

LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORP
 Form 4
 January 31, 2017

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 *
 DEARDORFF KEVIN L

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)
 3254 W. STATE RD 14
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 01/30/2017

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
 Executive Vice President

SILVER LAKE, IN 46982

(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) | Price | | |
| Common Stock | 01/30/2017 | | M | 7,140 | A \$ 0 | 49,243 | D |
| Common Stock | 01/30/2017 | | F | 2,249 | D \$ 45.72 | 46,994 | D |

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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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 Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------|
| Restricted Stock Units ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 0 ⁽²⁾ | 01/30/2017 | | M | 7,140 | 02/01/2017 02/01/2017 ⁽³⁾ | Common Stock | 7,140 ⁽⁴⁾ |
| Restricted Stock Units ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 0 ⁽²⁾ | | | | | 02/01/2018 02/01/2018 ⁽³⁾ | Common Stock | 6,000 |
| Restricted Stock Units ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 0 ⁽²⁾ | | | | | 02/01/2019 02/01/2019 ⁽³⁾ | Common Stock | 6,000 |
| Restricted Stock Units ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 0 ⁽²⁾ | | | | | 02/01/2020 02/01/2020 ⁽³⁾ | Common Stock | 5,400 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships |
|---|---|
| | Director 10% Owner Officer Other |
| DEARDORFF KEVIN L 3254 W. STATE RD 14 SILVER LAKE, IN 46982 | Executive Vice President |

Signatures

Teresa A. Bartman,
 Attorney-in-Fact
 01/31/2017
 __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) The Restricted Stock Units are subject to forfeiture based on corporate performance criteria.
- (2) Each Restricted Stock Unit exercises into 1 share of Common Stock.

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- (3) Restricted Stock Unit awards are a conditional promise to transfer a share at a specific future date and do not have an expiration date.
- (4) Shares adjusted due to 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.

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