

LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORP  
 Form 4  
 April 12, 2017

**FORM 4**

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
 Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
 Earls Sarah J

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORP  
 [LKFN]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 P.O. BOX 1387  
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 04/11/2017

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
 SVP, Controller

WARSAW, IN 46581  
 (City) (State) (Zip)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |     |       |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----|-------|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Code  | V  | Amount                            | (D) | Price |

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

**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 control number.**

SEC 1474  
 (9-02)

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

| 1. Title of Derivative Security | 2. Conversion or Exercise | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any | 4. Transaction Code | 5. Number of Derivative Securities | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|

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| (Instr. 3)                            | Price of Derivative Security | (Month/Day/Year) | (Instr. 8) | Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D)<br>(Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | Code | V | (A)   | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date           | Title        | Amount or Number of Shares |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|------------|---|------|---|-------|-----|------------------|---------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Restricted Stock Units                | \$ 0 <sup>(1)</sup>          | 04/11/2017       |            |   | A    |   | 500   |     | 02/20/2018       | 02/20/2018 <sup>(2)</sup> | Common Stock | 500                        |
| Restricted Stock Units <sup>(3)</sup> | \$ 0 <sup>(1)</sup>          | 04/11/2017       |            |   | A    |   | 1,350 |     | 02/01/2018       | 02/01/2018 <sup>(2)</sup> | Common Stock | 1,350                      |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                     | Relationships |           |                 |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|-----------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer         | Other |
| Earls Sarah J<br>P.O. BOX 1387<br>WARSAW, IN 46581 |               |           | SVP, Controller |       |

## Signatures

Teresa A. Bartman,  
Attorney-in-Fact

04/12/2017

Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

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

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.