

LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORP
 Form 4
 January 31, 2017

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287
 Expires: January 31, 2015
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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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 *
 Ottinger Eric H

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)
 12133 EAGLE CREEK PLACE
 (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

FORT WAYNE, IN 46814

(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			
Common Stock	01/30/2017		M	7,140 A \$ 0	25,640	D	
Common Stock	01/30/2017		F	2,241 D \$ 45.72	23,399	D	
Common Stock					2,466	I	401(k) Plan

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

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number.

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	
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	
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
Ottinger Eric H 12133 EAGLE CREEK PLACE FORT WAYNE, IN 46814			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).

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- (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.
- (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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