

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP**

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

OMB APPROVAL	
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1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>DEARDORFF KEVIN L</u>  (Last) (First) (Middle) 3254 W. STATE RD 14  (Street) SILVER LAKE IN 46982  (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORP [ LKFN ]</u>	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>Executive Vice President</u>
	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 02/27/2012	
		6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	02/27/2012		M		4,526	A	\$0	41,723	D	
Common Stock	02/27/2012		S		4,526	D	\$25.6986	37,197	D	
Common Stock								0	I	401(k) Plan

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date						Title
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	\$17.185	02/27/2012		M			4,526	12/09/2008	12/09/2013	Common Stock	4,526	\$0	1,292	D	
Restricted Stock Units <sup>(3)</sup>	\$0 <sup>(1)</sup>							02/01/2015	02/01/2015 <sup>(2)</sup>	Common Stock	4,000		4,000	D	
Restricted Stock Units <sup>(3)</sup>	\$0 <sup>(1)</sup>							02/01/2013	02/01/2013 <sup>(2)</sup>	Common Stock	3,000		3,000	D	
Restricted Stock Units <sup>(3)</sup>	\$0 <sup>(1)</sup>							02/01/2014	02/01/2014 <sup>(2)</sup>	Common Stock	4,000		4,000	D	
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	\$24.05							05/14/2013	05/14/2018	Common Stock	3,000		3,000	D	

**Explanation of Responses:**

- Each Restricted Stock Unit exercises into 1 share of Common Stock.
- Restricted Stock Unit awards are a conditional promise to transfer a share at a specific future date and do not have an expiration date.
- The Restricted Stock Units are subject to forfeiture based on corporate performance criteria.

Teresa A. Bartman, Attorney-in-Fact 02/29/2012

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4 (b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.