Long-Term Debt

At September 30, 2024, the Authority had $9,515,640 in debt borrowings outstanding, as summarized in Table 6. At September 30, 2024, the Authority had $21 in unspent proceeds from the 2017 Series Certificates that will be used for future capital purchases.

Table 6: Long-Term Debt

	2024	2023	2022
2017 Series Certificates	$ 9,400,000	$ 10,390,000	$ 11,350,000
Bank loans	115,640	-	-
Total long-term debt	$ 9,515,640	$ 10,390,000	$ 11,350,000

ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET

Stephens County Hospital (SCH) demonstrated measurable financial and operational progress during FY 2024 highlighted by a reduction in both short-term debt (8.4%) and long-term debt (8.8%) combining for a reduction in debt of $2.7 million. This was complimented by an improvement in net patient revenue of 17.6% from the prior fiscal year and more than $10 million greater than FY 2022. This represents sustained and significant financial improvement through a disciplined administrative plan focused on strategic growth, improved cost control, and enhanced service delivery.

One of the most significant operational and financial accomplishments during FY 2024 was the transition to a new hospitalist group in February 2024. This change was implemented to address inefficiencies in patient flow, improve clinical coordination, and enhance overall inpatient management while increasing the scope of patients able to be maintained within the SCH system. The 7 months of FY 2024 in which this new hospitalist group worked, SCH saw an 8.4% increase in its admission rate from the Emergency Department. The hospitalist group has also proven to be effective in discharging patients in greater accordance to their geometric mean length of stay. Length of stay for a medical inpatient reduced by 22.7% following the transition to the new hospitalist group which helps both in improving patient outcomes, but also in controlling the expense of an inpatient unit. The decrease in inpatient days per admission has directly lowered variable costs while simultaneously improving bed availability, allowing SCH to serve a higher patient volume within existing capacity. The financial benefits of this improvement has been reinforced by enhanced documentation accuracy and more consistent billing practices driven by the new hospitalist group's adherence to standardized clinical protocols.

In addition to optimizing core operations, SCH advanced several strategic partnerships that expanded service lines and strengthened revenue diversity. Through collaboration with the Northside Hospital Heart Institute, SCH successfully introduced comprehensive cardiology services to Stephens County, allowing patients to access specialized cardiac care locally. This partnership immediately created a new revenue-generating service line and has improved patient retention by reducing the number of cardiology referrals leaving the community. Concurrently, SCH achieved official Stroke Center

Continued

HOSPITAL AUTHORITY OF STEPHENS COUNTY, GEORGIA
(A Component Unit of Stephens County, Georgia)

Balance Sheets, Continued
September 30, 2024 and 2023

	2024	2023
LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION		
Current liabilities:		
Current maturities of long-term debt	$ 1,048,399	$ 990,000
Current maturities of lease and subscription IT liabilities	529,645	626,512
Accounts payable	14,081,198	15,595,126
Accrued expenses	3,154,046	2,983,782
Estimated third-party payor settlements	186,794	-
Total current liabilities	19,000,082	20,195,420
Long-term debt, net of current maturities	8,467,241	9,400,000
Lease and subscription IT liabilities, net of current maturities	479,101	1,008,746
Total liabilities	27,946,424	30,604,166
Net position:		
Net investment in capital assets	5,010,678	5,146,782
Restricted under indenture agreement	26,592	21,159
Unrestricted	(9,457,220)	(11,461,280)
Total net position	(4,419,950)	(6,293,339)
Total liabilities and net position	$ 23,526,474	$ 24,310,827

See accompanying notes to financial statements.