway No. 65. Several motor freight carriers make daily shipments from Marshall to major cities across the United States.

The Searcy County Airport, located in Marshall, is a county-owned, public use airport, having a 4,003-foot paved and lighted runway.

Government. The legislative body of the County government is a Quorum Court, which is comprised of nine (9) elected Justices of the Peace. Justices of the Peace are elected for two-year terms. The County Judge, Mr. Jim Harness, is the chief executive officer of the County and his office is a full-time position. He presides over the Quorum Court without a vote, but with power of veto. He has a four-year term.

Medical Facilities. The nearest hospital is Ozark Health located in Clinton, Arkansas, which is approximately 27 miles from Marshall and which has approximately 25 beds. There are 2 medical clinics located in the County.

Litigation. There is no material litigation pending or threatened against the County.

[Remainder of page intentionally left blank]

Economy. Set forth below are the major employers located in the County:

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Product or Service</u>	<u>Number of Employees</u>
Searcy County School District	Public Schools	168
Highland Court	Rehab and Resident Care	79
Harps Foods	Grocery	65
Area Agency on Aging	Aging Services and Programs	56
Friendship Pediatric Services	Pediatric Services	50
Boston Mountain Rural Health Center Inc.	Community Health Center	48
Ozark Timber Treating Corporation	Wood Treating and Fencing	42
Ozark Mountain School District	Public Schools	30
McClain Forest Products LLC	Lumber and Hardwood Flooring	28
		25
Royal Oak Charcoal	Charcoal	
Friendship Community Care	Disability Services	20

Per capita personal income estimates for the County are as follows:⁽¹⁾

<u>Year</u>	<u>Per Capita Personal Income</u>
2015	\$27,225
2016	26,258
2017	26,825
2018	27,117
2019	28,143

Total personal income estimates for the County are as follows:⁽¹⁾

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Personal Income</u>
2015	\$213,310,000
2016	209,227,000
2017	212,642,000
2018	215,037,000
2019	221,798,000

Set forth below are the annual average unemployment rates for the County and the State since 2017 according to the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Unemployment Rate (%)</u>	
	<u>County</u>	<u>State</u>
2017	4.7	3.7
2018	4.3	3.7
2019	4.5	3.5
2020	6.4	6.1
2021*	4.2	3.8

*As of August, 2021.

⁽¹⁾ Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

THE TAX

Generally. The County has levied the Tax pursuant to the authority of Title 26, Chapter 74, Subchapter 2 of the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Tax Ordinance, which is a tax within the County 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. The Tax went into effect on April 1, 2017.

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.

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 Revenue Fund. See **THE AUTHORIZING ORDINANCE**, The Revenue Fund.

[Remainder of page intentionally left blank]

Historical Tax Receipts. Collections of the Tax for the last five years have been as follows (taxes are collected in one month and received by the levying entity two months later):

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
January	N/A	\$26,150.78	\$28,056.91	\$28,166.30	\$30,692.66
February	N/A	27,993.07	30,142.95	31,404.32	36,583.23
March	N/A	25,014.51	25,602.83	26,242.69	32,974.33
April	N/A	24,218.48	25,274.47	26,875.69	30,263.15
May	N/A	26,522.26	28,469.00	31,804.86	39,510.34
June	\$24,442.43	27,109.56	26,530.55	29,400.28	37,568.58
July	27,297.28	28,083.36	27,940.28	33,705.66	39,400.33
August	28,356.44	31,027.01	32,372.81	38,157.41	41,952.87
September	30,183.22	32,112.95	32,770.78	38,317.70	43,409.81
October	27,633.59	29,530.60	29,637.00	37,378.96	N/A
November	27,327.42	27,636.31	30,218.26	35,793.70	N/A
December	<u>26,834.18</u>	<u>27,070.95</u>	<u>29,247.65</u>	<u>34,019.03</u>	<u>N/A</u>
Total	\$192,074.56	\$332,469.84	\$346,263.49	\$391,266.60	\$332,355.30

TAXES ARE COLLECTED IN ONE MONTH AND RECEIVED BY THE LEVYING ENTITY TWO MONTHS LATER. (For example, collections shown in June in the chart above are taxes paid in the County in April.)

Collections of the Tax for the twelve-month periods ended September 30 have been as follows since October 1, 2017 (taxes are collected in one month and received by the levying entity two months later).

<u>Period</u>	<u>Tax Collections</u>
October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018	\$330,027.17
October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019	341,398.44
October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020	373,177.82
October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021	439,546.99

Future Tax Receipts. Tax receipts will be contingent upon the sale and use of property and services within the County, which activity is generally dependent upon economic conditions within the County and surrounding trade area. 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 County 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 County 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 Series 2021 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.*

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. The County will covenant as set forth below in the Authorizing Ordinance. **Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, all references under this heading to the "Bonds" shall include the Series 2021 Bonds and any Additional Parity Bonds.**

The Revenue Fund. The Trustee shall deposit all collections of the Tax as and when received into a special fund of the County in the Trustee heretofore created and designated "Sales and Use Tax Revenue Fund" (the "Revenue Fund"). There is created in the Revenue Fund the following accounts: Bond Account and Surplus Revenues Account. Monthly collections of the Tax shall be deposited into the Bond Account until there are sufficient funds to make the transfers set forth below. The balance shall then be deposited into the Surplus Revenues Account. Moneys in the Bond Account shall, within five (5) days of receipt, be transferred to the following accounts each month, in the following order of priority:

- (1) 1/6 of the interest on the Bonds next due - Debt Service Account in the Bond Fund;
- (2) 1/12 of the principal of the Bonds next due at maturity or upon mandatory sinking fund redemption - Debt Service Account in the Bond Fund; and
- (3) the Trustee's fees and expenses and other administrative expenses next due - Expense Account in the Bond Fund.

The deposits made into the Debt Service Account in the Bond Fund shall be reduced in order to take into account as a credit (1) interest earnings and (2) funds held in connection with the Bonds Refunded not needed to refund the Bonds Refunded.

Moneys in the Surplus Revenues Account in the Revenue Fund shall be released from the pledge and lien in favor of the Bonds. Moneys in the Surplus Revenues Account shall be transferred into such accounts as specified from time to time by the County and such funds may be used for any lawful purpose for which Tax collections may be used.

The Bond Fund. A special fund of the County in the Trustee designated "Sales and Use Tax Bond Fund" (the "Bond Fund"), has been created 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, the Trustee's fees and expenses and other administrative expenses. There is established in the Bond Fund the following accounts into which moneys from the Revenue Fund shall be deposited monthly: Debt Service Account; and Expense Account. A Redemption Account shall also be established in the Bond Fund. Moneys in the following Bond Fund accounts shall be used on each interest payment date in the following order of priority as and when necessary:

- (1) to pay the interest on the Bonds then due - Debt Service Account;
- (2) to pay the principal of the Bonds then due at maturity or upon mandatory sinking fund redemption - Debt Service Account;
- (3) to pay the Trustee's fees and expenses and other administrative expenses then due - Expense Account; and
- (4) to redeem Bonds prior to maturity - Redemption Account.

When the moneys in the Bond Fund shall be and remain sufficient to pay (1) the principal of and interest on the Bonds then outstanding and (2) the Trustee's fees and expenses, there shall be no obligation to make any further payments into the Bond Fund and any Tax receipts remaining in the

Bond Fund shall be transferred into such accounts as specified from time to time by the County and such funds may be used for any lawful purpose for which Tax collections may be used.

Investments. (a) Moneys held for the credit of the Bond Fund shall be invested and reinvested in Permitted Investments, which shall mature, or which shall 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 County and in the Trustee's discretion in the absence of any direct instructions from the County

(b) "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 ("FDIC") 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.

(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 such fund.

(d) Moneys so invested in Government Securities or in certificates of deposit of banks to the extent insured by FDIC need not be secured by the Trustee or the depository bank or banks.

(e) Investments of moneys in all funds shall be valued in terms of current market value as of the last day of each year, except that direct obligations of the United States (State and Local Government Series) in book-entry form shall be continuously valued at par or face amount.

Certain Covenants. The County 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 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.

Defaults and Remedies. If there be any default in the payment of the principal of and interest on the Bonds, or if the County defaults in the performance of any covenant contained in the Authorizing Ordinance, the Trustee may, and upon the written request of 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 County 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.

No owner of any Bond shall have any right to institute any suit, action, mandamus or other proceeding in equity or at law for the protection or enforcement of any right under the Authorizing Ordinance or

under the Constitution and laws of the State unless 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.

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.

No remedy conferred upon or reserved to the Trustee or to the owners of the Bonds is intended to be exclusive of any other remedy or remedies, 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.

No delay or omission of the Trustee 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 and to the owners of the Bonds, respectively, may be exercised from time to time and as often as may be deemed expedient.

The Trustee may, 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.

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 (1) cash sufficient to make such payment and/or (2) Government Securities which are 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.

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, and if the Trustee been paid its fees and expenses or provision has been made therefore, the Trustee shall take all appropriate action to cause (i) the pledge and lien of the Authorizing Ordinance to be discharged and

canceled, (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 County.

Additional Parity Bonds. The County covenants that it will not issue any bonds, or incur any obligation, secured by a lien on or pledge of the Tax receipts, except as hereinafter provided. The County may issue Additional Parity Bonds if Tax receipts for the preceding twelve consecutive months (such twelve-month period ending not less than 30 and not more than 90 days prior to the date that the Additional Parity Bonds are authorized by the Quorum Court of the County to be issued) are equal to or in excess of 150% of the maximum annual debt service requirements for the outstanding Bonds and the proposed Additional Parity Bonds. The County is also authorized to issue bonds or incur obligations secured by a lien on and pledge of the Tax receipts subordinate to the lien and pledge in favor of the Bonds.

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 County 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 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 County and the owners of the Bonds. The majority in principal amount of the owners of the outstanding Bonds or the County, so long as it is not in default under the Authorizing Ordinance, may at any time, with or without cause, remove the Trustee. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Trustee either by resignation or by removal, then the County shall forthwith designate a new Trustee. 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 County, 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 County 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 shall have the right, from time to time, to consent to and approve the adoption by the County 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 may consent to any change without the consent of 75% of the owners of the aggregate principal amount of Bonds outstanding in connection with the issuance of Additional Parity 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 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

Past Compliance. In the past five years, the County has been a party to a continuing disclosure agreement (the "Undertaking") with respect to the Bonds Refunded. Although the County has not made a determination of materiality with respect to the following information, the following summarizes a non-exhaustive discussion of the County's compliance with its continuing disclosure obligations over the past five years.

The Undertaking required the County to file with the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board on its Electronic Municipal Market Access system ("EMMA") by June 30 after each fiscal year an annual report containing (i) Tax collections for the prior year and the preceding four years, if available and (ii) the County's audited financial statements. To the extent that the audited financial statements were not available at the time of the required filing of the annual report, the County was obligated to file such audited financial statements within 30 days of becoming available.

The Tax collections required by the Undertaking were timely filed in each year. The audited financial statements for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2018 and 2019 were timely filed on EMMA. The audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 were timely filed with the dissemination agent but were not filed by the dissemination agent on EMMA. Such audited financial statements were filed on EMMA on October 11, 2021, which is approximately 967 days late. A notice of such failure was not filed on EMMA. The audited financial statements of the County for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2020 are not yet available.

The Undertaking also obligated the County to file a notice of the occurrence of certain events listed therein. During the past five years, the County has timely filed notices of the occurrence of all listed events.

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 County and the Trustee for the benefit of the Beneficial Owners of the Series 2021 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 County pursuant to, and as described in, the Continuing Disclosure Agreement.

"Beneficial Owner" of a Series 2021 Bond shall mean any person who has or shares the power, directly or indirectly, to make investment decisions concerning ownership of any Series 2021 Bonds (including persons holding Series 2021 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 County 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 County shall, or cause the Dissemination Agent to, not later than June 30 of each year, commencing June 30, 2022, provide to 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 review of the Financial Statements by the Quorum Court. If the County's fiscal year changes, it shall give notice of such change in the same 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 County 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 County and the Dissemination Agent to determine if the County 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 to the MSRB.

Content of Annual Report. The County'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.

(b) The annual financial statements of the general fund of the County, which (a) shall not be audited in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, (b) 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 (c) 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 County or related public entities, which are available to the public on the MSRB's website or filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The County 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. Modifications to rights of security holders, if material.
8. Series 2021 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 County shall promptly notify the Dissemination Agent (if other than the County) 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 County 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). Each notice of the occurrence of a Listed Event 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 County's obligations under the Continuing Disclosure Agreement shall terminate upon the defeasance, prior redemption or payment in full of all the Series 2021 Bonds.

Dissemination Agent. The County 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 County 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 County 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 Series 2021 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 Series 2021 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 Series 2021 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 Series 2021 Bonds.

In the event of any amendment or waiver of a provision of the Continuing Disclosure Agreement, the County 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 County. 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 County 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 County 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 County 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 County or the Trustee to comply with any provision of the Continuing Disclosure Agreement, the Trustee, the County 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 Series 2021 Bonds, shall) take such actions as may be necessary and appropriate, including seeking mandamus or specific performance by court order, to cause the County 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 County 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 County 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 County, the Trustee, the Dissemination Agent, the Underwriter and the Beneficial Owners and shall create no rights in any other person or entity.

[Remainder of page intentionally left blank]

DEBT SERVICE COVERAGE

Set forth below is the debt service coverage information. In arriving at the estimate of annual Tax receipts for this calculation, the County examined the collections of the Tax for the twelve-month period ended September 30, 2021.

Actual Tax receipts received by the County will depend upon, among other things, the level of retail activity within the County, the economic health of the County and surrounding trade area, possible future actions by the people of the State or the 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 Tax receipts will equal the estimate shown below. See **THE TAX, Future Tax Receipts**.

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

Tax Receipts Available for Debt Service (A)	\$439,547
Maximum Annual Debt Service for the Series 2021 Bonds (B)(1)	126,000
Estimated Coverage (A/B)	3.49x

(1)Based on a year ending March 1; assuming an average coupon rate of 2.30% for the Series 2021 Bonds.

[Remainder of page intentionally left blank]

DEBT SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

The following table shows amounts required to pay principal of and interest on the Series 2021 Bonds during each year ending March 1:

<u>Year</u> <u>(Ending March 1)</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Debt Service</u>
2023	\$ 70,000		
2024	80,000		
2025	85,000		
2026	85,000		
2027	90,000		
2028	85,000		
2029	90,000		
2030	90,000		
2031	90,000		
2032	95,000		
2033	95,000		
2034	95,000		
2035	100,000		
2036	105,000		
2037	105,000		
2038	110,000		
2039	110,000		
2040	115,000		
2041	120,000		
2042	120,000		
 Totals:	 \$1,935,000		

[Remainder of page intentionally left blank]

LEGAL MATTERS

Legal Proceedings. There is no litigation pending seeking to restrain or enjoin the Tax or the issuance or delivery of the Series 2021 Bonds, or questioning or affecting the legality of the Tax or Series 2021 Bonds or the proceedings and authority under which the Series 2021 Bonds are to be issued or questioning the right of the County to adopt the Authorizing Ordinance or to issue the Series 2021 Bonds or questioning the levy and pledge of the Tax by the County.

Legal Opinions. Legal matters incident to the authorization and issuance of the Series 2021 Bonds are subject to the unqualified approving opinion of Friday, Eldredge & Clark, LLP, Little Rock, Arkansas, Bond Counsel.

Tax Exemption. In the opinion of Bond Counsel, under existing law, the interest on the Series 2021 Bonds is exempt from all Arkansas state, county and municipal taxes.

Also, in the opinion of Bond Counsel, interest on the Series 2021 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 County comply with all requirements of the Code that must be satisfied subsequent to the issuance of the Series 2021 Bonds in order that interest thereon be (or continue to be) excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes.

These requirements generally relate to arbitrage and the use of the proceeds of the Series 2021 Bonds. Failure to comply with certain of such requirements could cause the interest on the Series 2021 Bonds to be so included in gross income retroactive to the date of issuance of the Series 2021 Bonds. The County has covenanted in the Authorizing Ordinance to comply with all such requirements.

Prospective purchasers of the Series 2021 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 Series 2021 Bonds, (ii) interest on the Series 2021 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 Series 2021 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 Series 2021 Bonds.

Prospective purchasers of the Series 2021 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 Series 2021 Bonds or, in the case of a financial institution, that portion of a holder's interest expense allocated to interest on the Series 2021 Bonds, except with respect to certain financial institutions (within the meaning of Section 265(b)(5) of the Code).

An exception allows a deduction of certain interest expenses allocable to "qualified tax-exempt obligations." The County has designated the Series 2021 Bonds as "qualified tax-exempt obligations" and has covenanted not to use the improvements refinanced by the Series 2021 Bonds and the proceeds of the Series 2021 Bonds in a manner which would cause the Series 2021 Bonds to be "private activity bonds," within the meaning of the Code, and has represented that the County and its subordinate entities have not and do not expect to issue more than \$10,000,000 of such tax-exempt obligations (other than private-activity bonds (excluding from that term "qualified 501(c)(3) bonds" under Section 145 of the Code)) during calendar year 2021.

Prospective purchasers of the Series 2021 Bonds should also be aware that Section 17 of Act 785 of the Acts of Arkansas of 1993 added new subsections (b) and (c) to Section 26-51-431 of the Arkansas

Code of 1987 Annotated. Subsection (b) states that Section 265(a) of the Internal Revenue Code is adopted for the purpose of computing Arkansas individual income tax liability. Subsection (c) provides that in computing Arkansas corporation income tax liability, no deduction shall be allowed for interest "on indebtedness incurred or continued to purchase or carry obligations the interest on which is wholly exempt from the taxes imposed by Arkansas law." On December 8, 1993, the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration Revenue Division issued Revenue Policy Statement 1993-2, which provides in part:

Financial institutions may continue to deduct interest on indebtedness incurred or continued to purchase or carry obligations which generate tax-exempt income to the same extent that the interest was deductible prior to the adoption of Section 17 of Act 785 of 1993.

As shown on the front cover of this Official Statement, certain of the Series 2021 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 excludable 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 Series 2021 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 Series 2021 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 Series 2021 Bonds. Prospective purchasers of the Series 2021 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 Series 2021 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 County and Stephens Inc., as underwriter (the "Underwriter"), the Series 2021 Bonds are being purchased at a price of \$ _____ (principal amount plus \$ _____ of net original issue premium less \$ _____ of Underwriter's discount). The Agreement provides that the Underwriter will purchase all of the Series 2021 Bonds if any are purchased. The obligation of the Underwriter to accept delivery of the Series 2021 Bonds is subject to various conditions contained in the Agreement, including the absence of pending or threatened litigation questioning the validity of the Series 2021 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 County.

The Underwriter intends to offer the Series 2021 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 Series 2021 Bonds to the public. The Underwriter may offer and sell Series 2021 Bonds to certain dealers (including dealers depositing Series 2021 Bonds into investment trusts) at prices lower than the public offering price.

The County has agreed to indemnify the Underwriter against certain civil liabilities in connection with the offering and sale of the Series 2021 Bonds, including certain liabilities under federal securities laws.

Mark C. Doramus, Chief Financial Officer of Stephens Inc., the Underwriter, serves on the Board of Directors of the Trustee.

Enforceability of Remedies. Rights of the registered owners of the Series 2021 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 County and the purchasers or owners of any of the Series 2021 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 County.

SEARCY COUNTY, ARKANSAS

By _____
County Judge

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 County 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 County solely and exclusively for the purpose of being repaired, refurbished, modified, or converted within the County, (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) 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;

(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;

(i) Property resales to persons regularly engaged in the business of reselling the articles purchased;

(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; and

(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 athletic 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; and

(ffff) Coins or currency or bullion.

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 County 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 County solely and exclusively for refurbishing, conversion, or modification within the County or storage for use outside or inside the County regardless of the length of time any such property is so stored in the County. 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; and
- (cc) Coins or currency or bullion.

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.