FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

| STATEMENT | OF CHANGES | IN BENEFICIAL | OWNERSHIP |
|-----------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|
| | | | |

OMB APPROVAL 3235-0287 Estimated average burden hours per response: 0.5

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

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

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|---|--------------------|--|---------------------------------|------------|---|---|--|-----------------|---------------|---|--|---|--|--|---|--|---|---------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>Hurford Jennifer M</u> | | | | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORP [LKFN] | | | | | | | | | ck all applic Directo | able) | Person(s) to Issuer 10% Owner Other (speci | | ner |
| (Last) (First) (Middle) LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORPORATION P.O. BOX 1387 | | | | | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 02/02/2018 | | | | | | | | > | below) | SVP & | Treasu | below) | | |
| (Street) WARSA | W IN | N | 46581-13 | 87 | _ 4.1 | If Ame | endmer | nt, Date | e of Or | iginal F | =iled | (Month/Day | y/Year) | 6. Included | Form fi | led by One led by Mor | e Report | Check Appling Person One Report | |
| (City) | (S | state) | (Zip) | | | | | | | | | | | | Persor | | | | |
| | | Tal | ole I - No | n-Deri | ivativ | e Se | ecurit | ies A | cqui | red, | Dis | posed o | f, or Ber | neficially | y Owned | | | | |
| , , | | Date | ansaction th/Day/Year) | | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | | te, T | Transaction Dis | | 4. Securiti Disposed | I. Securities Acquired (A) o Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 | | Beneficia Owned F | es ally Following | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership | | |
| | | | | | | | | | c | Code | v | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price | Reported Transact (Instr. 3 | ion(s) | | (1 | (Instr. 4) |
| Common Stock | | 02/0 | 02/2018 | | | | | M | | 975 | A | \$0 | 2,061 | | D | | | | |
| Common | ommon Stock | | 02/0 | 02/02/2018 | | | | | F | | 360 | D | \$48.21 | 1,701 | | I |) | | |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | 342 | | | 01(k) Plan | | |
| | | | Table II - | | | | | | • | • | | osed of, onvertib | | - | Owned | | | | |
| Derivative Conversion Date | | 3A. Deeme Execution if any (Month/Day | ned 4. n Date, Trans Code | | action (Instr. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | 6. Date Exercisable Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | | | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Sec (Instr. 3 and 4) | | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Numbe derivative Securities Beneficia Owned Following Reported Transacti (Instr. 4) | ve es Form: ially Direct (D) or Indirect d tion(s) | | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | | | |
| | | | | | Code | v | (A) | (D) | Date Exerc | cisable | | piration te | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | | | | | |
| Restricted Stock Units ⁽¹⁾ | \$0 ⁽²⁾ | 02/02/2018 | | | M | | | 975 | 02/01 | 1/2018 | 02/ | 01/2018 ⁽³⁾ | Common Stock | 975(4) | \$0 | 0 | | D | |
| Restricted Stock Units ⁽¹⁾ | \$0 ⁽²⁾ | | | | | | | | 02/01 | 1/2019 | 02/ | 01/2019 ⁽³⁾ | Common Stock | 750 | | 750 | | D | |
| Restricted Stock Units ⁽¹⁾ | \$0 ⁽²⁾ | | | | | | | | 02/01 | 1/2020 | 02/ | /01/2020 ⁽³⁾ | Common Stock | 1,350 | | 1,350 | | D | |
| Restricted Stock | \$0 ⁽²⁾ | | | | | | | | 02/01 | 1/2021 | 02/ | 01/2021 ⁽³⁾ | Common | 1,350 | | 1,350 | <u> </u> | D | |

Explanation of Responses:

- 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 futurue date and do not have an expiration date.
- 4. Shares adjusted due to performance criteria.

Teresa A. Bartman, Attorney-

02/06/2018

in-Fact

** Signature of Reporting Person

Date

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

- * 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).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

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 Number.