FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

| Washington, | D.C. | 20549 |
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| | | |

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

OMB APPROVAL OMB Number: Estimated average burden hours per response: 0.5

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

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>Toothaker Bradley J</u> | | | | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORP [LKFN] | | | | | | | | | | heck a | | p of Reporting Per blicable) ctor | | erson(s) to Issuer 10% Owner | | |
|---|---|--|--|----------|---|---|--|-----|------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------|---------------------|--|--|-------|--|--|--|
| (Last) 68748 S | (Fi | , | (Middle) | | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 08/05/2016 | | | | | | | | | | | | Officer (give title below) | | | Other (specify below) | | |
| (Street) EDWARDSBURG MI 49112 | | | | | 4. If | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | | | | | | | | | | ne) | ividual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | | | | | |
| (City) | (S | - | (Zip) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) 2. Tra | | | | 2. Trans | action | ar) if | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year | | | 3. Transac Code (li 8) | tion nstr. | 4. Securities Acquired (A Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 5) | | | d (A) or r. 3, 4 an |) or 5. 4 and Se | | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) | | n: Direct or Indirect nstr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | | | | Code | v | Amount | t \ | (A) or (D) | Price | (Inst | | 13,125 | | D | | |
| | | Т | able II - I | | | | | | | | | sed of | | | | y Ow | ned | | | · | | |
| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deeme Execution if any (Month/Day | Date, | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 3) | | 1 of | | Exp | Date Exer piration E ponth/Day/ | ate | | Amou Securi Under Deriva | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Secur (Instr. 3 and 4) | | Deriv Secu | Price of erivative ecurity nstr. 5) | 9. Number derivative Securities Beneficiall Owned Following Reported Transactio (Instr. 4) | ly [C | 10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | |
| | | | | | Code | V | (A) | (D) | Dat Exe | te ercisable | | piration te | Title | o N o | lumber | | | | | | | |
| Phantom Stock | (1) | 08/05/2016 | | | A | | 28 | | | (2) | | (3) | Comm | | 28 | \$52. | 9919 | 8,164 | | D | | |

Explanation of Responses:

- 1. Each phantom stock unit exercises into 1 share of Common Stock.
- 2. Phantom stock is exercisableafter the directors' retirement as a Board member.
- 3. Phanton shares expire after the directors' retirement as a Board member.

Teresa A. Bartman, Attorneyin-Fact

08/09/2016

** 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.