

Bassett Lawton E III  
 Form 4  
 January 16, 2019

**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 \*  
 Bassett Lawton E III

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 Ameris Bancorp [ABCB]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 PO BOX 3668

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 01/14/2019

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

Banking Group President

(Street)

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

MOULTRIE, GA 31776

(City) (State) (Zip)

**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)<br>Code V Amount (D) Price                             |   |  |                                   |
| Common Stock                    | 01/14/2019                           |  | M                              | 5,139 A \$ 7.46   | 29,304  | D  |                                   |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   | 168   | I  | Spouse                            |

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) | 8. Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Stock option (right to buy)                | \$ 7.46  | 01/14/2019                           |  | M                              | 5,139<br>(1)  | 01/29/2014 01/21/2019                                    | Common Stock  | 5,139                         |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                            | Relationships |           |                         |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                 | Other |
| Bassett Lawton E III<br>PO BOX 3668<br>MOULTRIE, GA 31776 |               |           | Banking Group President |       |

## Signatures

Lawton E. Bassett, III by Cindi H. Lewis as attorney-in-fact  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*\*Signature of Reporting Person

01/16/2019  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 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).

On January 21, 2009, the reporting person was granted an option to purchase 5,000 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$7.46.

(1) The option vests over a five year period beginning on the award anniversary date. The number of shares issuable upon exercise has been adjusted to reflect vested stock dividends that were issued.

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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