

**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): January 9, 2024

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

Lakeland Financial Corporation issued a news release announcing that on January 9, 2024, the board of directors of Lakeland Financial Corporation ("Company") declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.48 per share of Company common stock for the first quarter of 2024, payable on February 5, 2024, to shareholders of record as of January 25, 2024. The news release is attached as Exhibit 99.1.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits

(d) Exhibits

[99.1 Press Release issued by Lakeland Financial Corporation on January 9, 2024](#)

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: January 9, 2024

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

NEWS FROM LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORPORATION
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Contact**

Lisa M. O'Neill
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
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Lake City Bank Parent Announces 4% Increase in Quarterly Dividend

Warsaw, Indiana (January 9, 2024) – Lakeland Financial Corporation (Nasdaq Global Select/LKFN), parent company of Lake City Bank, announced that the Board of Directors approved a quarterly cash dividend for the first quarter of 2024 of \$0.48 per share, payable February 5, 2024, to shareholders of record as of January 25, 2024. The quarterly dividend represents a 4% increase over the quarterly dividend rate of \$0.46 per share paid in 2023.

“Lake City Bank’s consistently strong operating performance has contributed to an exceptionally strong capital base. Our dividend increase reflects both our confidence in the future and our success over a very long period of time,” stated David M. Findlay, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer.

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 www.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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