
**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**
WASHINGTON, DC 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d)
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of report (Date of earliest event reported): November 14, 2023

LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORPORATION
(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Indiana
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

0-11487
(Commission
File Number)

35-1559596
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

**202 East Center Street,
Warsaw , Indiana**
(Address of principal executive offices)

46580
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (574) 267-6144

(Former name or former address if changed since last report.)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

<u>Title of each class</u>	<u>Trading Symbol(s)</u>	<u>Name of each exchange on which registered</u>
Common Stock, no par value	LKFN	NASDAQ

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (s230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (s240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the Registrant has elected not to use extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Item 7.01. Regulation FD Disclosure

On November 14, 2023, Lakeland Financial Corporation (the “Company”) issued a press release announcing that David M. Findlay, the Company’s Chief Executive Officer, has been appointed as Chairman of the Board of Directors, and that Blake W. Augsburger has been appointed as the Company’s lead independent director. A copy of the press release is furnished herewith as Exhibit 99.1.

The information in this Item 7.01 and the attached exhibit shall not be deemed “filed” for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, nor shall they be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in any such filing.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits

(d) Exhibits

[99.1 Press Release issued November 14, 2023](#)

104 Cover Page Interactive Data File (embedded within the Inline XBRL document)

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORPORATION

Dated: November 14, 2023

By: /s/ Lisa M. O'Neill
Lisa M. O'Neill
Executive Vice President
and Chief Financial Officer

NEWS FROM LAKE CITY BANK
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Contact**

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David M. Findlay Appointed Chairman of the Board of Lake City Bank and Lakeland Financial Corporation

Warsaw, Indiana (November 14, 2023) – Lakeland Financial Corporation (Nasdaq Global Select/LKFN), and Lake City Bank announced today that David M. Findlay has been appointed as Chairman of the Board of the bank and holding company. Findlay will assume the role of Chairman in addition to his current responsibilities as Chief Executive Officer of both organizations. Findlay succeeds Michael L. Kubacki as Chairman of the board of both organizations. Kubacki has served in the role since 2003 and will retire from the boards of directors on April 9, 2024 at the company's annual report of shareholders.

The bank and holding company also announced that director Blake W. Augsburger has been appointed Lead Independent Director. Augsburger joined the boards of Lake City Bank and Lakeland Financial Corporation in 2011.

"I am very honored to succeed Mike as the Chairman of the Board. I first began working with Mike in 1985 when we were at Northern Trust together and our wonderful relationship is approaching four decades. He's been an exceptional mentor for me and I'll miss his presence in the board room," said Findlay. "His 21 years as our Chairman has been a transformational period of growth and performance for the bank, its team members and our shareholders."

Kubacki stated, "During David's 23 years at Lake City Bank, his leadership and vision have been critical to our success and I am very proud to transition the role of Chairman of the Board to him."

Augsburger commented, "We are very pleased that this long-planned transition has been seamlessly completed as we approach Mike's retirement from the board. On behalf of the entire board, we thank Mike for his amazing service to this organization and our shareholders."

Lake City Bank, a \$6.4 billion bank headquartered in Warsaw, Indiana, is the seventh largest bank headquartered in the state, and the largest bank 100% invested in Indiana. Lake City Bank operates 53 branch offices in northern and central Indiana, delivering technology-driven solutions in a client-centric way to individuals and businesses. The bank is the single bank subsidiary of Lakeland Financial Corporation (Nasdaq Global Select/LKFN). For more information visit lakecitybank.com.

This document contains, and future oral and written statements of the company and its management may contain, forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 with respect to the financial condition, results of operations, plans, objectives, future

performance and business of the company. Forward-looking statements, which may be based upon beliefs, expectations and assumptions of the company's management and on information currently available to management, are generally identifiable by the use of words such as "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "continue," "plan," "intend," "estimate," "may," "will," "would," "could," "should" or other similar expressions. The company's ability to predict results or the actual effect of future plans or strategies is inherently uncertain and, accordingly, the reader is cautioned not to place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements made by the company. Additionally, all statements in this document, including forward-looking statements, speak only as of the date they are made, and the company undertakes no obligation to update any statement in light of new information or future events. Numerous factors could cause the company's actual results to differ from those reflected in forward-looking statements, including the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, including its effects on our customers, local economic conditions, our operations and vendors, and the responses of federal, state and local governmental authorities, as well as those identified in the company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the company's Annual Report on Form 10-K and quarterly reports on Form 10-Q.

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