



April 2, 2024

Dear Stockholder:

I am pleased to invite you to our Annual Meeting of Stockholders of H&E Equipment Services, Inc., to be held at the Grand Hyatt DFW Hotel, 2337 South International Parkway, DFW Airport, Texas 75261 on Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 7:30 a.m., Central Time. At the meeting, you will be asked to (i) vote for the election of our directors, (ii) ratify the appointment of BDO USA, P.C. as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2024, (iii) approve Named Executive Officer compensation as disclosed in our Proxy Statement by a non-binding advisory vote and (iv) approve the amended and restated 2016 stock-based incentive compensation plan.

Pursuant to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission rules that authorize companies to furnish their proxy materials over the Internet, on or about April 2, 2024, we are mailing a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials to our stockholders of record and beneficial owners as of March 26, 2024. The notice contains instructions on how to access our Proxy Statement and Annual Report and how to vote on the Internet. As of the date of mailing of the Notice, all stockholders and beneficial owners will have the ability to access all of the proxy materials on a website referred to in the Notice. These proxy materials will be available free of charge.

The Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials contains information on how you may request copies of the proxy materials be sent to you by mail or email. The proxy materials accessible on the Internet or sent to you will include a Proxy Card that will provide you with instructions to cast your vote on the Internet and a telephone number you may call to cast your vote. You may also complete, sign and return the Proxy Card by mail.

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting of Stockholders in person. Even if you choose to attend in person, you are encouraged to review the proxy materials and vote your shares in advance of the meeting. Your vote is extremely important, and we appreciate you taking the time to vote promptly.

Very truly yours,
H&E EQUIPMENT SERVICES, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bradley W. Barber', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Bradley W. Barber
Chief Executive Officer
H&E Equipment Services, Inc.
7500 Pecue Lane
Baton Rouge, LA 70809



Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders

To Our Stockholders:

You are invited to attend the H&E Equipment Services, Inc. 2024 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

Date: May 16, 2024
Time: 7:30 a.m. Central Time
Place: Grand Hyatt DFW Hotel
Asia Room
2337 South International Parkway
DFW Airport, Texas 75261

Only stockholders who owned stock of record at the close of business on March 26, 2024 can vote at this meeting or any adjournments or postponements thereof that may take place.

At the Annual Meeting, we will consider and act upon the following matters:

- (1) the election of eleven directors, each for a term of one year or until their respective successors have been elected and qualified;
- (2) the ratification of the appointment of BDO USA, P.C. as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2024;
- (3) an advisory vote on Named Executive Officer compensation as disclosed in the Proxy Statement;
- (4) approval of the Company's Amended and Restated 2016 Stock-Based Incentive Compensation Plan; and
- (5) such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

We consider your vote important and encourage you to vote as soon as possible.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leslie S. Magee'.

Leslie S. Magee
Chief Financial Officer and Secretary
April 2, 2024

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE STOCKHOLDER MEETING TO BE HELD ON May 16, 2024. The Proxy Statement and the 2023 Annual Report are both available free of charge at www.he-equipment.com. We will provide without charge to each person to whom this Proxy Statement has been delivered (whether by mail or through the Internet), on the request of any such person, up to two additional copies per request of the 2023 Annual Report, including the consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedule. Requests should be directed to our investor relations department as described below:

H&E Equipment Services, Inc.
7500 Pecue Lane
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809
Attention: Investor Relations
Telephone: (225) 952-2308

We make available free of charge through our Investor Relations page on our website (investor.he-equipment.com) our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), as well as reports on Forms 3, 4 and 5 filed pursuant to Section 16 of the Exchange Act, as soon as reasonably practicable after such documents are electronically filed with, or furnished to, the SEC. The information on our website is not, and shall not be deemed to be, a part of this Proxy Statement or incorporated into any other filings we make with the SEC.



PROXY STATEMENT

FOR ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS H&E EQUIPMENT SERVICES, INC.

To Be Held May 16, 2024

This Proxy Statement sets forth certain information with respect to the accompanying proxy to be used at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the “Annual Meeting”) of H&E Equipment Services, Inc., or at any adjournments or postponements thereof, for the purposes set forth in the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders. The Board of Directors has designated the Grand Hyatt DFW Hotel, Asia Room, 2337 South International Parkway, DFW Airport, Texas as the place of the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting will be called to order at 7:30 a.m., Central Time, on Thursday, May 16, 2024. Only stockholders of record as of the close of business on March 26, 2024 (the “Record Date”) are entitled to vote. The Board of Directors solicits this proxy and encourages you to read this document thoroughly and to take this opportunity to vote on the matters to be decided at the Annual Meeting. Unless the context otherwise indicates, reference to “we,” “us,” “our” or the “Company” in this Proxy Statement means H&E Equipment Services, Inc.

Under rules and regulations of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”), instead of mailing a printed copy of our proxy materials to each stockholder of record or beneficial owner of our common stock, we are furnishing proxy materials, which include our Proxy Statement and Annual Report, to our stockholders over the Internet and providing a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials by mail. You will not receive a printed copy of the proxy materials unless you request to receive a paper copy or an email copy of these materials in hard copy by following the instructions provided in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials. Instead, the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials will instruct you how you may access and review all of the important information contained in the proxy materials on the Internet. The Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials also instructs you how you may submit your proxy via telephone or the Internet. This proxy procedure enables all holders of common stock, many of whom are unable to attend the Annual Meeting, to vote. If you received a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials by mail and would like to receive a printed copy of our proxy materials, you should follow the instructions for requesting such materials included in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials.

We are mailing the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials on or about April 2, 2024 to each stockholder at the holder’s address of record. SEC rules permit us to deliver only one copy of the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials or a single set of proxy materials to multiple stockholders sharing the same address. Upon written or oral request, we will deliver separate Notices and/or copies of our 2023 Annual Report and/or this Proxy Statement to any stockholder at a shared address to which a single copy of the Notice was delivered. Stockholders may notify our Company of their requests by calling (225) 952-2308 or writing our Investor Relations Department, H&E Equipment Services, Inc., 7500 Pecue Lane, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809.

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VOTING PROCEDURES

Your vote is very important. Your shares can only be voted at the Annual Meeting if you are present in person or represented by proxy. Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, you are encouraged to vote by proxy to ensure that your shares will be represented. Stockholders can choose among the following methods to vote:

Via the Internet – Stockholders can vote by voting their shares via the Internet as instructed on the website identified in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials. The Internet procedures are designed to authenticate a stockholder’s identity to allow stockholders to vote their shares and confirm that their instructions have been properly recorded. Internet voting for stockholders of record is available 24 hours a day and will close at 7:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on May 15, 2024. The Notice instructs you how to access and review all important information in the Proxy Statement and Annual Report. You will then be able to request that copies of proxy materials be emailed to you or you will be directed to select a link where you will be able to vote on the proposals presented here.

By Telephone – The Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials includes a toll-free number you can call to request printed copies of proxy materials. Telephone voting for stockholders of record is available 24 hours a day and will close at 7:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on May 15, 2024. The printed proxy materials include a different toll-free number that you can call for voting.

By Mail – Stockholders who receive a paper Proxy Card may elect to vote by mail by completing, signing and dating their Proxy Card and mailing it in the pre-addressed envelope that accompanies the delivery of a paper Proxy Card. Proxy Cards submitted by mail must be received prior to the Annual Meeting in order for your shares to be voted. Stockholders who hold shares beneficially in street name may vote by mail by requesting a paper Proxy Card according to the instructions contained in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, and then completing, signing and dating the Proxy Card provided by the brokers or other agents and mailing it in the pre-addressed envelope provided.

At the Annual Meeting – If you were a holder of record on the close of business on March 26, 2024, you are entitled to participate in the 2024 Annual Meeting on May 16, 2024. Shares held in your name as the stockholder of record may be voted by you in person at the Annual Meeting. Shares held beneficially in street name may be voted by you in person at the Annual Meeting only if you obtain a legal proxy from the broker or other agent that holds your shares giving you the right to vote the shares and registering for the Annual Meeting in advance using such proxy.

If you vote via the Internet, by telephone or by mailing a Proxy Card, we will vote your shares as you direct. For the election of directors (Item 1), you can specify whether your shares should be voted for all, some or none of the nominees for director listed. For the ratification of our Audit Committee’s appointment of BDO USA, P.C. as our independent registered public accounting firm (Item 2), you may vote “for” or “against” the ratification, or you may abstain from voting on the ratification. For the proposal regarding an advisory vote to approve Named Executive Officer compensation (Item 3), you may vote “for” or “against” the proposal, or you may abstain from voting. For the proposal regarding approval of the Company’s Amended and Restated 2016 Stock-Based Incentive Compensation Plan (Item 4), you may vote “for” or “against” the proposal, or you may abstain from voting.

You may revoke or change a previously delivered proxy at any time before the Annual Meeting by delivering another proxy with a later date, by voting again via the Internet or by telephone, or by delivering written notice of revocation of your proxy to the corporate Secretary of the Company at the Company’s principal executive offices before the beginning of the Annual Meeting. You may also revoke your proxy by attending the Annual Meeting and voting in person, although attendance at the Annual Meeting will not, in and of itself, revoke a valid proxy that was previously delivered. If you hold shares through a bank or brokerage firm, you must contact that bank or brokerage firm to revoke any prior voting instructions. You may also vote in person at the Annual Meeting if you obtain a legal proxy as described above. Unless properly revoked, properly executed and delivered proxies that are received before the Annual Meeting’s adjournment will be voted in accordance with the directions provided and if no directions are provided on such properly executed and delivered proxy, those shares will be voted by one of the individuals named on your proxy card as recommended by the Board of Directors, as stated in this Proxy Statement and in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, specifically (1) in favor of our nominees for directors; (2) in favor of the ratification of the appointment of BDO USA, P.C. as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2024; (3) in favor of Named Executive Officer compensation as disclosed in this Proxy Statement; and (4) in favor of the approval of the Amended and Restated 2016 Stock-Based Incentive Compensation Plan. If you wish to give a proxy to someone other than those named on the proxy card, you should cross out those names and insert the name(s) of not more than three people, to whom you wish to give your proxy.

Who can vote? Only stockholders of record as of the close of business on the Record Date, are entitled to vote. On the Record Date, approximately 36,529,564 shares of common stock were outstanding and eligible to vote, and there were 55 record holders. Each share is entitled to one vote on each matter presented at the Annual Meeting. A list of stockholders eligible to vote will be

available at the offices of H&E Equipment Services, Inc., 7500 Pecue Lane, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809 beginning April 30, 2024. Stockholders may examine this list during normal business hours for any purpose relating to the Annual Meeting by contacting the Secretary of the Company.

How does the Board recommend I vote? The Board recommends the following votes:

- **FOR** each of the Board’s nominees for election (Item 1);
- **FOR** the ratification of the Audit Committee’s appointment of BDO USA, P.C. as the Company’s independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2024 (Item 2);
- **FOR** approval of the compensation of the Company’s Named Executive Officers as disclosed in this Proxy Statement (Item 3); and
- **FOR** approval of the Company’s Amended and Restated 2016 Stock-Based Incentive Compensation Plan (Item 4).

How are votes counted? The Annual Meeting will be held if a quorum, consisting of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock entitled to vote, is represented at the Annual Meeting in person or by proxy. If you are a stockholder whose shares are not registered in your name and you do not vote, then your bank, broker or other holder of record may still represent your shares at the Annual Meeting for purposes of obtaining a quorum.

In the absence of your voting instructions, your bank, broker or other holder of record may not be able to vote your shares in its discretion depending on the proposal before the Annual Meeting. Your broker cannot vote your shares in its discretion in the election of directors (Item 1); on the non-binding advisory vote on the approval of the compensation of the Company’s Named Executive Officers (Item 3); or on the approval of the Company’s Amended and Restated 2016 Stock-Based Incentive Compensation Plan (Item 4). Any such broker non-votes will not be counted as shares present and entitled to be voted with respect to such proposal. However, your broker may vote your shares in its discretion on routine matters such as the ratification of the Company’s independent registered public accounting firm (Item 2).

Because each director nominee (Item 1) is elected by the affirmative vote of the holders of a plurality of the shares of common stock voted, abstentions will have no effect on the election of director nominees. The ratification of the appointment of BDO USA, P.C. (Item 2), the non-binding advisory vote on the approval of the compensation of the Company’s Named Executive Officers as disclosed in this Proxy Statement (Item 3) and the approval of the Company’s Amended and Restated 2016 Stock-Based Incentive Compensation Plan (Item 4) each require the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. Because abstentions will be included in tabulations of the votes entitled to vote for purposes of determining whether Item 2, Item 3 and Item 4 have been approved, for those proposals abstentions have the same effect as a vote “against” such proposals. Because your vote on Item 3 is advisory, such vote will not be binding on the Board or the Company. However, the Board will review the voting results and as further described herein, may take them into consideration when making future decisions regarding executive compensation. Since broker non-votes will not be counted as shares present and entitled to be voted with respect to these proposals, they will have no effect on the outcome.

Who will count the vote? The votes will be tabulated by the Company’s Director of SEC Reporting, Ms. Claire Spencer, the inspector of elections appointed by the Board of Directors for the Annual Meeting.

Where can I find the results of the Annual Meeting? We intend to announce preliminary voting results at the Annual Meeting and publish final results in a Current Report on Form 8-K within four business days following the Annual Meeting.

Who is soliciting this proxy? Solicitation of proxies is made on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Company. The cost of soliciting proxies, including preparing, assembling and mailing the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, Proxy Statement, form of proxy and other soliciting materials, as well as the cost of forwarding such material to the beneficial owners of stock, will be paid by us, except for some costs associated with individual stockholders’ use of the Internet or telephone. In addition to solicitation by e-proxy and/or by mail, directors, officers, regular employees and others may also, but without compensation other than their regular compensation, solicit proxies personally or by telephone or other means of electronic communication. We may reimburse brokers and others holding stock in their names or in the names of nominees for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses in sending proxy materials to principals and beneficial owners.

What if I can’t attend the Annual Meeting? If you are unable to attend the Annual Meeting in person and you intend to vote, you may vote your shares by proxy, via the Internet, by telephone or by mail by the applicable deadline.

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Stockholder Meeting to be Held on May 16, 2024.

The Proxy Statement and the 2023 Annual Report are both available free of charge at www.he-equipment.com. We will provide without charge to each person to whom this Proxy Statement has been delivered (whether by mail or through the Internet), on the request of any such person, up to two additional copies per request of the 2023 Annual Report, including the consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedule. Requests should be directed to our investor relations department as described below:

H&E Equipment Services, Inc.
7500 Pecue Lane
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809
Attention: Investor Relations
Telephone: (225) 952-2308

We make available free of charge through our Investor Relations page on our website (investor.he-equipment.com) our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), as well as reports on Forms 3, 4 and 5 filed pursuant to Section 16 of the Exchange Act, as soon as reasonably practicable after such documents are electronically filed with, or furnished to, the SEC. The information on our website is not, and shall not be deemed to be, a part of this Proxy Statement or incorporated into any other filings we make with the SEC.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

In accordance with the Delaware General Corporation Law and the Company’s Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws, the Company’s business, property and affairs are managed under the direction of the Board of Directors. Although the Company’s non-management directors are not involved in the day-to-day operating details, they are kept informed of the Company’s business through reports and materials provided to them regularly, as well as by operating, financial and other reports presented by the officers of the Company at meetings of the Board of Directors and committees of the Board of Directors.

Board Leadership Structure and Lead Independent Director. On January 1, 2019, John M. Engquist was named Executive Chairman of the Board upon the appointment of Bradley W. Barber as Chief Executive Officer and Director. The Board of Directors retains the flexibility to determine whether the positions of Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”) and Chairman of the Board should be combined or separated. This flexibility permits the Board to organize its functions and conduct its business in a manner it deems most effective. By having Mr. Engquist serve as Executive Chairman, he acts as a bridge between the Board and the operating organization and provides critical leadership for future strategic initiatives and challenges and the capitalization of the Company. Mr. Engquist’s previous experience as CEO of the Company enables him to provide unique insight into the Company. This Board structure enables the CEO, Mr. Barber, to focus on managing the Company’s business. Mr. Barber provides very hands-on leadership overseeing the business on a day-to-day basis, and the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee believes that currently it is most effective to keep the principal executive officer and the Board chair positions separate. The Board believes that given the proven leadership capabilities, breadth of industry experience and business success of both Mr. Engquist and Mr. Barber, the Company and its stockholders are best served by this leadership structure.

The Board has a lead independent director (the “Lead Independent Director”) in connection with its oversight of the management and business affairs of the Company. In circumstances where the Executive Chairman of the Board is not independent (as determined by the Board in accordance with the corporate governance listing standards of the Nasdaq Stock Market), such as is presently the case, the independent members of the Board will appoint from among their number a Lead Independent Director. The Lead Independent Director generally assists in optimizing the effectiveness and independence of the Board by performing such duties as described in its Charter on behalf of the Board, and such other duties as determined from time to time by the Board and/or its independent members. These duties include presiding at and calling, when appropriate, meetings or “executive sessions” of the independent directors and of the non-employee directors of the Board; presiding at meetings of the Board in the absence of the Chair or upon request of the Chair; serving as a liaison between members of the Board, the Chair, and the CEO and to stockholders who request direct communications and consultation with the Board; advising and consulting with the Chair and CEO on the general scope and type of information to be provided in advance and/or at Board meetings and on Board meeting schedules and agenda items; and such other duties as the Board sees fit. Mr. Bagley has served as Lead Independent Director effective May 2023.

We believe currently that this structure of a separate Board chair and principal executive officer, combined with a Lead Independent Director, enables each person to focus on their respective areas of our Company’s leadership and reinforces the independence of our Board as a whole. We believe this structure also results in an effective balancing of responsibilities, experience

and independent perspective; reinforces and preserves management accountability; provides a structure that allows the Board to set objectives, monitor performance and oversee risk management; and enhances shareholder value.

The Board's Role in Risk Oversight. The Board as a whole has responsibility for the general oversight of risk, and the Board's committees address and report to the Board on any individual risk areas within their purview. Risk and risk management is a recurring agenda item at regular Board and Board Committee meetings, and the Board also discusses any specific risk topics as applicable. The Company's senior management makes presentations to the full Board as to the areas of principal risk, as well as on the processes that the Company has in place to identify, assess and report such risks.

The Board committees report to the Board on their consideration of any risks within their respective areas of focus. The Audit Committee primarily oversees risks relating to or arising from financial and disclosure controls and procedures, cybersecurity and accounting and other financial matters. The Company's Chief Financial Officer and Chief Information Officer report to the Audit Committee on the applicable risks and related risk management, and the Company's internal auditors, compliance manager, and independent auditors each regularly provide reports at Audit Committee meetings. The Compensation Committee has considered whether the Company's compensation policies and practices create risks that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company's business or operations. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee, the Finance Committee and the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Committee review any risks that come within their respective areas of responsibility (e.g., governance in the case of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee, in the case of the Finance Committee, any extraordinary corporate transactions that such committee may consider, and environmental, social and governance oversight and responsibility in the case of the ESG Committee). The Board committees' roles in risk oversight are discussed further below. See *Committees of the Board of the Directors*.

Independence. The Board has determined that nine of the Company's eleven directors are "independent" as defined in the applicable listing standards of the NASDAQ Stock Market LLC, including that each such director is free of any relationship that the Board believes would interfere with his or her individual exercise of independent judgment. As a part of the Board's review of the independence of directors, questionnaires are used on an annual basis (or when a new director is added) to gather input to assist the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee. The following directors were determined to be independent: Paul N. Arnold, Gary W. Bagley, Bruce C. Bruckmann, Patrick L. Edsell, Thomas J. Galligan III, Lawrence C. Karlson, Jacob Thomas, Mary P. Thompson and Suzanne H. Wood. Mr. Bagley serves as a manager of our wholly-owned subsidiary, H&E Equipment Services (California), LLC, but is not an employee of the Company or any of its subsidiaries.

In making its determinations regarding director independence, the Board considered, among other things:

- any material relationships with the Company, its subsidiaries or its management, aside from such director's service as a director;
- transactions between the Company, on the one hand, and the directors and their respective affiliates, on the other hand;
- transactions outside the ordinary course of business between the Company and companies at which some of its directors are or have been executive officers or significant stakeholders, and the amount of any such transactions with these companies; and
- relationships among the directors with respect to common involvement with for-profit and non-profit organizations.

Conflicts of Interest and Corporate Governance Matters. Under our Code of Conduct and Ethics for Employees, Officers and Directors of H&E Equipment Services, Inc. ("Code of Conduct"), no employee or officer may serve as a director of any outside business concern, other than on behalf of the Company, without the written approval of the Chief Executive Officer or the Chief Financial Officer of the Company. The Charter of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee empowers the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee to at least once a year review the independence of the members of the Board of Directors and consider questions of conflicts of interest. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee will identify, analyze, and, if possible, resolve any actual and potential conflicts of interest a Board member has or may have. In connection with an actual or potential conflict of interest, the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee may issue to such member instructions concerning the manner in which he should conduct himself, as applicable. There are no pre-determined limitations on the number of other boards of directors on which the directors of the Company may serve; however, the Board expects individual directors to use judgment in accepting other directorships and to allow sufficient time and attention to Company matters. There are no set term limits for directors; however as long as the Board is not classified, the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee will review each director's continuation on the Board annually.

Code of Conduct. The Company is committed to ethical business practices. We have a corporate Code of Conduct and a corporate Insider Trading Policy that apply to all of the Company's employees and directors and include practices prohibiting the

hedging or pledging of the Company's stock and a code of ethics for the Company's principal executive officer, principal financial officer and principal accounting officer within the meaning of the SEC regulations adopted under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, as amended. The Company's corporate Code of Conduct can be found on the Company's Internet website at www.he-equipment.com under the heading "Our Company/Investor Relations/Corporate Governance/Governance Documents". Please note that none of the information on the Company's website is incorporated by reference in this Proxy Statement.

Communications with the Board of Directors. If you would like to communicate with the Company's directors, please send a letter to the following address: H&E Equipment Services, Inc., Attention: Board of Directors, c/o Corporate Secretary, 7500 Pecue Lane, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809. The Company's Corporate Secretary will review each such communication and forward a copy to the Board of Directors.

Meetings of the Board of Directors and Stockholders. It is the policy of the Board to meet at least quarterly. The Board of Directors held five meetings in 2023. In 2023, the Board also held regular executive sessions where non-management directors met without management participation.

Each incumbent director attended at least 75% of the meetings of the Board and the committees on which he or she served in 2023. Directors are encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting of Stockholders. All directors attended the 2023 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

Committees of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors currently has five standing committees: Audit Committee, Compensation Committee, Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee, Finance Committee and ESG Committee. Charters for the Audit Committee, Compensation Committee, Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee and ESG Committee can be found on the Company's website at www.he-equipment.com under the heading "Our Company/Investor Relations/Corporate Governance/Governance Documents".

Audit Committee—The Audit Committee operates under a written charter adopted by the Board of Directors, which is available on the Company's Internet website. The Audit Committee provides assistance to the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibility to the stockholders, potential stockholders, the investment community, and others relating to (i) the integrity of the Company's financial statements and financial reporting processes; (ii) the Company's systems of internal accounting and financial controls, including internal controls over financial reporting and the Company's policies and procedures to assess, monitor, and manage business risk, including cybersecurity and data privacy risks; (iii) performance of the Company's internal auditors and independent registered public accounting firm; (iv) the independent registered public accounting firm's qualifications and independence; (v) the annual independent audit of the Company's consolidated financial statements; and (vi) the Company's compliance with ethics policies, legal policies and regulatory requirements, as applicable. In so doing, it is the responsibility of the Audit Committee to maintain free and open communication among the Audit Committee, the independent registered public accounting firm, the internal auditors and Company management. The Audit Committee is also directly supported in risk oversight by the Chief Financial Officer, who provides periodic reports to the Audit Committee on risks arising from financial and disclosure controls and procedures, accounting and other financial matters, and the Chief Information Officer, who provides periodic reports to the Audit Committee on risks arising from data privacy and information and infrastructure security programs, including cybersecurity. In discharging its oversight role, the Audit Committee is empowered to investigate any matter brought to its attention with full access to all books, records, facilities and personnel of the Company and the power to retain at the expense of the Company independent outside counsel or other experts or advisers as it deems necessary to carry out its duties. A detailed list of the Audit Committee's functions is included in its charter, a copy of which can be found on the Company's Internet website.

The Company maintains a policy that the Audit Committee review transactions in which the Company and its directors, executive officers or their immediate family members are participants to determine whether a related person has a direct or indirect material interest. The Audit Committee is responsible for reviewing and, if appropriate, approving or ratifying any such related party transaction. The Board has orally communicated this policy. See the "Certain Relationships and Related Transactions – Related Party Transactions" section of this Proxy Statement.

The members of the Audit Committee are currently Messrs. Edsell and Galligan and Ms. Thompson and Wood. Mr. Edsell is the Chair of this committee. Ms. Wood was appointed to the Committee in February 2024. The Board has determined in its business judgment that each member of the Audit Committee is financially literate and that Messrs. Edsell and Galligan and Ms. Thompson and Wood are "independent" as defined in the applicable NASDAQ listing standards and the applicable rules under the Exchange Act. In addition, the Board has determined that Messrs. Edsell and Galligan and Ms. Thompson and Wood are "audit committee financial experts" as that term is defined in Item 407(d)(5) of Regulation S-K of the Exchange Act. The Audit Committee held six meetings in 2023.

Compensation Committee—The Compensation Committee operates under a written charter adopted by the Board of Directors, a copy of which can be found on the Company’s Internet website. The Compensation Committee discharges the Board’s responsibilities relating to the compensation of the Company’s Chief Executive Officer, the Company’s other executive officers and its directors. The Compensation Committee has overall responsibility for evaluating and approving executive officer and director compensation plans, policies and programs of the Company, as well as all equity-based compensation plans and policies, including the Company’s 2016 Stock-Based Incentive Compensation Plan (the “2016 Incentive Plan”). The Compensation Committee evaluates and addresses any potential risks related to these compensation policies and practices that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company’s business or operations.

On an annual basis, the Compensation Committee reviews and sets the compensation of the Chief Executive Officer taking into account a variety of factors, as more fully described in the “Compensation Discussion and Analysis” section of this Proxy Statement. The Compensation Committee also sets compensation for certain other executive officers after considering recommendations provided by the Chief Executive Officer and a variety of other factors, as more fully described in the “Compensation Discussion and Analysis” section of this Proxy Statement.

On an as-needed basis, the Compensation Committee may retain independent compensation consultants to assist the Compensation Committee in evaluating and structuring our executive compensation programs and making compensation decisions. Pearl Meyer & Partners LLC (“Pearl Meyer”) served as a consultant to the Compensation Committee during fiscal year 2023.

The Compensation Committee is authorized to delegate any of its responsibilities to subcommittees, as the Compensation Committee deems appropriate. To date, the Compensation Committee has not exercised this right. For additional description of the Compensation Committee’s processes and procedures for consideration and determination of executive officer and director compensation, see the “Compensation Discussion and Analysis” section of this Proxy Statement.

The current members of the Compensation Committee are Messrs. Arnold, Edsell, Galligan and Karlson, and Mr. Arnold is the Chair of this committee. The Board has determined in its business judgment that Messrs. Arnold, Edsell, Galligan and Karlson are “independent” as defined in the applicable NASDAQ listing standards. The members of the Compensation Committee are also non-employee directors under SEC Rule 16b-3 and outside directors under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. The Compensation Committee met five times in 2023. For additional information on the Compensation Committee, see “Compensation Discussion and Analysis”.

Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee—The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee operates under a written charter adopted by the Board of Directors, a copy of which can be found on the Company’s Internet website. The primary functions of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee are (i) to assist the Board by identifying individuals qualified to become Board members and members of Board committees, to recommend to the Board the director nominees for the next annual meeting of stockholders, and to recommend to the Board nominees for each committee of the Board; (ii) to lead the Board in its annual review of the Board’s, its committees’ and management’s performance; and (iii) to review, as appropriate, the Company’s corporate governance structure and recommend any proposed changes to the Board. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee identifies individuals, including those properly submitted and recommended by stockholders, believed to be qualified as candidates for Board membership. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee has the authority to retain search firms to assist it in identifying candidates to serve as directors. In addition to any other qualifications the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee may in its discretion deem appropriate, all director candidates should possess high personal and professional ethics, integrity and values, and should have sufficient time available to devote to service on the Board and Board committees. A majority of the Board must be comprised of independent directors. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee also considers diversity, including with respect to gender, ethnicity, culture and experience as a consideration for potential candidates. In identifying and recommending director candidates, the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee considers each individual’s specific experience and qualifications to determine that individual’s desirability and suitability for service on the Company’s Board, and also considers the qualifications and composition of the Board as a whole.

The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee considers stockholder nominees for directors in the same manner as nominees for director from other sources. Stockholder suggestions for nominees for director should be submitted to the Company’s corporate Secretary no later than the date by which stockholder proposals for action must be submitted (see “Submission of Stockholder Proposals and Director Nominations” below) and should include the following information: (a) the recommending stockholder’s name, address, telephone number and the number of shares of the Company’s common stock held by such individual or entity and (b) the recommended candidate’s biographical data, statement of qualification and written consent to nomination and to serving as a director, if elected.

The current members of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee are Messrs. Bruckmann, Karlson and Thomas and Ms. Thompson. Ms. Thompson is the Chair of this committee. The Board has determined in its business judgment that Messrs.

Bruckmann, Karlson and Thomas and Ms. Thompson are “independent”, as defined in the applicable NASDAQ listing standards. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee held two meetings during 2023.

ESG Committee—The ESG Committee was established by the Board of Directors and operates under a written charter, a copy of which can be found on the Company’s Internet website. The ESG Committee oversees and advises the Board on the Company’s goal setting, strategies and commitments related to sustainability and ESG, including climate risks and opportunities, human rights and human capital management, community and social impact, and diversity and inclusion. The Committee meets with the internal ESG task force and other appropriate members of management regarding significant sustainability and ESG-related events and matters and monitor the Company’s performance related to its sustainability and ESG goal setting, strategies and commitments. The Committee reviews and oversees the policies and procedures used to prepare sustainability and ESG-related statements and disclosures, which are published on our Company’s ESG page of our website, which we created as part of our commitment to advancing our ESG reporting and disclosures, as well as any other duties assigned to it by the Board of Directors. As discussed later on in this proxy statement, under ESG Highlights, we are committed to environmental stewardship and social responsibility and the ESG Committee continues to oversee actions we take to further these objectives and meet our goals. The current members of the ESG Committee are Messrs. Arnold, Bagley and Galligan, and Mr. Galligan is the Chair of this committee. The ESG Committee held two meetings during 2023.

Finance Committee—The Finance Committee was established by the Board of Directors and operates under a written charter. The Finance Committee oversees and reviews any significant financial affairs and policies of the Company and oversees and monitors all material potential business and financial transactions, as well as any other duties assigned to it by the Board of Directors. The current members of the Finance Committee are Messrs. Bagley, Bruckmann and Engquist, and Mr. Bruckmann is the Chair of this committee. The Finance Committee met thirteen times in 2023.

SUBMISSION OF STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS AND DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS

In accordance with the provisions of Rule 14a-8 under the Exchange Act, stockholders wishing to have a proposal included in the Company’s Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held in 2025 must submit the proposal so that the corporate Secretary of the Company receives it no later than December 3, 2024. The SEC rules set forth standards as to what stockholder proposals are required to be included in a proxy statement.

As a separate and distinct matter from proposals under Rule 14a-8, under the Company’s Amended and Restated Bylaws, certain procedures must be followed for a stockholder to nominate persons as directors or to introduce a proposal at an annual meeting of stockholders. A stockholder wishing to make a nomination for election to the Board of Directors or to have a proposal presented at an annual meeting of stockholders must submit written notice of such nomination or proposal so that the corporate Secretary of the Company receives it not less than that date which is 120 days prior to the one year anniversary of the date the Company’s proxy statement was released to stockholders in connection with the preceding year’s annual meeting of stockholders; provided, however, that in the event that the Company did not hold an annual meeting of stockholders the preceding year or if the date of the annual meeting of stockholders is changed by more than 30 days from the date of the preceding year’s annual meeting of stockholders, notice by the stockholder must be delivered within a reasonable time before the Company prints and mails its proxy materials (or makes them available on the Internet) in connection with the annual meeting of stockholders. The Company’s Amended and Restated Bylaws also set forth certain informational requirements for stockholders’ nominations of directors and proposals.

ITEM 1 - ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Company’s Amended and Restated Bylaws provide that the Company’s business shall be managed by a Board of Directors ranging from five to eleven members. The number of directors may be increased or decreased from time to time by resolution of the Board of Directors. Directors shall be elected at the annual meeting of the stockholders and each director elected shall hold office until a successor is duly elected and qualified or until his or her death, resignation or removal.

The Company’s Board of Directors is currently comprised of eleven members. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee identifies and recommends director candidates to serve on the Board. Director candidates are then nominated for election by the Board of Directors. Stockholders are also entitled to nominate director candidates for election in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Company’s Amended and Restated Bylaws (see “Corporate Governance — Committees of the Board of Directors — Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee” and “Submission of Stockholder Proposals and Director Nominations” above).

In identifying and recommending director candidates to serve on the Board, the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee considers the qualifications and composition of the Board as a whole, taking into account the totality of experience, skills and other qualifications or attributes that the individual nominees collectively bring to the Board. The Committee also considers each

individual's experience, skills and other qualifications and attributes to determine that individual's suitability and desirability for service on the Company's Board. All director candidates should possess high personal and professional ethics, integrity and values, and should have sufficient time available to devote to service on the Board and Board committees. In addition, a majority of the Board must be comprised of independent directors. The experience, skills and attributes which the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee considers include, but are not limited to, the individual's: (i) experience serving on the board of directors of a publicly traded company; (ii) independence; (iii) financial and/or audit committee experience; (iv) compensation committee experience; (v) experience with corporate transactions, such as capital-raising and other corporate finance transactions and acquisitions; (vi) experience in the Company's industry; and (vii) demonstration of overall responsibility for a company's performance, such as managing or operating a company. In addition, as noted below, the Committee considers diversity among Board and management, including with respect to gender, ethnicity, culture and experience.

At the Annual Meeting, eleven directors are to be elected. All eleven nominees have been recommended for election by the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee. All nominees have consented to being named as nominees for directors of the Company and have agreed to serve if elected. If some or all of the nominees should become unavailable to serve at the time of the Annual Meeting, the shares represented by proxy will be voted for any remaining nominee(s) and any substitute nominee(s) designated by the Board of Directors. In no event, however, will the shares represented by proxy be voted for more than eleven nominees. Director elections are determined by a plurality of the votes cast; however, in accordance with the Company's director resignation policy, a director who received more "withheld" votes than "for" votes in any uncontested election of directors is required to submit his or her resignation to the Board, and the Board, in consultation with the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee, may accept the resignation or other alternative action as they deem appropriate. If the resignation is rejected, the Board will disclose the reasons for doing so in a report filed with the SEC within 90 days of the certification of the election results.

Set forth below is information regarding each nominee for director, including the specific experience, qualifications, skills or attributes that led to the conclusion that such nominee should serve as a director of the Company.

Nominees for Directors

John M. Engquist was appointed Executive Chairman of the Board on January 1, 2019. Previously, Mr. Engquist served as Chief Executive Officer and Director of the Company since its formation in September 2005. Mr. Engquist served as President of the Company since its formation in September 2005 until November 2, 2012. He had served as President, Chief Executive Officer and Director of H&E Equipment Services LLC ("H&E LLC"), the predecessor to the Company, from its formation in 2002 until its merger with and into the Company in February 2006. He served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Head & Engquist Equipment, LLC ("Head and Engquist") from 1990 and director of Gulf Wide Industries, LLC ("Gulf Wide") from 1995, both predecessor companies of H&E LLC. From 1975 to 1990, he held various operational positions at Head & Engquist, starting as a mechanic's helper. He is a director and serves on several committees for the LSU Foundation Board of Directors. Mr. Engquist also serves as a Director on the Board of Directors and as a member of the Finance Committee of Franciscan Ministries of Our Lady Health System, based in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Mr. Engquist also serves on the Board of Directors of Mohawk Industries, Inc., a public company based in Calhoun, Georgia as well as on the Audit Committee and Corporate Governance Committee for Mohawk Industries, Inc.

As Executive Chairman of the Board, Mr. Engquist leads the Company in its strategic planning, oversees merger and acquisition opportunities on a full-time basis, and works with the Company's Chief Financial Officer to ensure an appropriate capital structure to support the Company's growth plans while maintaining the financial health of the Company. Mr. Engquist's long history with the Company and its predecessors dating back to 1975 provides him with unparalleled experience with the Company's operations, industry and corporate transactions. He currently serves as a member of the Company's Finance Committee.

Bradley W. Barber serves as Chief Executive Officer and a Director of the Company. Previously, Mr. Barber was appointed Chief Executive Officer, President and Director of the Company on January 1, 2019. Mr. Barber resigned as President of the Company effective January 1, 2021 as the Board approved the promotion of Mr. John McDowell Engquist to President and Chief Operating Officer, effective as of such date. From November 2012 to December 31, 2018, Mr. Barber was President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company, from June 2008 to November 2012, Mr. Barber was Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company, and from November 2005 to May 2008, he was Executive Vice President and General Manager of the Company. Mr. Barber served as Vice President, Rental Operations of H&E LLC from February 2003 to November 2005 and as Director of Rental Operations for H&E LLC and its predecessor company, Head & Engquist. Prior to joining Head & Engquist in March 1998, Mr. Barber worked in both outside sales and branch management for a regional equipment company.

Mr. Barber's day-to-day leadership of the Company in a variety of senior management positions, as well as his long history with the Company, provides him with unparalleled experience with the Company's operations, industry and corporate transactions.

Paul N. Arnold has been a Director of the Company since November 2006. Mr. Arnold served as a director of Town Sports International Holdings, Inc. from April 1997 through March 2015 and served as the non-executive Chairman of the Board of Directors from May 2006 until February 2009. Mr. Arnold served as Chief Executive Officer of CORT Business Services, Inc., acquired by Berkshire Hathaway in 2000, from 1992 until June 2012. From 1992 to 2000, Mr. Arnold also served as President and as a director of CORT Business Services. Prior to 1992, Mr. Arnold held various positions over a twenty-four year period within CORT Furniture Rental, a division of Mohasco Industries, Inc.

Mr. Arnold has experience leading a company with branch operations and also has extensive experience in the rental business and with corporate transactions. As a director of other public companies, Mr. Arnold has experience with corporate governance, compensation and audit committee matters. He currently serves as Chairman of the Company's Compensation Committee and as a member of the ESG Committee. Mr. Arnold is an independent director.

Gary W. Bagley was appointed as Lead Independent Director in May 2023 and has served as a Director of the Company since the formation of the Company in September 2005. From September 2005 to December 31, 2018, Mr. Bagley served as Chairman of the Board of the Company. Mr. Bagley served as President of ICM Equipment Company L.L.C. ("ICM") since 1996 and Chief Executive Officer from 1998 until ICM merged with and into H&E LLC in June 2002, when he became executive Chairman and a Director of H&E LLC. He retired as an executive of H&E LLC in 2004. Prior to 1996, he held various positions at ICM, including Salesman, Sales Manager and General Manager. Mr. Bagley also served as Vice President of Wheeler Machinery Co. Since our acquisition of Eagle High Reach Equipment, LLC and Eagle High Reach Equipment, Inc. in February 2006, Mr. Bagley has served as a manager and director, respectively, of Eagle High Reach Equipment, LLC (now H&E Equipment Services (California), LLC) and Eagle High Reach Equipment, Inc. (now H&E California Holding, Inc.). Previously, Mr. Bagley served as interim Chief Executive Officer and as a director of Eagle High Reach Equipment, Inc. from February 2004 to February 2006 and as Chief Executive Officer and as a director of Eagle High Reach Equipment, LLC from December 2004 to February 2006. Mr. Bagley has served in the past on a number of dealer advisory boards and industry association boards. Mr. Bagley currently serves as owner and manager of Bagley Family Investments, DBA Cougar Ridge Lodge, located in Torrey, Utah.

Mr. Bagley has extensive experience both with the Company and in the construction equipment industry. He also had overall responsibility as chief executive officer of the equipment company which merged with and into our Company's predecessor in 2002. He currently serves as a member of the Company's Finance Committee and ESG Committee. Mr. Bagley is an independent director.

Bruce C. Bruckmann has been a Director of the Company since its formation in September 2005. He served as a Director of H&E LLC from its formation in June 2002 until its merger with and into the Company in February 2006. Mr. Bruckmann served as a director of both of the Company's predecessor companies, Head & Engquist and ICM. Mr. Bruckmann is a founder and has been a Managing Director of Bruckmann, Rosser, Sherrill & Co., Inc. since its formation in 1995. He served as an officer of Citicorp Venture Capital Ltd. from 1983 through 1994. Prior to joining Citicorp Venture Capital, Mr. Bruckmann was an associate at the New York law firm of Patterson, Belknap, Webb & Tyler. Mr. Bruckmann served as a director of MWI Veterinary Supply, Inc. from 2002 to February 2015, as a director of TownSports International, Inc. from 1996 to April 2015 and as a director of Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc. from 2004 to October 2023. Mr. Bruckmann has served as a director of Mohawk Industries, Inc. since 1992. Mr. Bruckmann previously served as a director of AmerisourceBergen, California Pizza Kitchen, Chromcraft Revington and Cort Business Services. Mr. Bruckmann also currently serves as a director of a private company.

Mr. Bruckmann has extensive experience with corporate transactions, such as financings and acquisitions, as well as experience as a board member of numerous public companies, including service on audit, compensation, executive, finance and nominating and corporate governance committees. He also has significant experience with the Company's business and operations and served as a director of both of the Company's predecessor companies. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Company's Finance Committee and as a member of the Company's Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee. Mr. Bruckmann is an independent director.

Patrick L. Edsell has served as a Director of the Company since May 2011. Mr. Edsell has over 25 years of executive experience and over 20 years of board experience. He previously served as acting Chief Financial Officer, on a part-time basis, for SpectraSensors, Inc. from 2008 to 2010 and as Senior Vice President and General Manager of Avanex Corporation from 2007 to 2008. He was Chief Executive Officer of NP Photonics, Inc. from 2004 to 2007 and Gigabit Optics Corporation from 2002 to 2004. Prior to that, he was Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Spectra Physics, Inc. from 1997 to 2002 and President of Spectra-Physics Lasers and Optics Group from 1990 to 1997. Mr. Edsell was Chief Financial Officer of Pharos AB from 1984 to 1991 and Vice President, Finance of GP Technologies from 1982 to 1984. He was a director and Chairman of the Audit Committee of Captiva Software Systems from 2001 to 2005 and Chairman from 2004 to 2005. Prior to that, he was a director of FLIR Systems, Inc. in 1998 and 1999.

Mr. Edsell is experienced in leading other companies and is also experienced with corporate transactions, such as financings and acquisitions. As a director of other public and private companies, Mr. Edsell has experience with audit, corporate governance and

compensation committee matters. Mr. Edsell currently serves as Chairman of the Company's Audit Committee and is a member of the Compensation Committee. Mr. Edsell also serves the Board as an "audit committee financial expert" as defined under SEC rules and is an independent director.

Thomas J. Galligan III has served as a Director since May 2011. Mr. Galligan served as Executive Chairman and a member of the board of directors of Papa Gino's Holdings Corp. ("Papa Gino's") from April 2009 until his retirement in February 2014. From October 2008 until March 2009, Mr. Galligan was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Papa Gino's and from May 1996 until October 2008, Mr. Galligan served as Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer. Prior to joining Papa Gino's in March 1995 as Executive Vice President, Mr. Galligan held executive positions at Morse Shoe, Inc. and PepsiCo, Inc. Mr. Galligan currently serves as a director of a private company.

Mr. Galligan has experience leading a company with branch operations and has extensive experience with corporate transactions. As a director of other public and private companies, Mr. Galligan has experience with corporate governance, compensation and audit committee matters. Mr. Galligan is the Chairman of the ESG Committee and a member of the Company's Audit Committee and Compensation Committee. Mr. Galligan also serves the Board as an "audit committee financial expert" as defined under SEC rules and is an independent director.

Lawrence C. Karlson has been a Director of the Company since its formation in September 2005. He served as a Director of H&E LLC from its formation in June 2002 until its merger with and into the Company in February 2006. He previously served as Chairman and CEO of Berwind Financial Corporation from 2001 to 2004. Mr. Karlson also previously served as Chairman of Spectra-Physics AB and President and CEO of Pharos AB. He served as a director of CDI Corporation from 1989 to September 2017. Previously he was Chairman and a director of Mikron Infrared, Inc. and served as a director of the Campbell Soup Company from 2009 to November 2015. Mr. Karlson currently serves as a board member of a private company. Mr. Karlson is the author of *Corporate Value Creation*, published by John Wiley & Sons.

Mr. Karlson is experienced in leading other companies and is also experienced with corporate transactions. As a director of other public companies, Mr. Karlson has experience with corporate governance, compensation and audit committee matters. He currently serves as a member of the Company's Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee and Compensation Committee. From 2005 through February 2020, Mr. Karlson also served as a member of the Company's Audit Committee. Mr. Karlson is an independent director.

Jacob Thomas has been a Director of the Company since September 2022. He recently served as the Chief Executive Officer of The Carlstar Group LLC from 2018 until March of 2024. Mr. Thomas previously served as Group President, Engine Mobile Filtration and Executive Officer of CLARCOR, from 2015 to 2018, President, Diaphragm and Dosing Pumps Group, of IDEX Corporation, from 2014 to 2015, and President, Latin America, and Senior Vice President, Global Marketing and Product Development, of Terex Corporation, from 2007 to 2014. Mr. Thomas received his Master of Business Administration in Finance and Marketing from The University of Chicago, Booth School of Business, his Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering from The Ohio State University, and his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology.

Mr. Thomas has experience in the construction equipment industry, experience leading other companies and experience with corporate transactions. Mr. Thomas is a member of the company's Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee and is an independent director.

Mary P. Thompson has been a Director of the Company since May 2021. Ms. Thompson previously served on the Board from September 2019 to March 2021. Ms. Thompson serves as President of Titan Technologies, Inc. and has served as a consultant at Bruckmann, Rosser, Sherrill & Co., a private equity firm, since 2019. Ms. Thompson previously served as the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of Taronis Fuels, Inc. from November 2020 to December 2020 and from April 2021 to February 2022 and as a director of Taronis during December 2020 and April 2021. Ms. Thompson previously served as the Senior Vice President of Finance of MWI Animal Health Division of AmerisourceBergen Inc. from February 2015 to October 2018, and the Chief Financial Officer of MWI Veterinary Supply, Inc. from June 2002 to February 2015. In addition, Ms. Thompson served as a board member of Winc, Inc. from May 2021 to August 2023 and Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc. from July 2022 to October 2023. Idaho Governor, Brad Little, appointed Ms. Thompson on July 13, 2023 to the Idaho Endowment Fund Investment Board.

Ms. Thompson has experience leading other companies and is also experienced with corporate transactions. Ms. Thompson has experience with audit committee matters and is currently serving the Board as an "audit committee financial expert" as defined under the SEC rules and is an independent director. Ms. Thompson is the Chairperson of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee and is a member of the company's Audit Committee.

Suzanne H. Wood has been a Director of the Company since March 2023. Ms. Wood previously was Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Vulcan Materials Company from September 2018 to August 2022 and also served as Secretary from September 2019 to December 2019. From 2012 to 2018, she served as Group Finance Director and Chief Financial Officer of Ashtead Group plc, a FTSE 50 international equipment rental company serving the construction industry and other markets. Prior to that, she was Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Sunbelt Rentals, Inc., the North American subsidiary of Ashtead Group plc. As a certified public accountant, she also previously held Chief Financial Officer positions at Tultex Corporation and Oakwood Homes Corporation. She currently serves on the board of directors as the Senior Independent Director and is chair of the audit committee of RELX Group, a FTSE 25 global professional information and analytics company. She also serves on the board of directors and is chair of the audit committee of Ferguson plc, a leading distributor of plumbing and heating products in North America.

Ms. Wood has extensive experience in the construction equipment industry. Ms. Wood additionally has experience leading a company with branch operations and also has extensive experience with corporate transactions. As a director of other public and private companies, Ms. Wood has experience with audit, corporate governance and compensation committee matters. Ms. Wood is a member of the company's Audit Committee, is currently serving the Board as an "audit committee financial expert" as defined under the SEC rules and is an independent director.

The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR each of the listed nominees.

DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The following table sets forth the names, ages and titles of each person who is a current director or executive officer.

Name	Age	Title
John M. Engquist	70	Executive Chairman of the Board
Bradley W. Barber	51	Chief Executive Officer and Director
Leslie S. Magee	55	Chief Financial Officer and Secretary
John McDowell Engquist	45	Chief Operating Officer and President
Paul N. Arnold	77	Director
Gary W. Bagley	77	Lead Independent Director
Bruce C. Bruckmann	70	Director
Patrick L. Edsell	75	Director
Thomas J. Galligan III	79	Director
Lawrence C. Karlson	81	Director
Jacob Thomas	56	Director
Mary P. Thompson	61	Director
Suzanne H. Wood	64	Director

John M. Engquist is described as a director nominee above.

Bradley W. Barber is described as a director nominee above.

Leslie S. Magee has served as Chief Financial Officer and Secretary of the Company since its formation in September 2005. Ms. Magee served as acting Chief Financial Officer of H&E LLC from December 2004 through August 2005, at which time she was appointed Chief Financial Officer and Secretary. She continued as Chief Financial Officer and Secretary until H&E LLC's merger with and into the Company in February 2006. Previously, Ms. Magee served as Corporate Controller for H&E LLC and Head & Engquist. Prior to joining Head & Engquist in 1995, Ms. Magee spent five years working for Hawthorn, Waymouth & Carroll, L.L.P., an accounting firm based in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Ms. Magee is a Certified Public Accountant and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Louisiana Society of Certified Public Accountants.

John McDowell Engquist serves as President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company effective January 2021. Mr. Engquist (McDowell) joined the company in June 2002 and has been employed in several job capacities, including Sales Representative, Branch Manager, Regional and Senior Regional Vice President and most recently as the Company's Executive Vice President, a position he held from January 2018 through January 2021.

Paul N. Arnold is described as a director nominee above.

Gary W. Bagley is described as a director nominee above.

Bruce C. Bruckmann is described as a director nominee above.

Patrick L. Edsell is described as a director nominee above.

Thomas J. Galligan III is described as a director nominee above.

Lawrence C. Karlson is described as a director nominee above.

Jacob Thomas is described as a director nominee above.

Mary P. Thompson is described as a director nominee above.

Suzanne H. Wood is described as a director nominee above.

The Director and Executive biographies above describe each Executive and Director’s qualifications and relevant experience in more detail. The below summarizes that information. An X notation indicates a specific area of skill or expertise the Board relies on most; however, the lack of a notation does not indicate that one does not possess that qualification or skill.

Directors and Executives Matrix								
Name	Qualifications, Skills and Attributes						Diversity	
	Independence	Leadership Experience	Public Company Board Experience	Industry Experience	Financial Oversight Experience	Corporate Transactional Experience	Gender	Race/Ethnicity
John M. Engquist		X	X	X	X	X	Male	White
Bradley W. Barber		X	X	X	X	X	Male	White
Leslie S. Magee		X		X	X	X	Female	White
John McDowell Engquist		X		X	X	X	Male	White
Paul N. Arnold	X	X	X		X	X	Male	White
Gary W. Bagley	X	X	X	X	X	X	Male	White
Bruce C. Bruckmann	X	X	X		X	X	Male	White
Patrick L. Edsell	X	X	X		X	X	Male	White
Thomas J. Galligan III	X	X	X		X	X	Male	White
Lawrence C. Karlson	X	X	X		X	X	Male	White
Jacob Thomas	X	X		X	X	X	Male	Asian
Mary P. Thompson	X	X	X		X	X	Female	White
Suzanne H. Wood	X	X	X	X	X	X	Female	White

Board Diversity

Below is an overview of our director diversity matrix. The Company is actively searching for additional diverse candidates by searching in traditional corporate environments, as well as government, academia, and non-profit organizations. Gender and diversity characteristics, such as race, ethnicity and nationality are important considerations in the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee’s process of selecting director candidates.

Board Diversity Matrix (As of March 26, 2024)				
Total Number of Directors	11			
	Female	Male	Non-Binary	Did Not Disclose Gender
Part I: Gender Identity				
Directors	2	9	—	—
Part II: Demographic Background				
African American or Black	—	—	—	—
Alaskan Native or Native American	—	—	—	—
Asian	—	1	—	—
Hispanic or Latinx	—	—	—	—
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	—	—	—	—
White	2	8	—	—
Two or More Races or Ethnicities	—	—	—	—
LGBTQ+	—			
Did Not Disclose Demographic Background	—			

2023 DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

The elements of the Company’s compensation program for non-employee directors are as follows:

- Annual retainers of \$100,000 for non-employee directors;
- Annual stock awards with a grant date fair market value of \$95,000 for all non-employee directors; and
- Committee chair annual retainers of \$10,000 for the chairs of the Finance Committee, Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee and ESG Committee, \$15,000 for the chair of the Compensation Committee and \$20,000 for the chair of the Audit Committee.
- Effective in 2024, the Lead Independent Director will receive \$25,000 as an annual retainer.

On February 1, 2023, in accordance with the above non-employee director compensation program, Messrs. Arnold, Bagley, Bruckmann, Edsell, Galligan, Karlson and Thomas and Ms. Thompson and Wood each received grants of 1,867 shares of fully vested common stock under the Company’s 2016 Incentive Plan. The determination of the number of shares of common stock to be issued to each non-employee director was based on the Company’s closing stock price on January 31, 2023, the last trading day preceding the grant date, on the NASDAQ, or \$50.89 per share. The grants made to non-employee directors in 2023 are described in more detail in the table and footnotes below.

The table below summarizes the compensation paid by the Company to each non-employee director for the year ended December 31, 2023. For the compensation of our employee directors during 2023 (Messrs. Barber and Engquist) see “Summary Compensation Table”.

Director Compensation Tables				
Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$) (1)	Stock Awards (\$ (2)	All Other Compensation (\$)	Total (\$)
Paul N. Arnold	115,000	95,012	—	210,012
Gary W. Bagley	100,000	95,012	—	195,012
Bruce C. Bruckmann.....	110,000	95,012	—	205,012
Patrick L. Edsell.....	120,000	95,012	—	215,012
Thomas J. Galligan III.....	110,000	95,012	—	205,012
Lawrence C. Karlson	100,000	95,012	—	195,012
Jacob Thomas.....	100,000	95,012	—	195,012
Mary P. Thompson.....	110,000	95,012	—	205,012
Suzanne H. Wood (3).....	80,278	—	—	80,278

- (1) This column reflects fees paid to directors who served as directors in 2023. All non-employee directors received a retainer for the Board and its committees and committee chairmanship retainers as described above. Mr. Engquist did not receive any additional compensation for his service as Executive Chairman of the Board.
- (2) Amounts shown represent the grant date fair value of restricted common stock granted on February 1, 2023 (which fully vested immediately upon issuance) as described above pursuant to the Financial Accounting Standards Board’s Accounting Standards Codification Topic 718 (“ASC 718”).
- (3) Ms. Wood was appointed to the board on March 13, 2023.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND DIRECTORS, DIRECTOR NOMINEES AND OFFICERS

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to beneficial ownership of the Company’s common stock as of March 26, 2024, the Annual Meeting Record Date, by (i) each person, or group of affiliated persons who is known by the Company to own more than 5% of its common stock, (ii) each of the Company’s directors and named executive officers and (iii) all directors and executives of the Company as a group. The information provided in the table is based on our records, information filed with the SEC and information provided to the Company.

Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with the rules of the SEC. To our knowledge, except as set forth in the footnotes to the following table and subject to appropriate community property laws, the persons in this table have sole voting and investment power with respect to all shares shown as beneficially owned by them.

Unless otherwise noted, the address of each person listed below is c/o H&E Equipment Services, Inc., 7500 Pecue Lane, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809.

	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership	
	Shares	Percentage
Stockholders of 5% or more (excludes Directors and Executive Officers)		
The Vanguard Group (1)	3,804,017	10.4%
BlackRock, Inc. (2).....	3,029,562	8.3%
Clearbridge Investments LLC (3).....	2,522,898	6.9%
Macquarie Group Limited (4).....	2,315,573	6.3%
Directors (except Messrs. Barber and Engquist)		
Bruce C. Bruckmann (5).....	1,047,173	2.9%
Paul N. Arnold (6)	74,207	*
Gary W. Bagley (6)	54,151	*
Lawrence C. Karlson (7)	49,547	*
Patrick L. Edsell (8).....	36,162	*
Thomas J. Galligan III (6)	35,962	*
Mary P. Thompson (6)	11,419	*
Jacob Thomas (6).....	3,634	*
Suzanne H. Wood (6).....	1,767	*
Named Executive Officers		
John M. Engquist (9)	2,478,599	6.8%
Bradley W. Barber (9)	196,653	*
Leslie S. Magee (9).....	136,019	*
John McDowell Engquist (9).....	447,290	*
All executive officers and directors as a group (13 persons)	4,572,583	12.5%

* Less than 1%.

- (1) The shares reported herein are beneficially owned by The Vanguard Group (“Vanguard”). Shares beneficially owned is based solely on the Schedule 13G amendment filed with the SEC on February 13, 2024 by Vanguard, which provides beneficial ownership as of December 31, 2023. Vanguard has sole dispositive power with respect to 3,706,754 shares. The address of Vanguard is 100 Vanguard Blvd., Malvern, PA 19355.
- (2) The shares reported herein are beneficially owned by BlackRock, Inc. (“BlackRock”). Shares beneficially owned is based solely on the Schedule 13G amendment filed with the SEC on January 25, 2024 by BlackRock, which provides beneficial ownership as of December 31, 2023. BlackRock has sole dispositive power with respect to 3,029,562 shares and sole voting power with respect to 2,944,041 shares. The address of BlackRock is 55 East 52nd Street, New York, NY 10055.
- (3) The shares reported herein are beneficially owned by Clearbridge Investments, LLC (“Clearbridge”). Shares beneficially owned is based solely on the Schedule 13G amendment filed with the SEC on February 9, 2024 by Clearbridge, which provides beneficial ownership as of December 31, 2023. Clearbridge has sole dispositive power with respect to 2,522,898 shares and sole voting power with respect to 2,522,380 shares. The address of Clearbridge is 620 8th Avenue, New York, NY 10018.
- (4) The shares reported herein are based solely on the Schedule 13G jointly filed on February 14, 2024 by Macquarie Group Limited, Macquarie Management Holdings Inc., and Macquarie Investment Management Business Trust, which provides beneficial ownership as of December 31, 2023. Macquarie Investment Management Holdings Inc. has sole voting and sole dispositive power with respect to 2,315,573 shares. The principal business address of Macquarie Group Limited is 50 Martin Place Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. The principal business address of Macquarie Investment Management Holdings Inc. and Macquarie Investment Management Business Trust is 610 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106.
- (5) Includes the February 1, 2024 restricted stock grant of 1,767 shares, which vested immediately upon issuance. Also includes 73,344 shares held in a trust for the benefit of Mr. Bruckmann’s children, for which he is not a trustee, and 171,882 shares held in another trust for the benefit of Mr. Bruckmann’s children, for which he is not a trustee. Mr. Bruckmann expressly disclaims beneficial ownership of all shares except those owned by him directly.
- (6) Includes the February 1, 2024 restricted stock grant of 1,767 shares, which vested immediately upon issuance.
- (7) Includes the February 1, 2024 restricted stock grant of 1,767 shares, which vested immediately upon issuance. Also includes 2,875 shares held by Mr. Karlson’s spouse.
- (8) Includes the February 1, 2024 restricted stock grant of 1,767 shares, which vested immediately upon issuance. Also includes 200 shares held by Mr. Edsell’s domestic partner.

- (9) Includes the following restricted stock grants: (a) August 2, 2021: 13,999 shares, 15,797 shares, 8,580 shares and 5,971 shares to Mr. Engquist, Mr. Barber, Ms. Magee and Mr. Engquist (McDowell), respectively; (b) August 1, 2022: 31,240 shares, 44,909 shares, 18,657 shares and 14,075 shares to Mr. Engquist, Mr. Barber, Ms. Magee and Mr. Engquist (McDowell), respectively; and (c) August 1, 2023: 9,806 shares, 34,993 shares, 6,545 shares and 4,800 shares to Mr. Engquist, Mr. Barber, Ms. Magee and Mr. Engquist (McDowell), respectively. The shares for each stock grant vest over a three-year period and are subject to certain restrictions, as described in the recipient's applicable Restricted Stock Grant Award Letter.

DELINQUENT SECTION 16(a) REPORTS

The rules of the SEC require the Company to disclose late filings of stock transaction reports by its executive officers and directors and by certain beneficial owners of the Company's common stock. Based on our records and other information, we believe that each of our officers who are subject to Section 16(a), directors and certain beneficial owners of the Company's common stock complied with all Section 16(a) filing requirements applicable to them during 2023 on a timely basis.

The reports (Forms 3, 4 and 5) filed under Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act reflecting transactions in Company securities are posted on our Internet website by the end of the business day after the report's filing.

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

The information contained in this report shall not be deemed to be "soliciting material" or "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Exchange Act or otherwise subject to liability under that Section. This report shall not be deemed "incorporated by reference" into any document filed under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), or the Exchange Act, whether such filing occurs before or after the date hereof, regardless of any general incorporation language in such filings, except to the extent that the Company specifically incorporates it by reference.

The Audit Committee assists the Board in meeting its oversight responsibility to stockholders, potential stockholders, the investment community and others. The Audit Committee's function is one of oversight, recognizing that management is responsible for preparing the Company's financial statements, and the independent registered public accounting firm is responsible for auditing those statements. Management of the Company is responsible for (1) the preparation, presentation, and integrity of the Company's financial statements; (2) the appropriateness of the accounting principles and reporting policies that are used by the Company; (3) establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting, as such term is defined in the Exchange Act; and (4) maintaining adequate disclosure controls and procedures, as such term is defined by the Exchange Act. The Company's independent registered public accounting firm is responsible for (1) auditing the Company's annual consolidated financial statements in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) and expressing an opinion on the conformity of those consolidated financial statements with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP"); (2) auditing and attesting to the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on criteria established in *Internal Control – Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (the "COSO criteria"); and (3) reviewing the Company's unaudited interim condensed consolidated financial statements. The Audit Committee's primary responsibility is to oversee the Company's financial reporting process on behalf of the Board and report the results of its activities to the Board. The Audit Committee additionally oversees risks relating to or arising from financial and disclosure controls and procedures, cybersecurity and accounting and other financial matters. It is not the Audit Committee's duty or responsibility to conduct auditing or accounting reviews or procedures. In performing its oversight function, the Audit Committee relies, without independent verification, on the information provided to it and on the representations made by management and the Company's independent registered public accounting firm. The Audit Committee will however take the appropriate actions to set the overall corporate "tone" for quality financial reporting, sound business risk practices, and ethical behavior.

The Audit Committee is directly responsible for the selection of the independent registered public accounting firm to be retained to audit the Company's consolidated financial statements and internal control over financial reporting, and once retained, the independent registered public accounting firm reports directly to the Audit Committee. The independent registered public accounting firm is ultimately accountable to the Audit Committee and the Board. In connection with the decision regarding whether to re-appoint the independent auditor each year (subject to stockholder ratification), the Audit Committee conducts an annual assessment of the independent auditor's performance, including with respect to the independent auditor's qualifications and experience, the communication and interactions with the auditor over the course of the previous year and the auditor's independence, objectivity and professional skepticism. The Audit Committee consults with and reviews recommendations made by the independent registered public accounting firm with respect to the Company's consolidated financial statements and related disclosures and internal control over financial reporting of the Company and makes recommendations to the Board as it deems appropriate from time to time. The Audit Committee is responsible for approving both audit and non-audit services to be provided by the independent registered public accounting firm. The Audit Committee is currently composed of three directors, all three of whom the Board has determined to be

independent as that term is defined by applicable NASDAQ listing standards and SEC rules. The Board has determined, in accordance with applicable NASDAQ listing standards, that Messrs. Edsell and Galligan and Ms. Thompson and Wood are audit committee financial experts, as defined in Item 407(d)(5) of Regulation S-K of the Exchange Act. The Audit Committee operates under a written charter adopted by the Board, which is available on the Company's Internet website at www.he-equipment.com. The Audit Committee charter is reviewed on an annual basis by the Audit Committee and is subject to amendment from time to time.

The Audit Committee meets with management periodically to consider the adequacy of the Company's internal controls, and discusses these matters with the Company's independent registered public accounting firm. The Audit Committee also discusses with senior management the Company's disclosure controls and procedures, cybersecurity and accounting matters. The Audit Committee's oversight of the independent registered public accounting firm includes resolution of disagreements between management and the independent registered public accounting firm regarding financial reporting.

As it pertains to cybersecurity, the Audit Committee is responsible for oversight and governance related to our cybersecurity processes and risk management. The Company's Chief Information Officer reports the results of the annual comprehensive risk assessment, including the evaluation of cybersecurity risks, the actions taken to mitigate these risks and an analysis of cybersecurity threats and incidents across the industry to the Board of Directors on an annual basis and reports cybersecurity risk updates to the Audit Committee on a semi-annual basis, or more frequently should a cybersecurity risk or event emerge requiring additional communication. The Audit Committee will report on the cybersecurity risk updates it receives from the Chief Information Officer to the Board of Directors or as needed have the Chief Information Officer report subsequently to the full Board of Directors.

In fulfilling its oversight responsibilities, the Audit Committee reviewed and discussed the Company's quarterly earnings releases, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the periods ended March 31, 2023, June 30, 2023 and September 30, 2023, and the audited consolidated financial statements in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2023 with management and the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, which included a discussion of the quality, not just the acceptability, of the accounting principles, the reasonableness of significant judgments and the clarity of disclosures in the consolidated financial statements.

The Audit Committee also discussed with management and the independent registered public accounting firm the Company's internal control over financial reporting. The Audit Committee has also received from, and discussed with, the Company's independent registered public accounting firm the matters required to be discussed by Public Company Accounting Oversight Board Auditing Standard No. 16 (Communications with Audit Committees). The Audit Committee received the written disclosures and the letter from the Company's independent registered public accounting firm required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent registered public accounting firm's communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence. In addition, the Audit Committee discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm its independence, including the compatibility of any non-audit services with the independent registered public accounting firm's independence.

The Audit Committee discussed with the Company's independent registered public accounting firm the overall scope and plans for its 2023 audit. The Audit Committee met with the independent registered public accounting firm, with and without management present, to discuss the year 2023 results of its consolidated financial statement audit, its audit of the Company's internal controls over financial reporting and the overall quality of the Company's financial reporting. Both the Director of Internal Audit and the independent registered public accounting firm have direct access to the Audit Committee at any time on any issue of their choosing, and the Audit Committee has the same direct access to the Director of Internal Audit and the independent registered public accounting firm, with and without management present, to discuss the results of their examinations, their evaluations of the Company's internal controls, and the overall quality of the Company's financial reporting.

In reliance on the reviews and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023 be included in the 2023 Annual Report on Form 10-K for filing with the SEC.

The Audit Committee has appointed the firm of BDO USA, P.C. as independent registered public accounting firm to audit and report upon the Company's consolidated financial statements and internal control over financial reporting for the year ending December 31, 2024. In making this selection, the Audit Committee has considered whether BDO USA, P.C.'s provision of services other than audit services is compatible with maintaining their independence.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Patrick L. Edsell, Chairman
Thomas J. Galligan III
Mary P. Thompson
Suzanne H. Wood

ITEM 2 - RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

The Audit Committee has appointed BDO USA, P.C. as the independent registered public accounting firm to audit the Company's consolidated financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2024 and internal control over financial reporting. Although action by the stockholders on this matter is not required under Delaware law or the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, as amended, or the rules of the SEC promulgated thereunder, the Audit Committee and the Board of Directors believe it is appropriate to seek stockholder ratification of this appointment in light of the role played by the independent registered public accounting firm in reporting on the Company's consolidated financial statements. Ratification requires the affirmative vote of a majority of eligible shares present at the Annual Meeting, in person or by proxy, and voting thereon. If this appointment is not ratified by the stockholders, the Audit Committee may reconsider its appointment. One or more representatives of BDO USA, P.C. are expected to attend the Annual Meeting. They will have an opportunity to make a statement if they desire to do so and will be available to respond to appropriate questions.

The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR ratification of the appointment of BDO USA, P.C. as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2024.

Principal Accountant Fees and Services

The aggregate fees billed by our independent registered public accounting firm for professional services rendered in connection with (i) the audit of our consolidated financial statements as set forth in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, (ii) the review of our quarterly consolidated financial statements as set forth in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for each of our quarters during 2023 and 2022, and (iii) the 2023 and 2022 audit of our internal control over financial reporting with the objective of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects, as well as any fees paid to our independent registered public accounting firm for audit-related work, tax compliance, tax planning and other consulting services are set forth in the table below:

	2023	2022
Audit Fees (1).....	\$ 1,009,000	\$ 844,500
Audit-Related Fees (2)	491,380	255,000
Tax Fees	—	—
All Other Fees	—	—
	<u>\$ 1,500,380</u>	<u>\$ 1,099,500</u>

(1) Represents audit fees and expenses for professional services provided in connection with the annual audit of our consolidated financial statements and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, the review of our quarterly consolidated financial statements and audit services provided in connection with other regulatory filings.

(2) Consists of accounting due diligence services in connection with acquisitions and potential acquisitions.

Pre-approval of services

All audit and permissible non-audit services provided by the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, BDO USA, P.C., require pre-approval by the Audit Committee in accordance with the Audit Committee Charter. The Company's Audit Committee approves the independent registered public accounting firm's engagement prior to the independent registered public accounting firm rendering any non-audit services. The Audit Committee pre-approved 100% of the 2023 and 2022 fees.

ESG HIGHLIGHTS

Environmental stewardship, social responsibility and transparent governance are important to our business, senior management and Board of Directors, all of whom are committed to advancing ESG throughout our business. The ESG Committee of the Board of Directors has oversight of ESG matters. At the operational level, a cross-functional ESG task force of senior management leads work to develop and integrate ESG policies, programs and practices across the Company. During 2022, we engaged an external resource to begin initial development of an ESG strategy and ESG programs and policies that will serve as a blueprint to guide our progress going

forward, and during 2023 we continued to work with them on building our ESG framework. Additionally in 2023, we published an ESG page on our Company’s web page as part of our commitment to advancing our ESG reporting and disclosures to customers, manufacturers, and investors alike. This work will build upon practices and initiatives already in place at H&E that include:

- A safety culture built on our LIVESAFE program, which focuses on employee safety at work, home and play; extensive safety training and incentive programs to reward outstanding safety behavior. Utilizing Occupational Safety and Health Administration (“OSHA”) standard metrics, in 2023 our lost time incident rate was 0.10 and our total reportable incident rate was 0.98.
- A commitment to inclusion and diversity that reflects the customers we serve and the communities where we operate. Our efforts focus on hiring and supporting all groups, including historically underrepresented groups. As of December 31, 2023, approximately 29% of our workforce were people of color and 14% of our workforce are female. During 2023, we partnered with the Department of Defense’s SkillBridge Program, which provides service members with the opportunity to participate in industry training programs while transitioning out of their military careers. We intend to continue these and other efforts to further diversify our team as we build a more inclusive workplace.
- A package of competitive and comprehensive benefits for our employees to help ensure their wellbeing in all aspects of their life.
- A full suite of skill development and professional advancement opportunities to help our employees realize their full potential and to increase retention that supports better business competitiveness and performance. On an annual basis, our full-time employees average 54 hours of training and development per year.
- A commitment to environmental stewardship and compliance that includes capitalizing on opportunities to reduce our environmental footprint when possible. Our battery and electricity powered equipment currently comprise 34% of the units we rent as of December 31, 2023. Our environmentally friendly fleet includes a range of battery-powered and hybrid equipment such as scissor lifts, boom lifts and material handling equipment.
- A generous spirit that compels us to give back to the community through philanthropy, educational outreach, community outreach and awareness programs, product donations and volunteer time.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The information contained in this report shall not be deemed to be “soliciting material” or “filed” for purposes of Section 18 of the Exchange Act or otherwise subject to liability under that Section. This report shall not be deemed “incorporated by reference” into any document filed under the Securities Act, or the Exchange Act, whether such filing occurs before or after the date hereof, regardless of any general incorporation language in such filings, except to the extent that the Company specifically incorporates it by reference.

The Compensation Committee of the Company has reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis required by Item 402(b) of Regulation S-K of the Exchange Act with management and, based on such review and discussion, the Compensation Committee recommended to the Board that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in the Company’s Proxy Statement for the 2024 Annual Meeting.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

Paul N. Arnold, Chairman
Patrick L. Edsell
Thomas J. Galligan III
Lawrence C. Karlson

Compensation Discussion and Analysis

This Compensation Discussion and Analysis (“CD&A”) provides an overview of the Company’s executive compensation program together with a description of the material factors underlying the decisions which resulted in the compensation provided to the Company’s Executive Chairman of the Board (“Executive Chairman”), Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”), Chief Financial Officer and Secretary (“CFO”) and Chief Operating Officer and President (“COO”) (collectively, the named executive officers (“NEOs”)) for 2023 (as presented in the tables which follow this CD&A). The Company did not have any other executive officers during the year ended December 31, 2023.

Executive Summary

The Company's executive compensation program is designed to attract, retain and motivate a team of highly qualified senior executives who will promote both the near-term and long-term interests of our stockholders, while simultaneously discouraging excessive risk-taking by the Company's management. The Company seeks to achieve these goals by compensating our executives through a combination of base salary, annual cash bonus opportunities and long-term equity incentive awards. The Company is committed to linking pay to performance on an individual and company-wide basis. As a result, the Company generally does not enter into employment, change in control or severance agreements with our senior executives and does not provide supplemental executive retirement benefits (other than NEO participation in a Company-sponsored 401(k) plan and accelerated vesting of certain equity awards made to NEOs upon a change in control), which the Company generally believes to be inconsistent with a performance-oriented approach to compensation.

The Company's compensation policies and decisions during fiscal year 2023 were influenced by a variety of factors, including the macroeconomic conditions within our industry and market, including the NEO's individual experience, level of responsibility and performance as part of the Company's senior management team, the recommendation of our Executive Chairman (as applicable) and the Pearl Meyer Study (as defined below), as well as the continued achievements of the Company and executive management team as a whole, including in such areas as operations, cash management, asset management, strategic acquisitions and transactions and their integration, new branch openings and the Company's other strategic growth initiatives. Based on these factors, the Compensation Committee (the "Committee") approved salary increases for the CEO, COO and CFO and bonuses for 2023 for each of the NEOs (as further described below).

Compensation Committee

The Committee is currently composed of four non-employee directors, each of whom is an independent director under the NASDAQ listing standards and the SEC rules. The Committee has responsibility for determining and implementing the Company's philosophy with respect to executive compensation. Accordingly, the Committee has overall responsibility for approving and evaluating the various components of the Company's executive compensation program. The Committee meets at least twice per year (and more often as necessary) to discuss and review the compensation of the NEOs. The Committee annually reviews and approves the compensation of the CEO, Executive Chairman, CFO and COO. In establishing and reviewing compensation for the NEOs, the Committee considers, among other things, the financial results of the Company, recommendations of management, and financial and compensation data for comparable companies.

Beginning in 2014, the Committee engaged Pearl Meyer as the Committee's independent compensation consultant with respect to compensation matters, and the Committee continued to engage Pearl Meyer during fiscal year 2023. In connection with its engagement by the Committee, Pearl Meyer prepared a compensation study that encompassed all areas of compensation, including salary ranges, bonus plans and long-term incentives (as amended and supplemented, the "Pearl Meyer Study"). Pearl Meyer continued to update and refine its study from time to time at the request of the Compensation Committee. As described below in further detail, the Committee referred to the Pearl Meyer Study in determining 2023 annual bonus opportunities for the NEOs.

The Committee operates under a written charter adopted by the Board of Directors of the Company, which is annually reviewed by the Committee. A copy of this charter is available on our Internet website at www.he-equipment.com.

Executive Compensation Philosophy and Objectives

The Committee's goals in structuring the Company's compensation program for its NEOs are to:

- provide incentives to achieve Company financial objectives;
- provide long-term incentives for the executive officers;
- set compensation levels competitively to attract and retain highly-qualified executives and to motivate them to contribute to the Company's success; and
- align the interests of executives with the interests of our stockholders.

The Committee has determined that to achieve these objectives, the Company's executive compensation program should reward both individual and Company short-term and long-term performance. To this end, the Committee believes that executive compensation arrangements provided by the Company to its executive officers should generally include both cash and stock-based compensation. The Committee has increased the percentage of stock awards to be more heavily weighted to performance based awards, rather than time based awards, and will continue to analyze the appropriate mix of time and performance based stock awards. However, the Committee does not rely on any policy or formula in determining the appropriate mix of cash and equity compensation, nor does it rely on any policy or formula in allocating long-term compensation to different forms of awards.

Setting Executive Compensation; Processes; Role of Management

A complete description of the Committee's processes and the role of executives in setting compensation can be found earlier in this Proxy Statement in the section entitled "Corporate Governance — Committees of the Board of Directors — Compensation Committee."

The Committee also considers corporate performance, the collective performance of the executive management team, an executive's level of experience and responsibility and an executive's current and past compensation levels. In addition, the Committee reviews market data for comparable companies to develop a general sense of executive compensation levels at companies with which the Company believes it competes when hiring management employees.

In determining annual bonuses for the NEOs in 2023, the Committee also took into account the Pearl Meyer Study, which provided compensation data for comparable companies. While the Committee considers the Pearl Meyer Study in establishing the compensation for the NEOs as a general check to ensure reasonable market comparability, it does not attempt to expressly benchmark any element of compensation or mix of compensation against any specific peer group of companies or any specific percentile within any such peer group. However, the Committee does periodically review information regarding compensation trends and levels from a variety of sources in making compensation decisions, including supplemental information from Pearl Meyer.

Although the advisory stockholder vote on executive compensation is non-binding, the Committee also considered, and will continue to consider, the outcome of the vote when making compensation decisions for the NEOs. At the 2023 Annual Meeting of Stockholders held on May 12, 2023, approximately 87% of the affirmative votes of shares present, in person or by Proxy and entitled to vote on the matter at the Annual Meeting. The Committee believes that the results of the say-on-pay vote constitute compelling evidence of strong stockholder support of the Company's existing compensation philosophy and objectives and the Committee's actions and decisions with respect to NEO compensation, and, therefore, the Committee did not make material changes to its compensation philosophy and objectives as a result of such vote. The Company currently holds a say-on-pay vote on an annual basis in accordance with the preference expressed by our stockholders at our 2023 Annual Meeting.

Clawback Policy

On October 2, 2023, the Board of Directors adopted a Clawback Policy intended to comply with the listing requirements of the NASDAQ. The Clawback Policy requires the Company to clawback erroneously awarded incentive compensation "received" (i.e., earned) by the covered officers during the three fiscal years that precede the date on which the Company determines it is required to prepare a "Big R" or "little r" accounting restatement. The Clawback Policy applies to those officers who are subject to Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act and applies to incentive-based compensation (i.e., compensation that is earned in whole or in part based on the attainment of financial performance measures). A copy of the Clawback Policy is included as an exhibit in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2023.

2023 Executive Compensation Components

The Company's executive compensation program is composed of three principal components:

- base salary;
- cash bonuses; and
- long-term incentives, consisting of equity awards.

In making decisions with respect to any element of an NEO's compensation, the Committee considers the total current compensation that such NEO may be awarded. The Committee's goal is to provide compensation that is reasonable in relation to the Company's compensation philosophy and objectives when all elements of potential compensation are considered.

The Company generally does not employ senior executives pursuant to employment agreements, and none of the NEOs currently has an employment contract. However, the Company entered into restrictive covenant agreements during 2015 with each of Mr. Barber and Ms. Magee and during 2022 with Mr. Engquist (McDowell). Each of the restrictive covenant agreements provides that, during the NEO's employment with the Company and for a period of 12 months following a termination of employment for any reason, the executive will not engage in any business that competes with the business of the Company, solicit customers or other business relationships of the Company or its affiliates or solicit the services of any person who was an employee or independent contractor of the Company within six months prior to such solicitation. The restrictive covenant agreements also include an assignment of intellectual property rights in favor of the Company and, during employment and for an indefinite period thereafter, require the executive to keep confidential any confidential information relating to the Company or its affiliates and cooperate in Company-related litigation. The agreements also prohibit the executives from making remarks that disparage the Company and its

affiliates during employment and for an indefinite period thereafter. In consideration for their entering into the restrictive covenant agreements, Mr. Barber and Ms. Magee each received a one-time grant of restricted stock.

Base Salaries

In General. The Company provides NEOs with base salaries as a component of total remuneration to compensate them for services rendered during the relevant fiscal year. In determining base salaries, the Committee takes into account several factors, including:

- historical information regarding compensation previously paid to NEOs;
- the individual executive’s experience and level of responsibility; and
- the performance of the Company and the executive management team.

In addition, the Committee considers base salaries paid by comparable companies. As noted above, the Committee uses peer group data in a general sense to gauge the range of base salary levels of executive officers of such peer group companies in order to assess the reasonableness of the base salaries of the NEOs and does not engage in benchmarking.

In the absence of a promotion or special circumstances, the Committee reviews and approves executive salaries on an annual basis.

Consideration of 2023 Base Salaries. The Committee considered the following factors in setting the NEOs’ base salaries for 2023: the macroeconomic conditions within our industry and market; the Company’s long-term incentive plan design; the mix of cash compensation and long-term equity compensation; the NEOs’ individual experience, level of responsibility and performance as part of the Company’s senior management team; the collective performance of the executive management team as a whole, including in the areas of operations, cash management, asset management, strategic transactions and their integration, new branch openings and the Company’s other growth initiatives; the recommendations of the Executive Chairman for the other NEOs; and the Pearl Meyer Study. Additionally, the Committee considered the changes to the management team of the Company in accordance with its succession plan. Based on these factors, the Committee approved increases in base salary for 2023 for the CEO in an amount of approximately 15%, for the CFO in an amount of approximately 4% and for the COO in an amount of approximately 5%. The following table sets forth the NEOs’ base salaries for 2023 and compares them with the NEOs’ base salaries for 2022:

Executive	2023 Base Salary	As Compared to 2022 Base Salary
John M. Engquist	\$ 893,000	no increase from \$893,000
Bradley W. Barber ⁽¹⁾	\$ 975,000	\$125,000 or approximately 15%, increase from \$850,000
Leslie S. Magee.....	\$ 524,500	\$20,500 or approximately 4%, increase from \$504,000
John McDowell Engquist.....	\$ 504,000	\$24,000 or approximately 5%, increase from \$480,000

⁽¹⁾ Mr. Barber’s 2023 base salary was effective as of July 1, 2023.

Annual Bonuses

In General. Annual cash bonuses are included as part of the executive compensation program because the Committee believes that a significant portion of each NEO’s compensation should be contingent on the annual performance of the Company, as well as the collective annual performance of the executive management team. The Committee believes that this structure is appropriate because it aligns the interests of management and stockholders by rewarding executives for strong annual performance by the Company.

The NEOs are eligible for an annual bonus payable at the discretion of the Committee. In determining bonuses, the Committee typically takes into account bonus guidelines that are determined by the Committee in consultation with the Executive Chairman. The guidelines, if adopted, are based on the Company’s achievement of financial targets. The Committee reviews and approves these guidelines after discussion and in consultation with the Executive Chairman. Actual bonus amounts may differ from those provided under the guidelines since the Committee retains full discretion in determining annual bonuses.

After the close of a fiscal year, the Committee generally determines and approves the amount of the annual bonus earned by each NEO for such fiscal year. The bonus is typically paid in February or March following the fiscal year to which the annual bonus relates. At the discretion of the Committee, a portion of the bonus may be deferred, which deferred portion generally will be paid in two equal annual installments over the following two years and accrue interest at the prime rate, which is reset annually each January 1st to the rate then in effect. The Committee determined that a portion of the 2023 discretionary bonuses for the NEOs would be deferred.

Consideration of 2023 Annual Bonus. For fiscal year 2023, the Committee approved bonus guidelines for the NEOs based on the Company’s achievement of specified threshold and target levels of earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization

(EBITDA) and Rental Gross Profit, with a minimum return on gross net assets (ROGNA) level being obtained. For the Committee's purposes, ROGNA is defined as income (loss) from continuing operations before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization adjusted for non-recurring items (or Adjusted EBITDA) divided by the sum of the average of gross rental equipment, gross property and equipment and net working capital. The Committee has determined these financial objectives to be the appropriate metrics to use for the 2023 bonus guidelines because EBITDA and Rental Gross Profit are familiar to and targeted by the executive management team and because ROGNA is a metric that demonstrates management's efficiency at managing assets and costs to generate earnings. These financial objectives are also consistent with the Committee's compensation philosophy of linking executive performance to the Company's financial performance.

Under the 2023 bonus guidelines, separate bonus amounts were calculated based on actual EBITDA and Rental Gross Profit levels, as compared to target EBITDA and Rental Gross Profit levels approved by the Committee, provided that a minimum ROGNA level was required to be obtained before any bonus was paid. The Committee believes that a minimum ROGNA level underscores the importance of the NEO's continued management of Company assets. The bonus ranges based on EBITDA were given a weight of 65% and the bonus ranges based on Rental Gross Profit were given a weight of 35% in determining the recommended bonus amount. The Committee believes the relative weight was appropriate to motivate management to achieve EBITDA at or above the budgeted level, while at the same time managing Company assets. Bonus amounts are calculated as a percentage of base salary and increase incrementally based on increases in EBITDA and Rental Gross Profit as compared to the target EBITDA and Rental Gross Profit levels.

Under the 2023 guidelines, Mr. Engquist had a target bonus of 100% of his base salary and a maximum bonus potential of 200% of his base salary, while Mr. Barber, Ms. Magee and Mr. Engquist (McDowell) had target bonuses of 100%, 70% and 75% of their respective base salaries, respectively, and maximum bonus potentials of 200%, 140% and 150% of their respective base salaries, respectively. The Committee felt that these bonus ranges were set at a level that appropriately reflected the Company's budgeted targets and the economic landscape. The Company does not publicly disclose specific internal income or operation objectives due to the competitive nature of its industry. In addition, specific targets under the management incentive guidelines are not disclosed because (i) the Committee has discretion with respect to the guidelines and (ii) such disclosure would signal where the Company places its strategic focus and would impair the Company's ability to gain a competitive advantage from its business plan. In addition, disclosing short-term compensation objectives would contradict the Company's long-term financial focus and could result in confusion for investors.

As described above, based upon the Company's 2023 performance, the Committee determined to pay discretionary cash bonuses to each of Messrs. Engquist, Barber and Engquist (McDowell) and Ms. Magee in February 2024. The Committee approved 2023 discretionary cash bonuses of \$1,542,817, \$1,684,487, \$634,317 and \$653,063 for Mr. Engquist, Mr. Barber, Ms. Magee and Mr. Engquist (McDowell), respectively (or approximately 173%, 186%, 121% and 130%, respectively, of their respective base salaries). The Committee determined that the bonus amounts for Messrs. Engquist, Barber and Engquist (McDowell) and Ms. Magee were appropriate in light of the Company's overall performance and in consideration of each executive's contributions to this performance. The Committee determined to pay the Executive Chairman's, CEO's, CFO's and COO's 2023 discretionary bonuses of \$893,000, \$975,000, \$367,150 and \$378,000, respectively, in cash in February 2024 and the remainder in equal installments during the first quarter of 2024 and 2025, respectively, subject to accrued interest at the prime rate. Prior year deferred discretionary cash bonus payments, including interest, to the Executive Chairman, CEO, CFO and COO of \$515,707, \$490,875, \$203,742 and \$207,900, respectively, were paid in cash in February 2024.

Long-Term Incentives

In General. The Committee believes that NEOs should be compensated in part with equity interests in the Company in order to more closely align the long-term interests of stockholders and executives. The Committee also believes that equity awards are an important means of attracting and retaining qualified executives. Accordingly, the Committee provides long-term incentives by means of periodic grants of stock awards under the 2016 Incentive Plan. Stock awards available under the 2016 Incentive Plan include restricted stock, restricted stock units, stock options, deferred stock and other stock-based awards.

All grants of equity compensation to NEOs are made by the Committee, and the Committee determines the size of long-term incentive awards in its discretion based upon a number of factors. The Committee's decisions regarding whether grants are made and the type and size of any grants may be based upon Company performance, performance of the executive management team, performance of an individual NEO, position held, years of service, level of experience and potential of future contribution to the Company's success, recommendations of the Executive Chairman, and the Pearl Meyer Study or any other compensation study prepared by the Committee's independent compensation consultant in the future. In making decisions about future grants, the Committee may also consider long-term incentive grants previously awarded to the NEOs, long-term incentive grants given to other executive officers throughout the Company's history and grant practices at comparable companies.

2023 Time-Based Restricted Stock Grants (“Restricted Stock”). For 2023, the Committee approved grants of time-based restricted stock as follows, effective August 1, 2023: Mr. Engquist — 9,806 shares; Mr. Barber — 34,993 shares; Ms. Magee — 6,545 shares; and Mr. Engquist (McDowell) — 4,800 shares. When awarding grants to the NEOs, the Committee considered a variety of factors, as discussed above, including the performance of the executive management team and management’s leadership during the macroeconomic conditions in our industry and market.

Each of these awards vests in equal annual installments on the first, second and third anniversaries of the date of grant, conditioned on the executive’s continued employment with the Company on the applicable vesting date. The Committee believes that this vesting schedule serves to motivate and retain the recipients, providing continuing benefits to the Company beyond those achieved in the year of grant. Each of the awards granted to Messrs. Engquist, Barber and Engquist (McDowell) and Ms. Magee will also vest in full upon a change in control of the Company, as described in more detail below under the heading “— Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control.”

Under the terms of these awards, in the event that an NEO’s employment with the Company is terminated for any reason, such NEO will forfeit all of his or her unvested shares of restricted stock. In addition, in the event that an NEO’s employment with the Company is terminated for cause, such NEO will forfeit all of his or her vested and unvested shares of restricted stock.

2023 Performance-Based Restricted Stock Unit Grants (“RSU”). In 2015, the Committee introduced a new component of its long-term equity-based incentive program by making grants of restricted stock units, or RSUs, the vesting of which is based entirely upon the achievement of performance goals, as described below. The purpose of granting performance-based RSUs was to more closely align the interests of the Company’s NEOs with its stockholders, while being mindful of creating inappropriate incentives for executives to engage in excessive risk-taking, by increasing the role that long-term equity incentives play in the Company’s overall compensation program and making such equity incentives subject to the achievement of the Company’s financial performance over a three-year period.

For 2023, the Committee approved grants of RSUs with target share amounts as follows, effective August 1, 2023: Mr. Engquist — 14,709 shares; Mr. Barber — 39,110 shares; Ms. Magee — 9,818 shares; and Mr. Engquist (McDowell) — 7,756 shares. When awarding grants of RSUs to the NEOs, the Committee considered a variety of factors, as discussed above with respect to the restricted stock component.

The RSUs may vest with respect to a number of shares that is between 0% and 200% of the target number of shares specified in the applicable award agreement. Vesting of RSUs occurs at the end of the three-year performance period, ending on December 31, 2025, based upon a weighted average of the Company’s achievement of pre-determined goals, during each of the three years of the performance period, with respect to the Company’s EBITDA growth (40% weighting) and ROGNA performance (60% weighting). The Committee reevaluates these components and weightings each year, and may elect to change one or more components or the associated weightings in future years in an effort to better align the quantitative goals with the plan’s purpose.

If the threshold level of performance is not achieved, none of the RSUs will vest at the end of the performance period. If the minimum threshold level of performance is achieved, 20% of the shares subject to the award will vest. If the target level of performance is achieved, 100% of the shares subject to the award will vest. If the maximum level of performance is achieved, 200% of the shares subject to the award will vest. If performance during any fiscal year falls between the minimum and target performance levels, or between the target and maximum performance levels, with respect to any of the three performance categories, the weighting for that category will be determined by linear interpolation.

Under the terms of the award agreements, at the conclusion of the performance period, the grants of RSUs shall be settled exclusively in shares of the Company. The RSU grants do not automatically vest if a change in control of the Company occurs prior to the end of the performance period. Further, if the executive’s employment terminates for any reason prior to the end of the performance period, all RSUs subject to the award will be forfeited with no compensation due to the executive.

The Committee determined the approximate amount of the long-term incentive awards and awarded shares of restricted stock and RSUs that had a fair market value on the date of grant that approximated such amount. The approximate grant date fair market value of the restricted stock and RSUs granted to each executive in 2023 are reflected in the following table:

<u>Executive</u>	<u>Restricted Stock (# shares)</u>	<u>Restricted Stock (\$ (1))</u>	<u>Minimum RSUs (#)</u>	<u>Minimum RSUs (\$ (1))</u>	<u>Target RSUs (#)</u>	<u>Target RSUs (\$ (1))</u>	<u>Maximum RSUs (#)</u>	<u>Maximum RSUs (\$ (1))</u>
John M. Engquist	9,806	476,375	2,942	142,922	14,709	714,563	29,418	1,429,126
Bradley W. Barber	34,993	1,699,960	7,822	379,993	39,110	1,899,964	78,220	3,799,928
Leslie S. Magee.....	6,545	317,956	1,964	95,411	9,818	476,958	19,636	953,917
John McDowell Engquist	4,800	233,184	1,551	75,348	7,756	376,786	15,512	753,573

(1) Dollar amount represents the fair value of shares underlying the award on August 1, 2023, the grant date of the award, based on the per-share closing price of the Company’s common stock on July 31, 2023, the last trading day immediately preceding the grant date, of \$48.58.

The Company has no formal program, plan or practice to time the grant of equity awards to its executives in coordination with the release of material non-public information.

Stock Ownership/Retention Guidelines. The Company does not require its NEOs to maintain a minimum ownership interest in the Company.

Other Compensation and Perquisite Benefits

401(k) Plan. In addition to the principal categories of compensation described above, the NEOs are eligible to participate in the Company’s broad-based health and welfare benefit plans on the same terms and conditions as are available to all employees generally, including medical, dental, disability and life insurance. The Company also sponsors a 401(k) plan. The 401(k) plan is a tax-qualified retirement savings plan pursuant to which all employees, including the NEOs, are able to contribute to the 401(k) plan up to the limit prescribed by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”). The Company makes a matching contribution of 50% of the first 10% of pay contributed by the employee to the 401(k) plan, subject to a Company match annual maximum amount. All contributions made by a participant vest immediately and matching contributions made by the Company vest over the employee’s first five years of eligible service, in annual increments of 25% beginning after the employee has completed two years of eligible service. These benefits are not tied to any individual or corporate performance objectives and are intended to be part of an overall competitive compensation program.

Other Benefits and Perquisites. The NEOs are not generally entitled to benefits that are not otherwise available to all of our employees. In this regard it should be noted that the Company does not provide pension arrangements (other than the 401(k) plan), nonqualified deferred compensation plans, post-retirement health coverage or similar benefits for its executives. However, the NEOs are entitled to short-term and long-term disability benefits, annual automobile allowances and other automobile benefits, such as fuel costs, which are noted in the “All Other Compensation” column in the Summary Compensation Table shown below.

Mr. Engquist does not receive an annual automobile allowance. Instead, Mr. Engquist is given use of an automobile which the Company purchased in 2022. The Company also provides Mr. Engquist with certain automobile benefits, such as fuel and maintenance costs, in connection with his use of this automobile. The Company and the Committee believe that the benefits described above are consistent with the goal of attracting and retaining superior executive talent. No NEO is entitled to be “grossed up” by the Company in connection with taxes incurred by the NEO in connection with the receipt of these perquisites.

Tax and Accounting Implications

Deductibility of Certain Compensation

Section 162(m) of the Code limits the amounts that may be deducted (for federal income tax purposes) by a public company for compensation paid to certain individuals to \$1,000,000, except that, in 2017 and prior years, compensation in excess of the \$1,000,000 threshold could be deducted if it met the requirements to be considered “qualifying performance-based compensation” within the meaning of Section 162(m) of the Code.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, passed by Congress in December 2017, eliminated the “performance-based” compensation exemption under Section 162(m) of the Code. Therefore, for 2018 and subsequent years, compensation paid to our CEO, our CFO, our COO and to any other NEOs (each, a “covered employee”) generally will not be deductible for federal income tax purposes to the extent such compensation exceeds \$1,000,000, regardless of whether such compensation would have been considered “performance-based” under prior law. This limitation on deductibility applies to each individual who is a “covered employee” (as defined in Section 162(m) of

the Code) in 2017 or who becomes a covered employee in any future year, and continues to apply to each such individual for all future years, regardless of whether such individual remains an NEO. There is, however, a transition rule that allows “performance-based” compensation in excess of \$1,000,000 to continue to be deductible if the remuneration is provided pursuant to a binding contract which was in effect on November 2, 2017 and which was not subsequently materially modified.

The Committee believes that our stockholders’ interests are best served by not restricting the Committee’s discretion in structuring compensation programs, and thus the Committee intends to maintain flexibility to pay compensation that is not entirely deductible when the best interests of the Company make that advisable. In approving the amount and form of compensation for the NEOs, the Committee will continue to consider all elements of the cost to the Company of providing such compensation, including the potential impact of Section 162(m) of the Code.

Section 409A

Section 409A of the Code imposes a 20% additional tax and interest on the recipient of “nonqualified deferred compensation” that fails to satisfy the requirements of Section 409A of the Code with respect to the timing of deferral elections, the timing of payments and certain other matters. Accordingly, as a general matter, the Company attempts to structure its compensation and benefit plans and arrangements for all of its employees, including the NEOs, so that they are either exempt from, or satisfy the requirements of, Section 409A of the Code. No NEO is entitled to be “grossed up” by the Company for any additional tax or interest imposed on the executive by Section 409A of the Code as a result of any compensation that is not exempt from, and does not satisfy the requirements of, Section 409A of the Code.

Section 280G

Section 280G of the Code imposes certain penalties on “excess parachute payments” made to certain executives and highly-compensated employees in connection with a change in control. Stock options or restricted stock awards that are accelerated upon the occurrence of a change in control of the Company may give rise, in whole or in part, to “excess parachute payments” within the meaning of Section 280G of the Code. The Company is not permitted to take a deduction for any “excess parachute payments” and Section 4999 of the Code imposes a 20% excise tax on the recipients of such payments. As described in more detail below under the heading “— Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control,” certain awards under the 2016 Incentive Plan to the NEOs will vest upon a change in control of the Company and, therefore, may give rise, in whole or in part, to an “excess parachute payment.” No NEO is entitled to be “grossed up” by the Company for any excise tax incurred by the NEO as a result of an “excess parachute payment.”

Accounting Implications

The Committee considers the potential accounting impact in connection with equity compensation matters; however, these considerations do not significantly affect decisions on grants of equity compensation.

Compensation Risk Assessment

The Committee conducted an assessment of risks associated with the Company’s compensation policies and practices for the year ended December 31, 2023. This assessment included the: (i) review of programs, plans, policies, procedures and practices relating to the components of executive officer and employee compensation; (ii) review of incentive-based equity and cash compensation; (iii) identification of compensation design features that could potentially encourage excessive or imprudent risk taking; (iv) identification of business risks that these features could potentially encourage; (v) consideration of the presence or absence of controls, oversight or other factors that mitigate potential risks; (vi) assessment of potential risks; and (vii) consideration of the potential for such risks to result in a material adverse effect on the Company and its subsidiaries taken as a whole. Based on the assessment and factors described above, the Committee has determined that there are no risks arising from the Company’s compensation policies and practices for its executive officers and employees that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on its business or operations.

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

None of the Company’s executives serve as a member of the board of directors or compensation committee of an entity that has an executive officer serving as a member of the Company’s Compensation Committee. None of the Company’s executives serve as a member of the compensation committee of an entity that has an executive officer serving as a member of the Company’s Board of Directors. All of the members of the Compensation Committee served on the Compensation Committee during all of the last completed fiscal year of the Company. No member of the Compensation Committee is a former or current executive officer or employee of the Company or any of its subsidiaries.

SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

The table below summarizes the total compensation paid or earned by each of our NEOs for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021.

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary (\$ (1))	Bonus (\$ (2))	Stock Awards (\$ (3))	Changes in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings (\$)	All Other Compensation (\$ (4))	Total (\$)
John M. Engquist	2023	893,000	1,542,817	1,190,938	—	89,962	3,716,717
Executive Chairman	2022	893,000	1,786,000	1,890,961	—	95,964	4,665,925
of the Board	2021	893,000	823,941	1,190,982	—	86,660	2,994,583
Bradley W. Barber	2023	907,692	1,684,487	3,599,924	—	103,733	6,295,836
Chief Executive Officer .	2022	815,308	1,700,000	2,729,978	—	89,527	5,334,813
and Director	2021	745,885	690,155	1,343,947	—	74,906	2,854,893
Leslie S. Magee	2023	523,712	634,317	794,914	—	50,209	2,003,152
Chief Financial Officer ..	2022	503,433	705,600	1,138,173	—	50,375	2,397,581
and Secretary	2021	488,702	322,742	729,943	—	46,671	1,588,058
John McDowell Engquist....	2023	503,077	653,063	609,970	—	44,847	1,810,957
Chief Operating Officer .	2022	478,308	720,000	879,950	—	43,212	2,121,470
and President	2021	436,000	306,726	507,966	—	38,146	1,288,838

- (1) Amounts represent base salaries paid for the NEOs for each applicable fiscal year before any reduction for contributions to any retirement plan of the Company.
- (2) The 2023 bonus for each NEO was paid approximately 60% in cash during the first quarter of 2024. The remaining amount is to be paid in equal installments during the first quarter of 2025 and the first quarter of 2026, together with accrued interest on the unpaid balances at the prime rate in effect on January 1st of the then-current year.

The 2022 bonus for each NEO was paid approximately 50% in cash during the first quarter of 2023. The remaining amount is to be paid in equal installments during the first quarter of 2024 and the first quarter of 2025, together with accrued interest on the unpaid balances at the prime rate in effect on January 1st of the then-current year.

The 2021 bonus was paid in cash during the first quarter of 2022.

- (3) The amounts reported for each of the NEOs in “Stock Awards” are shown below. For additional discussion of the Company’s accounting policies for restricted stock and performance-based RSUs, see Note 7 of the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Name	Year	Restricted Stock (\$ (a))	Performance-Based RSUs (\$ (b))	Total (\$)
John M. Engquist	2023	476,375	714,563	1,190,938
	2022	1,116,830	774,131	1,890,961
	2021	476,386	714,596	1,190,982
Bradley W. Barber	2023	1,699,960	1,899,964	3,599,924
	2022	1,605,497	1,124,481	2,729,978
	2021	537,572	806,375	1,343,947
Leslie S. Magee	2023	317,956	476,958	794,914
	2022	666,988	471,185	1,138,173
	2021	291,977	437,966	729,943
John McDowell Engquist	2023	233,184	376,786	609,970
	2022	503,181	376,769	879,950
	2021	203,193	304,773	507,966

(a) Amounts represent the grant date fair value (computed in accordance with ASC 718) of restricted stock granted in 2023, 2022 and 2021.

(b) Amounts represent the grant date fair value of the target number of shares underlying the performance-based RSUs granted in 2023, 2022 and 2021. Maximum grant values for performance-based RSUs granted to the NEOs in 2023, 2022 and 2021 are as follows: Mr. Engquist: \$1,429,126 (2023), \$1,548,261 (2022) and \$1,429,192 (2021); Mr. Barber: \$3,799,928 (2023),

\$2,248,961 (2022) and \$1,612,750 (2021); Ms. Magee: \$953,917 (2023), \$942,370 (2022) and \$875,932 (2021); and Mr. Engquist (McDowell): \$753,573 (2023), \$753,539 (2022) and \$609,545 (2021).

(4) The amounts reported for each of the NEOs in “All Other Compensation” are shown below:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Dividends Received on Unvested Company Stock (\$)(a)</u>	<u>Perquisites and Other Personal Benefits (\$)(b)</u>	<u>Insurance Premiums (\$)(c)</u>	<u>Company Contributions to 401(k) Plan (\$)</u>	<u>Total (\$)</u>
John M. Engquist.....	2023	47,317	31,563	4,582	6,500	89,962
	2022	50,340	34,575	4,549	6,500	95,964
	2021	49,298	26,223	4,639	6,500	86,660
Bradley W. Barber.....	2023	74,707	17,933	4,593	6,500	103,733
	2022	59,080	19,616	4,331	6,500	89,527
	2021	47,802	16,685	3,919	6,500	74,906
Leslie S. Magee.....	2023	28,465	11,997	3,247	6,500	50,209
	2022	28,918	11,893	3,064	6,500	50,375
	2021	26,045	11,133	2,993	6,500	46,671
John McDowell Engquist.....	2023	20,586	14,604	3,157	6,500	44,847
	2022	19,390	14,357	2,965	6,500	43,212
	2021	15,404	13,412	2,830	6,500	38,146

(a) Amounts represent Company common stock dividends received by the NEOs on unvested restricted stock previously granted pursuant to the 2016 Incentive Plans. The Company as a matter of practice has paid its quarterly dividends on all outstanding common stock, which includes outstanding unvested restricted stock granted to all employees of the Company (including NEOs).

(b) Amounts shown in this column include the automobile-related perquisites for each NEO as set forth in the table below.

(c) Includes payments by the Company on behalf of the NEOs of long-term disability, short-term disability and life insurance premiums.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Company Provided Automobile (\$)(d)</u>	<u>Automobile Allowance (\$)</u>	<u>Other Automobile Benefits (\$)(e)</u>	<u>Total Perquisites and Other Personal Benefits (\$)</u>
John M. Engquist.....	2023	24,900	—	6,663	31,563
	2022	24,900	—	9,675	34,575
	2021	21,200	—	5,023	26,223
Bradley W. Barber.....	2023	—	9,000	8,933	17,933
	2022	—	9,000	10,616	19,616
	2021	—	9,000	7,685	16,685
Leslie S. Magee.....	2023	—	9,000	2,997	11,997
	2022	—	9,000	2,893	11,893
	2021	—	9,000	2,133	11,133
John McDowell Engquist.....	2023	—	9,000	5,604	14,604
	2022	—	9,000	5,357	14,357
	2021	—	9,000	4,412	13,412

(d) The value of Mr. Engquist’s Company-provided automobile is calculated based on 100% of the annual lease value of the automobile.

(e) Includes fuel and maintenance costs.

2023 GRANTS OF PLAN-BASED AWARDS TABLE

The table below sets forth information regarding grants of plan-based awards made to each of the NEOs during 2023.

Name	Grant Date of Equity Award		Estimated Future Payouts under Equity Incentive Plan Awards (3)			All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares of Stock or Units (#)(4)	Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards (\$)(5)
			Threshold (#)	Target (#)	Maximum (#)		
John M. Engquist.....	08/01/23	(1)	—	—	—	9,806	476,375
	08/01/23	(2)	2,942	14,709	29,418	—	714,563
Bradley W. Barber.....	08/01/23	(1)	—	—	—	34,993	1,699,960
	08/01/23	(2)	7,822	39,110	78,220	—	1,899,964
Leslie S. Magee.....	08/01/23	(1)	—	—	—	6,545	317,956
	08/01/23	(2)	1,964	9,818	19,636	—	476,958
John McDowell.....	08/01/23	(1)	—	—	—	4,800	233,184
Engquist.....	08/01/23	(2)	1,551	7,756	15,512	—	376,786

(1) Grant of restricted stock.

(2) Grant of performance-based RSUs.

(3) These amounts represent the range of stock-based compensation that might be realized under the 2023 grants of performance-based RSUs granted under the 2016 Incentive Plan. The potential payouts are based on performance and are therefore at risk. The performance measures are based upon the Company's achievement of pre-determined goals with respect to the Company's financial performance over a three-year performance period, as described in "Compensation Discussion and Analysis – Long-Term Equity Incentives" above. The performance-based RSUs granted in 2023 will vest on December 31, 2025, subject to the level of achievement of pre-determined performance goals, and further conditioned on the NEO's continuous employment through such date. Performance-based RSUs do not automatically vest upon a "change in control" of the Company. Performance-based RSUs will be settled in shares of the Company.

(4) Represents shares of restricted stock granted in fiscal year 2023 under the 2016 Incentive Plan. One-third of the shares subject to the awards will vest on each of the first three anniversaries of the grant date, conditioned on the NEO's continued employment with the Company through the applicable vesting date.

(5) Amounts reported in this column represent, (i) with respect to each restricted stock award, the product of (x) the number of restricted shares, multiplied by (y) the per-share closing price of the Company's common stock on July 31, 2023, the last trading date immediately preceding the grant date (\$48.58), and (ii) with respect to each performance-based RSU award, the product of (x) the number of target shares underlying such award, multiplied by (y) the per-share closing price of the Company's common stock on July 31, 2023, the last trading day immediately preceding the grant date (\$48.58).

OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT FISCAL YEAR-END 2023 TABLE

The table below sets forth the number of securities underlying outstanding plan awards for each NEO as of December 31, 2023.

Name	Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (#)	Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$)(1)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (#)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (\$)(1)
John M. Engquist	4,667 (2)	244,177		
	20,827 (3)	1,089,669		
	9,806 (4)	513,050		
			20,999 (5)	1,098,668
			21,654 (6)	1,132,937
			14,709 (7)	769,575
Bradley W. Barber	5,266 (2)	275,517		
	29,940 (3)	1,566,461		
	34,993 (4)	1,830,834		
			23,696 (5)	1,239,775
			31,454 (6)	1,645,673
			39,110 (7)	2,046,235
Leslie S. Magee	2,860 (2)	149,635		
	12,438 (3)	650,756		
	6,545 (4)	342,434		
			12,870 (5)	673,358
			13,180 (6)	689,578
			9,818 (7)	513,678
John McDowell Engquist	1,991 (2)	104,169		
	9,384 (3)	490,971		
	4,800 (4)	251,136		
			8,956 (5)	468,578
			10,539 (6)	551,400
			7,756 (7)	405,794

- (1) Dollar values are based on the closing price of the Company's common stock on December 29, 2023, the last trading day of 2023, or \$52.32 per share.
- (2) Represents restricted stock grants made on August 2, 2021 under the 2016 Incentive Plan. The number of shares that will vest based on each NEO's continued employment and the applicable vesting dates are reported in the supplemental table below.
- (3) Represents restricted stock grants made on August 1, 2022 under the 2016 Incentive Plan. The number of shares that will vest based on each NEO's continued employment and the applicable vesting dates are reported in the supplemental table below.
- (4) Represents restricted stock grants made on August 1, 2023 under the 2016 Incentive Plan. The number of shares that will vest based on each NEO's continued employment and the applicable vesting dates are reported in the supplemental table below.
- (5) Represents the target number of performance-based restricted stock units granted on August 2, 2021 under the 2016 Incentive Plan. The actual number of shares that vest in accordance with such award is subject to the level of achievement and calculation finalization of certain performance goals over a three-year performance period ending December 31, 2023, as described in "—Long Term Incentives—2021 Performance-Based Restricted Stock Unit Grants" in the Company's 2021 Proxy Statement.
- (6) Represents the target number of performance-based restricted stock units granted on August 1, 2022 under the 2016 Incentive Plan. The actual number of shares that vest in accordance with such award is subject to the level of achievement of certain performance goals over a three-year performance period ending December 31, 2024, as described in "—Long Term Incentives—2022 Performance-Based Restricted Stock Unit Grants" in the Company's 2022 Proxy Statement.
- (7) Represents the target number of performance-based restricted stock units granted on August 1, 2023 under the 2016 Incentive Plan. The actual number of shares that vest in accordance with such award is subject to the level of achievement of certain performance goals over a three-year performance period ending December 31, 2025, as described above in "—Long Term Incentives—2023 Performance-Based Restricted Stock Unit Grants".

Supplemental Vesting Table for Restricted Stock and Restricted Stock Units

Name	Grant Date	Vesting Date	Number of Shares Vesting (#) (3)
John M. Engquist.....	08/02/21	08/02/24	4,667
	08/01/22	08/01/24	10,413
		08/01/25	10,414
	08/01/23	08/01/24	3,268
		08/01/25	3,269
		08/01/26	3,269
	08/01/21 (1)	12/31/23 (2)	20,999
	08/01/22 (1)	12/31/24	21,654
	08/01/23 (1)	12/31/25	14,709
	Bradley W. Barber.....	08/02/21	08/02/24
08/01/22		08/01/24	14,970
		08/01/25	14,970
08/01/23		08/01/24	11,664
		08/01/25	11,664
		08/01/26	11,665
08/01/21 (1)		12/31/23 (2)	23,696
08/01/22 (1)		12/31/24	31,454
08/01/23 (1)		12/31/25	39,110
Leslie S. Magee		08/02/21	08/02/24
	08/01/22	08/01/24	6,219
		08/01/25	6,219
	08/01/23	08/01/24	2,181
		08/01/25	2,182
		08/01/26	2,182
	08/01/21 (1)	12/31/23 (2)	12,870
	08/01/22 (1)	12/31/24	13,180
	08/01/23 (1)	12/31/25	9,818
	John McDowell Engquist	08/02/21	08/02/24
08/01/22		08/01/24	4,692
		08/01/25	4,692
08/01/23		08/01/24	1,600
		08/01/25	1,600
		08/01/26	1,600
08/01/21 (1)		12/31/23 (2)	8,956
08/01/22 (1)		12/31/24	10,539
08/01/23 (1)		12/31/25	7,756

(1) Represents an award of performance-based RSUs.

(2) Represents target number of performance-based RSUs at vest subject to finalization and approval of award calculation as of December 31, 2023. The award resulted in a payout at 176.6%.

(3) With respect to any award of performance-based RSUs, this column reflects the target number of shares subject to such award. The actual number of shares that vest in accordance with such award is subject to the level of achievement of certain performance goals over a three-year performance period.

2023 OPTION EXERCISES AND STOCK VESTED

Name	Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting (#)		Value Realized on Vesting (\$)
John M. Engquist.....	10,157	(1)	495,357
	4,666	(2)	228,167
	10,413	(3)	518,359
	41,706	(4)	2,311,347
Bradley W. Barber.....	10,191	(1)	497,015
	5,266	(2)	257,507
	14,969	(3)	745,157
	41,846	(4)	2,319,105
Leslie S. Magee	5,535	(1)	269,942
	2,860	(2)	139,854
	6,219	(3)	309,582
	22,726	(4)	1,259,475
John McDowell Engquist.....	3,198	(1)	155,966
	1,990	(2)	97,311
	4,691	(3)	233,518
	13,132	(4)	727,775

- (1) Represents a restricted stock grant on August 3, 2020 to each of Mr. Engquist (30,469 shares), Mr. Barber (30,571 shares), Ms. Magee (16,603 shares) and Mr. Engquist (McDowell) (9,593 shares) under the 2016 Incentive Plan. One-third of the shares subject to each grant vested on August 3, 2023. Dollar values are based on the closing price of the Company's common stock on August 3, 2023 of \$48.77 per share.
- (2) Represents a restricted stock grant on August 2, 2021 to each of Mr. Engquist (13,999 shares), Mr. Barber (15,797 shares), Ms. Magee (8,580 shares) and Mr. Engquist (McDowell) (5,971 shares) under the 2016 Incentive Plan. One-third of the shares subject to each grant vested on August 2, 2023. Dollar values are based on the closing price of the Company's common stock on August 2, 2023 of \$48.90 per share.
- (3) Represents a restricted stock grant on August 1, 2022 to each of Mr. Engquist (31,240 shares), Mr. Barber (44,909 shares), Ms. Magee (18,657 shares) and Mr. Engquist (McDowell) (14,075 shares) under the 2016 Incentive Plan. One-third of the shares subject to each grant vested on August 1, 2023. Dollar values are based on the closing price of the Company's common stock on August 1, 2023 of \$49.78 per share.
- (4) Represents a performance-based RSU grant on August 1, 2020 that vested on December 31, 2022. The actual number of shares that vested was determined in accordance with such award based upon the level of achievement of certain performance goals over a three-year performance period. Dollar values are based on the closing price of the Company's common stock on March 6, 2023 (the issuance date) of \$55.42 per share.

2023 PAY RATIO

In accordance with Item 402(u) of Regulation S-K, we have calculated a pay ratio of Mr. Barber, the Company's Chief Executive Officer during 2023, and the median of the annual total compensation of all Company employees for 2023. This ratio was determined to be 83:1 and was calculated using the annual total compensation of Mr. Barber as reported in the Total column of our 2023 Summary Compensation Table of \$6,295,836, compared to the median of the annual total compensation of all employees, excluding Mr. Barber, of \$76,223.

To identify our median employee, we began with our entire active employee population of 2,686 as of December 31, 2023 (the "determination date"). To identify the median employee from a compensation perspective, we used total compensation as reflected in our payroll records and as reported to the Internal Revenue Service on the applicable form W-2s. Compensation was annualized for part-time employees and full-time employees who were employed less than a full year. Using this methodology, we determined that our median employee works in the IT department at our corporate office in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. We then determined the median employee's annual total compensation for 2023 in accordance with the rules applicable to the compensation elements included in the Summary Compensation Table and compared such compensation to the compensation of Mr. Barber, as reported in the Summary Compensation Table.

The SEC rules allow companies to use estimates, assumptions, adjustments, statistical sampling and unique definitions of compensation to identify the median employee and calculate the pay ratio. Our estimated pay ratio may not be comparable to other companies because of the differences in how pay ratios may be calculated at other companies.

POTENTIAL PAYMENTS UPON TERMINATION OR CHANGE IN CONTROL

Payments Upon Termination of Employment. None of our NEOs are, or were at any time during the 2023 fiscal year, party to an employment agreement, severance agreement or any other type of agreement which provides benefits upon a termination of employment. Upon termination of employment for any reason, all unvested shares of restricted stock and RSUs will be forfeited with no compensation due to the executive.

Payments Upon Change in Control. Each restricted stock award granted under the 2016 Incentive Plan to our NEOs provides for immediate vesting of all unvested shares of restricted stock in the event of a “change in control.” If a “change in control” occurred on December 31, 2023, 35,300, 70,199, 21,843 and 16,175 shares of restricted stock would have vested for Mr. Engquist, Mr. Barber, Ms. Magee and Mr. Engquist (McDowell), respectively. Based on the closing price of our common stock on December 29, 2023 of \$52.32 per share, the value of such shares held by Mr. Engquist, Mr. Barber, Ms. Magee and Mr. Engquist (McDowell) would have been \$1,846,896, \$3,672,812, \$1,142,826 and \$846,276, respectively. Upon a change in control, awards of performance-based RSUs do not automatically vest; however, the Compensation Committee may, in its discretion, fully vest such award, cause the surviving corporation to assume or replace such award with a comparable award or take any other action with respect to the vesting of such award as permitted under the 2016 Incentive Plan. If a “change in control” occurred on December 31, 2023 and assuming the target performance-based RSUs were discretionarily vested, 57,362, 94,260, 35,868 and 27,251 shares of RSUs would have vested for Mr. Engquist, Mr. Barber, Ms. Magee and Mr. Engquist (McDowell), respectively. Based on the closing price of our common stock on December 29, 2023 of \$52.32 per share, the value of such shares held by Mr. Engquist, Mr. Barber, Ms. Magee and Mr. Engquist (McDowell) would have been \$3,001,180, \$4,931,683, \$1,876,614 and \$1,425,772, respectively.

Generally, a “change in control” is defined under the 2016 Incentive Plan as:

- The acquisition of 35% or more of the Company’s voting securities;
- A change in the composition of a majority of the Board of Directors;
- A merger or consolidation where the Company’s stockholders immediately before the merger or consolidation own 70% or less of the voting power of the surviving corporation immediately after the merger or consolidation;
- A complete liquidation or dissolution of the Company, or a sale of substantially all of its assets; or
- A share exchange in which the stockholders of the Company immediately before such exchange own 70% or less of the voting power of the corporation resulting from such exchange.

Equity Compensation Plan Information

The following table summarizes our equity compensation plan information as of December 31, 2023.

Plan Category	Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights (a)	Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights (b)	Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a)) (c)
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	214,741	—	743,877 (1)
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	—	—	—
Total	<u>214,741</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>743,877</u>

(1) Comprised of shares remaining available for issuance under the 2016 Stock-Based Incentive Compensation Plan.

PAY VERSUS PERFORMANCE

We are required by SEC rules, mandated by Congress in the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010, to disclose the following information regarding compensation paid to our NEOs. Our Chief Executive Officer is the principal executive officer (“PEO”). The amounts set forth below under the headings “Compensation Actually Paid to PEO” and “Average Compensation Actually Paid for Non-PEO NEOs” have been calculated in a manner consistent with Item 402(v) of Regulation S-K. The following table sets forth information concerning the compensation and our financial performance for each of the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, 2021 and 2020:

Year	Summary Compensation Table Total for PEO \$(1)	Compensation Actually Paid to PEO \$(2)	Average Summary Compensation Table Total for Non-PEO NEOs \$(1)	Average Compensation Actually Paid to Non-PEO NEOs \$(2)	Value of Initial Fixed \$100 Investment Based on:		Net Income (Loss) from Continuing Operations (\$ in thousands)	Adjusted EBITDA from Continuing Operations (\$ in thousands)(4)
					Total Shareholder Return \$(3)	Peer Group Total Shareholder Return \$(3)		
2023	6,295,836	7,735,880	2,510,275	3,223,183	179.02	226.97	169,293	688,242
2022	5,334,813	5,880,801	3,061,659	3,290,394	151.52	169.75	133,694	542,996
2021	2,854,893	4,303,220	1,957,160	2,768,654	143.57	187.70	60,564	393,610
2020	2,106,060	1,895,349	1,805,770	1,681,890	93.77	129.74	(46,396)	359,431

- (1) The dollar amounts reported are the amounts of total compensation and average total compensation from the Summary Compensation Table for the years ending December 31, 2023, 2022, 2021 and 2020 for the executives below:

Year	PEO	Non-PEO NEOs
2023	Bradley W. Barber	John M. Engquist, Leslie S. Magee, John McDowell Engquist
2022	Bradley W. Barber	John M. Engquist, Leslie S. Magee, John McDowell Engquist
2021	Bradley W. Barber	John M. Engquist, Leslie S. Magee, John McDowell Engquist
2020	Bradley W. Barber	John M. Engquist, Leslie S. Magee (a)

- (a) Mr. John McDowell Engquist became an NEO effective January 1, 2021, upon his promotion to President and Chief Operating Officer. As such, for the 2020 period presented in the table above and pay versus performances tables below, his compensation is not included in the non-PEO NEO figures.

- (2) The dollar amounts reported represents the amount of “Compensation Actually Paid”, as computed in accordance with Item 402(v) of Regulation S-K. The dollar amounts do not reflect the actual amounts of compensation paid to our PEO or NEOs during the applicable year. Compensation Actually Paid is calculated based on the following adjustments to Total Compensation in the Summary Compensation Table (“SCT”):

	PEO				Average of Non-PEO NEOs			
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2023	2022	2021	2020
SCT Total								
Compensation.....	\$ 6,295,836	\$ 5,334,813	\$ 2,854,893	\$ 2,106,060	\$ 2,510,275	\$ 3,061,659	\$ 1,957,160	\$ 1,805,770
Less: Stock Awards Reported in SCT	(3,599,924)	(2,729,978)	(1,343,947)	(1,194,977)	(865,274)	(1,303,028)	(809,630)	(919,983)
Plus: Year End Fair Value of Unvested Stock Awards Granted in the Covered Year	3,877,069	3,466,880	1,748,355	2,025,142	931,889	1,654,754	1,053,257	1,559,108
Year Over Year Change in Fair Value of Outstanding Unvested Stock Granted in Prior Years	625,264	50,193	916,084	(113,592)	323,775	29,211	474,360	(99,467)
Fair Value (as of Vesting Date) for Awards Granted During the Covered Year that Vested During the Covered Year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Change (as of the Vesting Date) in Fair Value of Stock Granted in Prior Years that Vested in the Year (Measured from the end of Prior Year).....	537,636	(241,107)	127,834	(927,285)	322,517	(152,202)	93,507	(663,537)
Less: Fair Value (as of the end of the Prior Year) of Performance Stock Awards that Failed to Meet Performance Conditions during the Covered Year..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dollar Value of Dividends Paid on Stock During the Covered Year Not Otherwise Included in Total Compensation.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Compensation Actually Paid.....	\$ 7,735,880	\$ 5,880,801	\$ 4,303,220	\$ 1,895,349	\$ 3,223,183	\$ 3,290,394	\$ 2,768,654	\$ 1,681,890

- (3) The Total Shareholder Return (“TSR”) assumes \$100 was invested in our common stock and in each of the other peers on December 31, 2019, dividend reinvestment has been assumed and returns have been weighted to reflect relative stock market capitalization. The peer group we selected for our TSR is comprised of the following companies: United Rentals, Inc., Herc Holdings Inc., The Ashtead Group, PLC, GATX Corporation, McGrath RentCorp, WillScot Mobile Mini Holdings Corp., Astec Industries, Inc., Alta Equipment Group Inc., RB Global, Inc., DXP Enterprises, Inc., Arcosa, Inc.,

and Flowserve Corporation. This is the peer group used by the Company for purposes of Item 201(e)(1)(ii) of Regulation S-K under the Exchange Act in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2023.

For the years prior to the year ended December 31, 2023, the peer group was comprised of the following companies: United Rentals, Inc., Herc Holdings Inc., Toromont Industries, Ltd., Finning International, Inc., and The Ashtead Group, PLC (the “Prior Year Peer Group”). The Company updated its peer group during the year ended December 31, 2023 to increase the size of its peer group and align with the Company’s recent transition to a pure-play rental business. If the Prior Year Peer Group had been used to calculate peer group TSR as of December 31, 2023, the amount shown for 2023, 2022, 2021 and 2020 would have been \$257.65, \$186.03, \$215.48 and \$138.13, respectively.

- (4) Net income (loss) before interest expense, income taxes, depreciation, and amortization (“EBITDA”) and Adjusted EBITDA are non-GAAP measures. We define Adjusted EBITDA for the periods presented as EBITDA adjusted for merger and other costs, loss on early extinguishment of debt, non-cash stock based compensation expense and impairment of goodwill. A reconciliation of EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA to net income is below:

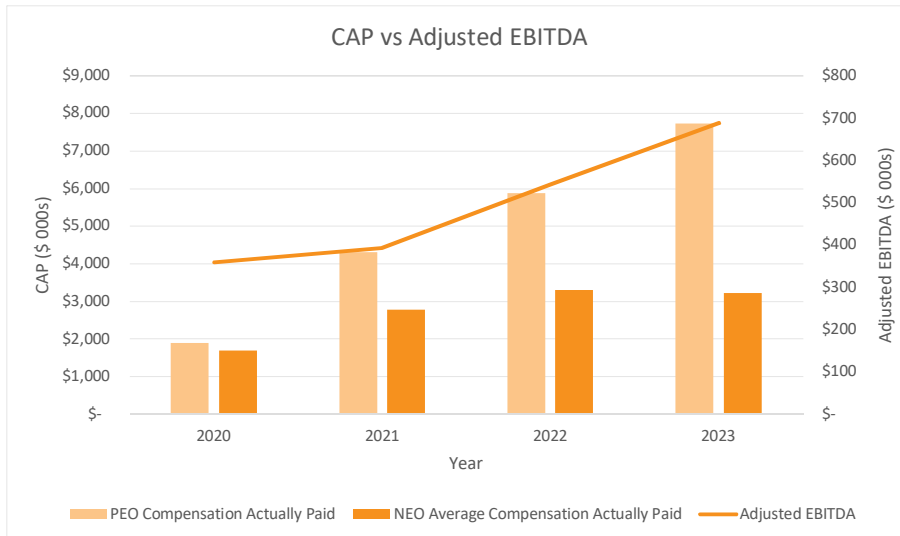
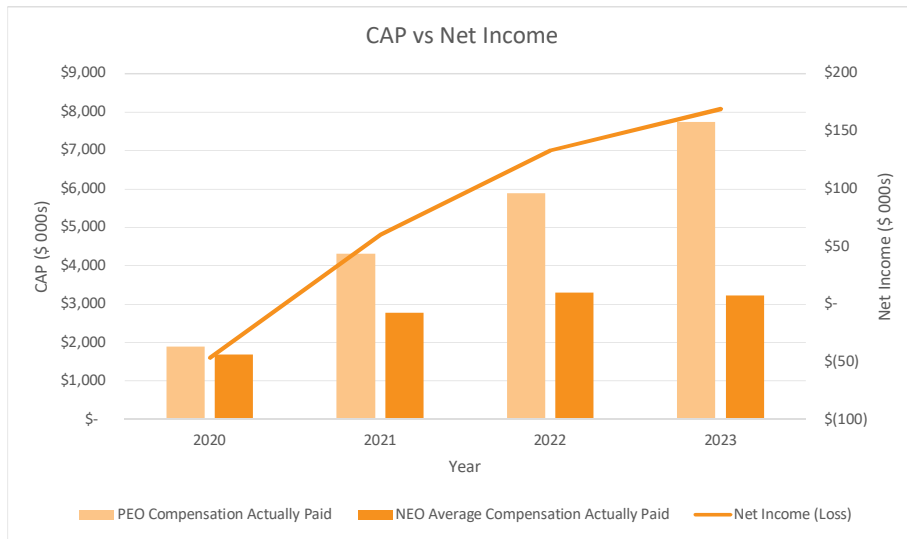
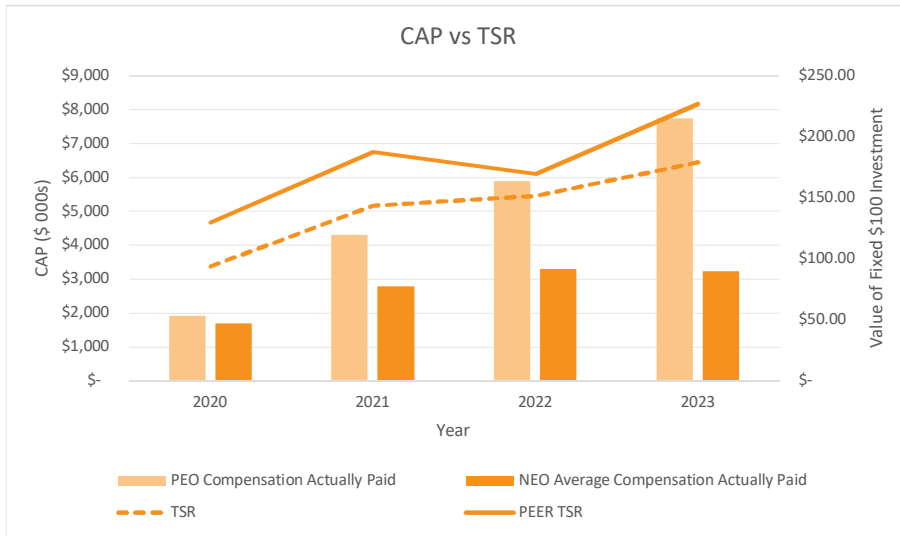
	Reconciliation of Non-GAAP Financial Measures			
	Year Ended December 31,			
	2023	2022	2021	2020
Net Income (loss)	\$ 169,293	\$ 132,170	\$ 102,540	\$ (32,667)
Net Income (loss) from discontinued operations	—	(1,524)	41,976	13,729
Net Income (loss) from continuing operations ...	169,293	133,694	60,564	(46,396)
Interest expense	60,891	54,033	53,758	61,790
Provision (benefit) for income taxes	53,904	47,036	21,160	(13,428)
Depreciation	381,959	296,310	254,158	252,681
Amortization of intangibles	6,455	4,660	3,970	3,987
EBITDA from continuing operations	<u>\$ 672,502</u>	<u>\$ 535,733</u>	<u>\$ 393,610</u>	<u>\$ 258,634</u>
Merger and other	—	—	—	503
Loss on early extinguishment of debt	—	—	—	44,630
Non-cash stock-based compensation expense	10,026	7,263	—	—
Impairment of goodwill	5,714	—	—	55,664
Adjusted EBITDA from continuing operations ..	<u>\$ 688,242</u>	<u>\$ 542,996</u>	<u>\$ 393,610</u>	<u>\$ 359,431</u>

Pay versus Performance Narrative Disclosure

The preceding graphical information demonstrates the strong relationship between our executive compensation program and the interests of our shareholders.

As described in more detail in the section “Compensation Discussion and Analysis,” the Company is committed to linking pay to performance on an individual and company-wide basis. While the Company utilizes several performance measures to align executive compensation with Company performance, all of those Company measures are not presented in the Pay versus Performance table. Moreover, the Company generally seeks to incentivize long-term performance, and therefore does not specifically align the Company’s performance measures with Compensation Actually Paid (“CAP”) (as computed in accordance with Item 402(v) of Regulation S-K) for a particular year. We chose Adjusted EBITDA as our Company Selected Measure for evaluating Pay versus Performance because it is a key metric in our Long-Term Incentive Plans, a key metric in our Annual Bonuses, as well as a performance metric disclosed in our quarterly earnings releases. In accordance with Item 402(v) of Regulation S-K, the Company is providing the following graphical support of the relationships between information presented in the Pay versus Performance table.

As demonstrated by the following graphs, the amount of CAP to our PEO and NEOs generally aligns with the Company’s TSR, peer group TSR, Net Income and Adjusted EBITDA over the three years presented. Our TSR trends with our Peer TSR, which trends with CAP. Additionally, there is a strong alignment between executive compensation and both Net Income and Adjusted EBITDA. While Net Income is not a metric that is specifically used in executive compensation, it is closely related to Adjusted EBITDA, which is a metric that is utilized for both the long-term incentive plan and the annual cash bonus. However, as CAP fluctuates due to changes in our stock price there may be periods with less alignment between CAP and financial performance.



Pay versus Performance Tabular List

The table below lists our most important performance measures used to link executive compensation to company performance, over the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023. These measures, or some combination thereof, are used to determine the annual cash bonus and long-term incentives for each of the NEOs. For more information, see “Annual Bonuses” and “Long-Term Incentives” as more fully described in the “Compensation Discussion and Analysis” section of this Proxy Statement. The performance measures included in this table are not ranked by relative importance.

Financial Performance Measures

Adjusted EBITDA
Rental Gross Profit
ROGNA

ITEM 3 — ADVISORY VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Background

Pursuant to Section 14A of the Exchange Act, we are providing Company stockholders with the opportunity to vote on a non-binding, advisory resolution to approve the compensation of our NEOs, which is described in the section titled “Compensation Discussion and Analysis” and in the related compensation tables and narrative discussion in this Proxy Statement. This vote is not intended to address any specific element of compensation; rather, the vote relates to the compensation of our NEOs as a whole, as described in this Proxy Statement in accordance with the rules of the SEC. As described more fully in this Proxy Statement, including in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis and the related tables and narrative discussion, our compensation program is designed to provide incentives to our executives for the Company’s achievement of financial objectives. In addition, our program is designed to align the interests of executives with the interests of our stockholders, provide long-term incentives and set compensation at levels sufficiently competitive to attract and retain highly qualified executives and to motivate them to contribute to our success.

Vote Required; Board Recommendation

If a quorum is present, the non-binding advisory approval of the executive compensation described in this Proxy Statement requires the affirmative vote of a majority of shares present, in person or by Proxy and entitled to vote on the matter at the Annual Meeting. Shares voted in person or represented by Proxy which are not voted for approval of our executive compensation (by voting no or abstaining) will have the effect of voting against this proposal. Broker non-votes will not count toward the determination of whether this proposal is approved and will have no impact on the vote. In the absence of instructions to the contrary, shares of Common Stock represented by properly executed Proxies will be voted for approval of our executive compensation, as disclosed in this Proxy Statement. Because this stockholder vote is advisory, it will not be binding on the Company or the Board of Directors. Although the vote is non-binding, the Compensation Committee and the Board of Directors expect to take into account the outcome of the vote when considering future executive compensation decisions to the extent they can determine the cause or causes of any significant negative voting results. The Company’s current policy is to hold such an advisory vote every year. At the 2023 Annual Meeting, the Company held an advisory, non-binding vote to determine the frequency with which the Company should hold advisory, non-binding votes to approve the compensation of the Company’s Named Executive Officers (a “Say on Frequency advisory vote”). Based on the recommendations of shareholders, the Board of Directors determined to continue to hold this advisory vote every year. Unless the Board of Directors determines otherwise, the next Say on Frequency advisory vote will be held at the 2029 Annual Meeting.

Based on the foregoing, the Board of Directors is requesting that stockholders vote on the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the compensation paid to the Company’s named executive officers, as disclosed pursuant to Item 402 of Regulation S-K, including the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, compensation tables and narrative discussion, is hereby APPROVED.

The Board of Directors recommends that stockholders vote to approve the compensation of the Company’s Named Executive Officers by voting FOR this resolution.

ITEM 4 — APPROVAL OF THE H&E EQUIPMENT SERVICES, INC. AMENDED AND RESTATED 2016 STOCK-BASED INCENTIVE COMPENSATION PLAN

Our Board recommends that our stockholders approve the H&E Equipment Services, Inc. Amended and Restated 2016 Stock-Based Incentive Compensation Plan (the “Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan”), which was approved by our Board of Directors on March 28, 2024, following recommendation and approval by the Compensation Committee on March 26, 2024. The purpose of the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan is to assist the Company and our subsidiaries and affiliates to attract, motivate and retain valued employees, consultants and non-employee directors by offering them a greater stake in our success, aligning their interests with the interests of our stockholders and encouraging them to own shares of the Company.

As described above in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section of this Proxy Statement, long-term equity-based incentives are one of the main components of our executive compensation program. We believe that one of the principal benefits of providing equity-based awards to our employees, consultants and non-employee directors is that it directly aligns their interests with those of our stockholders by providing them with an incentivizing and motivating path to obtaining an ownership stake in the Company. We believe that when a significant portion of our executives’ total compensation is linked to the performance of our stock through the grant of equity-based awards, it encourages decision making that increases the long-term value of the Company’s stock. If we were unable to grant equity-based awards, the Company would have to compete for executive talent by increasing the cash-based components of our executive compensation program. We believe that the benefits of equity-based compensation, as described above, cannot be adequately replicated by cash-based compensation alone.

The Company currently has one active equity-incentive plan, the Company’s 2016 Stock-Based Incentive Compensation Plan (the “2016 Plan”). The 2016 Plan was adopted by our Board on March 24, 2016 and was approved by stockholders at the 2016 Annual Meeting. The 2016 Plan has a term of ten years. Thus, if the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan is not approved by stockholders at the 2016 Annual Meeting, the term of the 2016 Plan will expire in March of 2026. As of March 11, 2024, there were 605,839 shares remaining available for issuance under the 2016 Plan.

Since approving the 2016 Plan, the Company has not sought stockholder approval to increase the number of shares authorized for issuance under the 2016 Plan. The Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan is intended to extend the expiration date such that the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan will expire ten years from the date of its approval by our stockholders (the date of such approval, the “Effective Date”), and authorize an increase in the number of shares of common stock available for issuance under the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan. Further, the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan reflects certain changes that the Board believes reflects best practices from a governance perspective. In addition to these benefits, the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan incorporates a limit on the total amount of compensation (both cash and equity-based compensation) payable to our non-employee directors in respect of a single fiscal year. If our stockholders approve the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan, no future awards will be issued under the 2016 Plan (but awards previously issued under the 2016 Plan prior to the Effective Date will continue to be governed by the terms of the 2016 Plan).

If the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan is approved by stockholders, the total number of shares authorized for issuance pursuant to awards under the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan will be 1,748,000 (the “New Share Reserve”), plus the number of shares remaining available for issuance under the 2016 Plan as of immediately prior to the Effective Date (605,839 as of March 11, 2024), plus the number of shares that again become available for issuance under the 2016 Plan in accordance with the terms of such plan.

The Board’s purpose in adopting the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan is to ensure the longevity, effectiveness and administrative flexibility of the long-term equity incentive component of the Company’s executive compensation program. Prior to adopting the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan, the Compensation Committee and the Board considered the various aspects of the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan, including the number of shares authorized under the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan, the cost of issuing additional shares, the impact of share dilution on our existing stockholders and the central role of equity-based incentive compensation in the Company’s executive compensation program, as described more fully above and in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section of this Proxy Statement.

Based on the foregoing considerations and based on the recommendations of the Compensation Committee, the Board concluded that it is in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders for its stockholders to approve the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan. The Board has determined that the cost to stockholders of the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan is outweighed by the benefits of the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan, as described herein. If the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan is approved, our Compensation Committee will continue to monitor and evaluate the cost and effectiveness of the Company’s equity compensation program.

Best Practices. The terms of the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan are substantially similar to the terms of the 2016 Plan, and include a number of features that will reinforce the alignment between the participants in the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan and those of our stockholders. Such provisions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- *No Discounted Options.* Stock options may not be granted with exercise prices that are lower than the fair market value of the underlying shares on the grant date.
- *No Repricing, Replacement or Repurchase without Stockholder Approval.* The Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan prohibits the repricing, replacement, cash buyout or repurchase of any option or other award without stockholder approval.
- *No Evergreen Provision.* The Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan does not include a so-called “evergreen” provision that automatically increases the number of shares available for issuance pursuant to awards. Thus, the Company must obtain stockholder approval each time it desires to authorize more shares for awards.
- *No Tax Gross-Ups.* The Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan does not provide tax gross-ups to participants with respect to any awards.
- *Restrictions on Share Recycling.* Any shares tendered by a Participant in payment of an exercise price or any shares withheld to satisfy any withholding or other tax liability in connection with an award, shall not be made available again for issuance under the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan. In addition, shares that are purchased by the Company in the open market pursuant to any repurchase plan or program, whether using stock option proceeds or otherwise, will not be made available for grants of awards under the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan, nor will such number of purchased shares be added to the limit on the number of shares available for issuance under the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan.
- *Clawback.* Awards under the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan are subject to mandatory repayment pursuant to the terms of the Company’s clawback policy.
- *No Automatic Grants.* The Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan does not provide for “reload” or other automatic grants to participants.
- *Restrictions on Transferability.* Awards may not be pledged or encumbered and will be exercisable during a participant’s lifetime only by the participant (or a guardian or legal representative). The committee administering the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan may permit the transfer of awards (without consideration) to the participant’s immediate family members (or trusts in which immediate family members are the only beneficiaries or partnerships in which immediate family members are the only partners).

Additional Equity Plan Information as of March 11, 2024

As of March 11, 2024:

- There were a total of 40,961,413 and 36,529,564 shares of our common stock issued and outstanding, respectively.
- There were a total of 0 stock options outstanding.
- There were a total of 148,220 performance-based restricted stock units outstanding (at target) (296,440 at maximum).
- There were a total of 281,109 time-based restricted stock awards outstanding.
- There were a total of 605,839 shares remaining available for future award under the 2016 Plan.
- No shares remain available for future award under the 2006 Plan.
- “Burn rate” measures the number of full value basis shares under outstanding equity awards granted during a given year (disregarding cancellations), as a percentage of basic weighted-average common stock outstanding for that fiscal year. Over the past three years, our burn rate was 0.7%, 0.8% and 0.6% for the years ended 12/31/2021, 12/31/2022 and 12/31/2023, respectively.
- “Overhang” measures the total number of shares under all outstanding equity awards (i.e., share awards granted, less share award cancellations), as a percentage of basic weighted-average common stock outstanding as of the measurement date. Over the past three years, our average annual overhang was 1.4%, 1.6% and 1.2% for the years ended 12/31/2021, 12/31/2022 and 12/31/2023, respectively.
- “Dilution” measures the total number of shares under all outstanding equity awards, plus the number shares authorized for future awards under existing equity plans (the “total actual and potential awards”) divided by the sum of the total actual and potential awards, plus the basic weighted-average common stock outstanding as of the measurement date. Over the past 3 years, our dilution was 3.3%, 4.2% and 4.4% for the years ended 12/31/2021, 12/31/2022 and 12/31/2023, respectively. If the Amended and Restated 2016 Stock Incentive Plan is approved by our stockholders, our dilution as of December 31, 2023 would have been 7.6%, based on the additional number of shares authorized for future awards.

Summary of the Stock Incentive Plan; Types of Awards. The following general description of certain provisions of the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan, which is filed as Annex A to this Proxy Statement. In the event of any inconsistency between this summary and the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan, the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan will control.

Administration. The Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan will be administered by the Board or any committee designated by the Board to administer the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan. The body administering Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan is referred to below as the plan committee. Subject to the provisions of the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan, the plan committee will have full and final authority in its discretion to (i) select the employees, consultants and non-employee directors who will receive awards; (ii) determine the type or types of awards to be granted to any participant; (iii) determine the number of shares to which an award relates, (iv) determine the terms and conditions of awards (including, but not limited to, restrictions as to vesting, transferability and forfeiture); (v) determine the performance goals that will be applicable to an award, if any, and to certify whether such goals were achieved, (vi) determine whether, to what extent and under what circumstances an award maybe forfeited, cancelled, terminated or surrendered; (vii) correct any defect or supply any omission or reconcile any inconsistency in the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan or any award agreement; (viii) adopt, amend and rescind rules, regulations, guidelines, forms or agreements and instruments relating to the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan as it may deem necessary or advisable; (ix) construe and interpret the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan and any award agreement; and (x) make all other determinations as it may deem necessary or advisable for the administration of the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan.

Eligibility. Any person who serves as an employee, consultant or non-employee director to the Company or any of our subsidiaries or affiliates will be eligible to receive awards under the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan, subject to being selected by the plan committee to participate in the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan. All of our approximately 2,685 personnel, including our four executive officers and our nine non-employee directors, are eligible to participate in the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan.

Limitation on Shares Available. If the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan is approved by stockholders, the total number of shares authorized for issuance pursuant to awards under the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan will be 1,748,000 (the “New Share Reserve”), plus the number of shares remaining available for issuance under the 2016 Plan as of immediately prior to the Effective Date, (605,839 as of March 11, 2024), plus the number of shares that again become available for issuance under the 2016 Plan in accordance with the terms of such plan(s). For purposes of determining the number of shares available for awards, any shares tendered by a participant in payment of an exercise price or for the settlement of an award, or the tax liability with respect to an award, will not be available for future awards under the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan. In addition, shares that are purchased by the Company in the open market pursuant to any repurchase plan or program, whether using stock option proceeds or otherwise, will not be made available for grants of awards under the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan, nor will such number of purchased shares be added to the limit on the number of shares available for issuance under the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan. Shares may be made available from our authorized and unissued shares or from treasury shares. Shares issued on account of the assumption or substitution of outstanding grants from an acquired company will not reduce the number of shares available for awards.

Non-Employee Director Compensation Limit. In connection with approving the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan, the Compensation Committee approved, and recommended to the Board for approval, an outside limitation of \$500,000 on the amount of compensation that can be paid to any non-employee director in respect of any single fiscal year. If the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan is approved, the maximum total compensation (including awards under the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan, determined based on the fair market value of such awards as of the grant date, as well as any cash retainer fees, but excluding any special committee fees) paid to any non-employee director in respect of any single fiscal year would be limited to \$500,000 (the “Director Compensation Limit”). This limitation is not intended to serve as an increase to the amount of annual compensation that we currently pay our non-employee directors, and no changes were made to our existing non-employee director compensation arrangements in connection with approving the Director Compensation Limit; rather, this action was approved for the purpose of limiting the amount of compensation the Board can pay its non-employee members in respect of any single fiscal year.

Types of Awards. Under the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan, the Company may grant awards of stock options, restricted stock, deferred stock, restricted stock units (“RSUs”), and other stock-based awards.

Options. Options give a participant the right to purchase a specified number of shares from the Company for a specified time period at a fixed price. Options granted may be either incentive stock options as described in Section 422 of the Code (“ISOs”) or non-qualified stock options, however, ISOs may only be granted to employees of the Company and its subsidiaries. The price at which an underlying share may be purchased will not be less than the fair market value of one share on the date of grant, or, in the case of an ISO granted to a ten-percent stockholder, less than 110% of the fair market value of a share on the date of grant. The plan committee may grant options that have a term of up to ten years, or, in the case of an ISO granted to a ten-percent stockholder, five years. The award agreement will specify the exercise price, term, vesting requirements, including any performance goals, and any other terms and conditions applicable to the option.

Unless otherwise provided in an award agreement, upon a participant's termination of employment or service with the Company and its subsidiaries and affiliates, the option will remain exercisable only to the extent that it was exercisable at the time of termination until the earlier of the stated term of the option or (i) 12 months after termination in the case of a termination resulting from the participant's death, disability or retirement (defined in the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan as a termination after an employee attains age 65 and completed five years of service or the good faith complete termination of the service of a non-employee director) or (ii) 60 days after termination in the case of a termination by the Company without cause. If a participant's employment or service is terminated for cause, all of the participant's unexercised options, whether or not vested, will terminate on the date of such termination.

Restricted Stock. An award of restricted stock is a grant of a specified number of shares to the participant, which shares are subject to forfeiture upon the happening of specified events during the restriction period. Each award agreement for a grant of restricted stock will specify the duration of the restriction period and the performance, employment, service or other conditions under which the shares subject to the award may be forfeited to the Company. During the restriction period, unless otherwise specified in an award agreement, the participant will have all of the rights of a stockholder with respect to the restricted stock, including the right to vote the shares and to receive dividends with respect to the shares, except that dividends declared during the restriction period will not be paid unless and until all restrictions and forfeiture conditions applicable to the underlying shares have lapsed.

Deferred Stock. An award of deferred stock is an agreement by the Company to deliver a specified number of shares to the participant at the end of one or more deferral periods. Upon grant of an award of deferred stock, the underlying shares subject to the award will not be issued to the participant but instead will be credited to the participant on the books of the Company. Each award agreement for a grant of deferred stock will specify the duration of the deferral period or periods and the performance, employment, service or other conditions under which the shares will be issued or transferred to the participant. If the plan committee provides that an award of deferred stock is subject to performance goals, the Company shall not issue or transfer the stock unless the applicable performance goals are met. During the deferral period no dividends shall be paid with respect to the deferred stock, however, if so provided in an award agreement, at the end of the deferral period, the participant may be credited with the number of additional whole shares that can be purchased with the sum of the dividends that would have been paid with respect to the deferred stock during the deferral period.

Restricted Stock Units. An award of restricted stock units, or RSUs, is an agreement by the Company to provide the participant an amount corresponding to a specified number of shares on a specified settlement date, which payment is subject to forfeiture upon the happening of specified events. Each award agreement for a grant of RSUs will specify the duration of the restriction period and the performance, employment, service or other conditions under which RSUs may be forfeited. Unless otherwise provided in an award agreement, RSUs may be settled in the form of cash, shares or any combination of cash and shares, in the discretion of the plan committee. Generally, vested RSUs must be settled within 60 days after the end of the applicable restriction period. RSUs do not constitute shares and a recipient of RSUs will have no rights of a shareholder unless and until such RSU is settled in the form of shares. Unless an award agreement provides otherwise, no dividends will be paid or accrued with respect to the shares underlying an award of RSU. Unless otherwise provided in an award agreement, the vested portion of an award of RSUs will be settled within 60 days after the end of the restriction period applicable to such RSUs.

Other Stock-Based Awards. Subject to any limitations imposed by applicable law, the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan provides that the plan committee may grant any time of award that is payable in, or valued in whole or part by reference to, shares and that is otherwise consistent with the terms of the Stock Incentive Plan. The award agreement will specify all terms that are applicable to an other stock-based award, include, without limitation, any vesting or payment schedule, conditions to vesting or payment of the award, methods of settlement of the award, the number of shares subject to the award and the purchase or exercise price (if any).

Performance Goals. In the discretion of the plan committee, the vesting, earning or settlement of any award may be conditioned upon the achievement of specified performance goals that are substantially uncertain to be met during the specified performance period at the time such goals are established. Performance goals may be described in terms of company-wide objectives or objectives that are related to the performance of the individual participant or a subsidiary, division, department or function within the company or subsidiary in which the participant is employed or to which the participant provides services. Performance goals may be measured on an absolute or relative basis. Relative performance may be measured by a group of peer companies, by a financial market index or by another external measure. Performance goals may be based upon: specified levels of or increases in return on capital, equity or assets; earnings measures/ratios (on a gross, net, pre-tax or post-tax basis), including diluted earnings per share, total earnings, operating earnings, earnings growth, earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) or earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA); net economic profit (which is operating earnings minus a charge to capital); net income; operating income; safety and/or environmental record; sales; sales growth; gross margin; direct margin; share price (including but not limited to growth measures and total stockholder return), operating profit; operating efficiency; costs; per period or cumulative cash flow (including but not limited to operating cash flow and free cash flow) or cash flow return on investment (which equals net cash flow divided by total capital); inventory turns; financial return ratios; enterprise value; economic value added or other value added measurements; revenue; market share; balance sheet measurements such as receivable turnover; improvement in or attainment of expense levels; improvement in or

attainment of working capital levels; debt reduction; strategic innovation, including but not limited to entering into, substantially completing, or receiving payments under, relating to, or deriving from a joint development agreement, licensing agreement, or similar agreement; completion of acquisitions, business expansion or divestitures of the Company, a division or a Subsidiary; implementation of critical projects or related milestones; achievement of operational or efficiency milestones; customer or employee satisfaction; individual objectives; any financial or other measurement deemed appropriate by the plan committee as it relates to the results of operations or other measurable progress of the Company and its subsidiaries or affiliates (or any business unit of the Company or any of its subsidiaries or affiliates); and any combination of any of the foregoing criteria. If the plan committee determines that a change in our business, operations, corporate structure or capital structure of the company or a subsidiary, or other events or circumstances render the performance goals unsuitable, then the plan committee may modify such performance goals and/or the related minimum, target, maximum and/or other acceptable levels of achievement as may be deemed appropriate and equitable.

Changes in Capitalization and Change in Control. In the event of a reorganization, recapitalization, stock split, spin-off, split-off, split-up, stock dividend, special dividend, issuance of stock rights, combination of shares, merger, consolidation or any other change in the corporate structure of the Company affecting shares, or any distribution to stockholders other than an ordinary cash dividend, then the plan committee will make appropriate adjustments to (i) the number and kind of shares which may thereafter be issued in connection with awards, (ii) the maximum number of shares that may be granted to a participant in any calendar year or that may be granted pursuant to ISOs, (iii) any performance goals applicable to an award, (iv) the exercise price or grant price relating to any award or (v) any other adjustment to outstanding awards to prevent the enlargement or dilution of rights or participants, provided, however, in each case, that no adjustment will be made that would cause the Stock Incentive Plan to violate Section 422 of the Code with respect to an ISO.

In addition, the Board or the Committee, as applicable, shall have full and final authority to determine the effect, if any, of a change in control of the Company upon outstanding awards. Upon a change in control, the plan committee may, at its discretion, (i) fully vest any or all outstanding awards, (ii) determine whether any applicable performance goals have been achieved and the applicable level of performance; (iii) cancel any outstanding awards in exchange for a cash payment of an amount (including zero) equal to the difference between the then fair market value of the shares underlying the award and the option or base price of the award, (iv) after having given the participant a chance to exercise any outstanding options, terminate any or all of the participant's unexercised options, or (v) if the Company is not the surviving corporation, cause the surviving corporation to assume or replace all outstanding awards with comparable awards.

Amendment and Termination. The Board may amend, alter, suspend, discontinue, or terminate the Stock Incentive Plan without the consent of any participant or our stockholders, except that any such amendment, alteration, suspension, discontinuation, or termination will be subject to the approval of our stockholders if (i) such action would increase the number of shares available for awards, (ii) such action results in the repricing, replacement or cash buyout/repurchase of any option or other award, or (iii) stockholder approval is required by applicable law or regulation or the rules of any stock exchange on which our shares may then be listed or (iv) would increase the Director Compensation Limit. Notwithstanding the foregoing, without the consent of an affected participant, no amendment, alteration, suspension, discontinuation, or termination of the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan may materially adversely affect the rights of a participant under any outstanding award, except insofar as any such action is necessary to ensure compliance with applicable law or regulation or the listing requirements of an applicable securities exchange, including, without limitation, 409A of the Code. Unless earlier terminated, the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan will terminate on the tenth anniversary of the Effective Date.

Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences. The following discussion is a summary of certain federal income tax considerations that may be relevant to participants in the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan. This discussion is for general informational purposes only. This discussion does not purport to be complete or address the specific federal income tax consequences that may apply to a participant based on his or her particular circumstances. In addition, this discussion does not address the implications of state, local, foreign or other tax considerations that may be relevant to a participant.

Incentive Stock Options. Upon the grant of an ISO (as defined in Section 422(b) of the Code), the option holder does not recognize any income. In addition, no income for regular income tax purposes will be recognized by an option holder upon the exercise of an ISO if the requirements of the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan and the Code are satisfied, including, without limitation, the requirement that the option holder remain employed by the Company or a subsidiary during the period beginning on the date of grant and ending on the day three months (or, in the case of the option holder's disability, one year) before the date on which the option is exercised. If an option holder has not remained an employee of the Company or a subsidiary during the period beginning on the date of grant of an ISO and ending on the day three months (or one year in the case of the option holder's disability) before the date on which the option is exercised, the exercise of such option will be treated as the exercise of a non-qualified stock option and will have the tax consequences described below in the section entitled "Non-Qualified Options."

The federal income tax consequences of a disposition of the shares acquired pursuant to the exercise of an ISO depends upon when the disposition of such shares occurs:

- If the disposition of such shares occurs more than two years after the grant date of the ISO and more than one year after the date of exercise, any gain or loss recognized upon such disposition will be long-term capital gain or loss.
- If the disposition of such shares occurs within two years after the grant date of the ISO or within one year after the date of exercise (a “Disqualifying Disposition”), the excess, if any, of the amount realized over the option price will be recognized and treated as taxable ordinary income to the option holder. The amount of ordinary income recognized by the option holder in a Disqualifying Disposition (and the corresponding deduction, if any, to the Company or a subsidiary, as applicable) is limited to the lesser of the gain recognized on such sale and the difference between the fair market value of the shares on the date of exercise and the option’s exercise price. Any gain recognized in excess of this amount will be treated as short-term or long-term capital gain (depending upon whether the shares have been held for more than one year). If the option’s exercise price exceeds the amount realized upon such a disposition, the difference will be recognized and treated as short-term or long-term capital loss (depending upon whether the shares have been held for more than one year).

Except as provided in the paragraph immediately below, if an option holder elects to tender shares in partial or full payment of the option’s exercise price for shares to be acquired upon the exercise of an ISO, the option holder will not recognize any gain or loss on such tendered shares. No income will be recognized by the option holder in respect of the shares received by the option holder upon the exercise of an ISO if the requirements of the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan and the Code described above are met. The number of shares received equal to the number of shares surrendered will have a tax basis equal to the tax basis of the surrendered shares. Shares received in excess of the number of shares surrendered will have a tax basis of zero. The holding period of the shares received equal to the number of shares tendered will be the same as such tendered shares’ holding period, and the holding period for the excess shares received will begin on the date of exercise.

If an option holder tenders shares that were previously acquired upon the exercise of an ISO in partial or full payment of the option’s aggregate exercise price for shares to be acquired upon the exercise of another ISO, and the tender of such shares occurs within two years after the date of grant of the first such ISO or within one year after such shares were transferred to the option holder upon the exercise of such ISO, the tender of such shares will be considered a Disqualifying Disposition. The shares acquired upon such exercise will be treated as shares acquired upon the exercise of an ISO, with an aggregate tax basis equal to the option’s exercise price, and the holding period of such shares for capital gains purposes will begin on the date of exercise.

Non-Qualified Options. Upon the grant of a nonqualified option, an option holder does not recognize taxable income, and the Company (or a subsidiary, as applicable) is not entitled to a deduction. Upon the exercise of a non-qualified option, the option holder will recognize compensation taxable as ordinary income equal to the excess of the fair market value of the shares received over the option’s aggregate exercise price. The option holder’s tax basis in the shares received upon the exercise of a non-qualified option will be equal to the amount paid for such shares plus the amount required to be included in income, and the option holder’s holding period for such shares will begin on the date of such exercise. Upon the sale of the shares received from the exercise of a non-qualified option, the option holder will recognize short-term or long-term capital gain or loss, depending upon whether the shares have been held for more than one year. The amount of such gain or loss will be equal to the difference between the amount realized in connection with the sale of the shares and the option holder’s tax basis in such shares.

If a non-qualified option is exercised in whole or in part with shares held by the option holder, the option holder will not recognize any gain or loss on such tendered shares. The number of shares received by the option holder upon such an exchange that are equal in number to the number of tendered shares will retain the tax basis and the holding period of the tendered shares for capital gain purposes. The option holder will recognize compensation taxable as ordinary income in an amount equal to the fair market value of the number of shares received upon such exercise that is in excess of the number of tendered shares, less any cash paid by the option holder. The fair market value of such excess number of shares will also be the tax basis for those shares and the holding period of such shares will begin on the exercise date.

Restricted Stock. Upon the grant of an award of restricted stock, the shares underlying the award are considered to be subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture for federal income tax purposes. If a participant who receives restricted stock does not make the election described below, the participant will not recognize any taxable income upon the grant of the award. When the forfeiture restrictions applicable to the award lapse, the participant will recognize compensation taxable as ordinary income equal to the fair market value of the shares at that time, less any amount paid for the shares. A participant’s tax basis in restricted stock will be equal to the fair market value of the shares on the date on which the forfeiture restrictions lapse, and the participant’s holding period for the shares will begin on such date. Upon a sale of the shares, the participant will recognize short-term or long-term capital gain or loss, depending upon whether the shares have been held for more than one year following the lapse of any applicable restrictions. Such gain or loss will be equal to the difference between the amount realized upon the sale of the shares and the participant’s tax basis in such shares.

Participants granted restricted stock may make an election under Section 83(b) of the Code to recognize compensation taxable as ordinary income with respect to the shares when the award is granted rather than when the forfeiture restrictions lapse. The amount of compensation income recognized by the participant will be equal to the fair market value of the shares on the date of grant (valued without taking into account restrictions other than restrictions that by their terms will never lapse) less any amount paid for the shares. By making a Section 83(b) election, the participant will recognize no additional ordinary compensation income with respect to the shares when the forfeiture restrictions lapse, and will instead recognize short-term or long-term capital gain or loss with respect to the shares when they are sold, depending upon whether the shares have been held for more than one year from the date of grant. The participant's tax basis in the shares with respect to which a Section 83(b) election is made will be equal to their fair market value on the date of grant. If the restricted stock is subsequently forfeited, the participant will not be entitled to a deduction as a result of such forfeiture, but will be entitled to claim a short-term or long-term capital loss (depending upon whether the shares are forfeited more than one year after the date of grant) with respect to the shares, but only to the extent of the consideration paid, if any, by the participant for such shares.

Generally, during the restriction period, dividends and distributions paid with respect to restricted stock will be treated as compensation taxable as ordinary income (not dividend or qualified dividend income) received by the participant. Dividends paid with respect to shares of restricted stock for which a Section 83(b) election has been made or which are paid after the restriction period lapses generally will be treated and taxed as dividend or qualified dividend income.

Deferred Stock. A participant does not recognize taxable income when an award of deferred stock award is granted. When the deferral period for the award ends and the participant receives shares, the participant will recognize ordinary income equal to the fair market value of the shares at that time. A participant's tax basis in shares received at the end of a deferral period will be equal to the fair market value of such shares when such participant receives them and the participant's holding period will begin on such date. Upon a sale of the shares, the participant will recognize short-term or long-term capital gain or loss, depending upon whether the shares have been held for more than one year. The amount of such gain or loss will be equal to the difference between the amount recognized upon the sale of the shares and the participant's tax basis in such shares. Additional shares paid in lieu of dividends will be taxable to participants as ordinary compensation income (not dividend income). In addition, as discussed below, some deferred stock may be considered deferred compensation and must comply with the requirements of Section 409A of the Code in order to avoid early income inclusion, additional taxes and interest.

Restricted Stock Units. A participant does not recognize taxable income when an award of RSUs is granted. When the restriction period for the award ends and the RSUs are settled, the participant will recognize ordinary income equal to the cash or fair market value of the shares received at that time. If a Participant receives shares in settlement of RSUs, the participant will have a tax basis in such shares equal to the fair market value of the shares on the date of settlement and the participant's holding period with respect to such shares will begin on such date. Upon the sale of shares received by the Participant in settlement of RSUs, the participant will recognize short-term or long-term capital gain or loss, depending upon whether the shares are sold more than one year after the date of settlement. The amount of gain or loss recognized by the participant will be equal to the difference between the amount realized upon the sale of the shares and the tax basis of the shares. As discussed below, some RSU awards may be considered deferred compensation and must comply with the requirements of Section 409A of the Code in order to avoid early income inclusion, additional taxes and interest.

Other Stock-Based Awards. The tax treatment of other share-based awards will vary depending on the type of award but should generally be analogous to the tax treatment of restricted stock, options, deferred stock and RSUs as described above. Accordingly, in most cases, other stock-based awards payable in shares will be subject to ordinary income taxation when the forfeiture restrictions applicable to the award, if any, lapse and the shares are transferred to the participant, whichever occurs later. If an other share-based award is payable in cash, such award will be taxable upon the actual or constructive receipt of the cash payment. If shares are issued or transferred to the participant in connection with the settlement of an other stock-based, the participant's tax basis in the shares received will generally be equal to the fair market value of such shares upon the earlier of the date when the forfeiture restrictions lapse or the when shares are transferred, whichever occurs later. The participant's holding period for the shares will generally begin when the forfeiture restrictions lapse or when the shares are transferred, whichever occurs later. Upon the sale of shares, the participant will recognize short-term or long-term capital gain or loss depending upon whether the shares have been held for more than one year after the later of the date of when the forfeiture restrictions lapse or when the shares are transferred to the participant. If shares transferred or issued to a participant upon the grant of an other stock-based award are subject to forfeiture, the participant may be able to make an election under Section 83(b) of the Code, as described above in the section relating to restricted stock.

Code Section 162(m). Effective with the January 1, 2018 taxation year, the Section 162(m) performance-based exception is no longer applicable and the \$1 million deduction limit applies to the CEO, CFO, and the top three other highest compensated executive officers in the year. The deduction limit also applies to all those who were subject to the limit in any prior year after 2016, and it continues to apply to compensation paid at any time, including after termination or retirement and after death.

Code Section 409A. Section 409A of the Code contains certain restrictions on the ability to defer receipt of compensation to future tax years. Any award that provides for the deferral of compensation, such as deferred stock or RSUs that are settled more than two and one-half months after the end of the year in which they vest, must comply with Section 409A of the Code in order to avoid certain adverse tax consequences. If the requirements of Section 409A of the Code are not met, amounts deferred under the Stock Incentive Plan during the taxable year and all prior taxable years (to the extent not already included in gross income) will generally be included in the participant's taxable income in the later of the year in which such violation occurs or the year in which such amounts are no longer subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture, even if such amounts have not been paid to the participant. In addition, the violation of Section 409A of the Code will result in an additional tax to the participant of 20% of the deferred amount plus interest computed from the date on which the award was granted, or if later, the date on which it vested. Participants are urged to consult their tax advisors to determine if Section 409A of the Code is applicable to their awards. In addition, a failure to comply with Section 409A of the Code could result in a change in the timing of tax deductions previously taken by the Company.

Code Section 280G. If the vesting and/or payment of an award made to certain of our executives or consultants (referred to as "disqualified individuals" in Section 280G of the Code) occurs in connection with a change in control of the Company, such vesting and/or payment, either alone or when combined with other compensation payments which such disqualified individual is entitled to receive in connection with such change in control, may result in an "excess parachute payment" (as defined in Section 280G of the Code). Section 4999 of the Code imposes a 20% excise tax on the amount of the "excess parachute payment" received by the "disqualified individual," and Section 280G of the Code precludes the Company or a subsidiary, as applicable, from deducting such "excess parachute payment."

New Plan Benefits. The benefits that will be awarded or paid under the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan are not currently determinable. Awards granted under the Amended 2016 Stock Incentive Plan are within the discretion of our Compensation Committee, and our Compensation Committee has not yet made any determinations with respect to future awards, or who might receive them.

The Board of Directors recommends a vote "FOR" the approval of the H&E Equipment Services, Inc. Amended and Restated 2016 Stock-Based Incentive Compensation Plan. BY VOTING "FOR" the approval of the H&E Equipment Services, Inc. Amended and Restated 2016 Stock-Based Incentive Compensation Plan, YOU WILL BE DEEMED TO HAVE ALSO RATIFIED THE DIRECTOR COMPENSATION LIMIT.

CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS

Registration Rights Agreement

In connection with certain transactions involving the Company and its predecessors (the "Prior Transactions"), a predecessor company ("H&E Holdings") entered into a registration rights agreement with affiliates of Bruckmann, Rosser, Sherrill & Co., Inc. ("BRS"), certain members of management and certain other entities. In connection with our initial public offering in February 2006, the parties amended and restated the registration rights agreement to provide that the registration rights agreement thereafter applies to our common stock held by the parties.

Investor Rights Agreement

In connection with the Prior Transactions, H&E Holdings entered into an investor rights agreement with affiliates of BRS, Credit Suisse First Boston Corporation and other members of H&E Holdings (the "Investors"). In connection with our initial public offering in February 2006, the parties amended and restated the investor rights agreement to, among other things, provide that the investor rights agreement thereafter applies to our common stock held by the parties. Pursuant to the terms of the restated investor rights agreement, subject to certain conditions, Investors holding 33% or more of the equity interests issued to the Investors on the date of the investor rights agreement (or successor securities) have the right on any two occasions to require us to register all or part of such equity interests under the Securities Act of 1933 at our expense. In addition, the Investors are entitled to request the inclusion of any equity interests subject to the investor rights agreement in any registration statement at our expense whenever we propose to register any of our equity interests under the Securities Act. In connection with all such registrations, we agreed to indemnify the Investors against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

Related Party Transactions

The Company maintains a policy that the Audit Committee review transactions in which the Company and its directors, executive officers or their immediate family members are participants to determine whether a related person has a direct or indirect material

interest. The Audit Committee is responsible for reviewing and, if appropriate, approving or ratifying any such related party transaction. The Board has orally communicated this Policy.

In determining whether to approve, disapprove or ratify a related party transaction, the Audit Committee will take into account, among other factors it deems appropriate, (1) whether the transaction is on terms no less favorable to the Company than terms that would otherwise be generally available to the Company if the transaction was entered into under the same or similar circumstances with a party unaffiliated with the Company and (2) the extent of the interest of the related party in the transaction.

Below are the related party transactions which occurred or were in effect during the year ended December 31, 2023. All such related party transactions, if entered into after the Company's initial public offering in February 2006, have been approved or ratified by the Company's Audit Committee or, if pursuant to contractual arrangements entered into prior to the Company's initial public offering in February 2006, have been reviewed annually by the Audit Committee.

Mr. Engquist, our current Executive Chairman of the Board, has a 48.0% ownership interest in Perkins-McKenzie Insurance Agency, Inc. ("Perkins-McKenzie"), an insurance brokerage firm. Perkins-McKenzie brokers a substantial portion of our commercial liability insurance. As the broker, Perkins-McKenzie receives from our insurance provider as a commission a portion of the premiums we pay to the insurance provider. In 2023, commissions paid to Perkins-McKenzie on our behalf as insurance broker totaled \$1,184,785.

We purchase products and services from, and sell products and services to, B-C Equipment Sales, Inc. ("B-C"), in which Mr. Engquist has a 50% ownership interest. For the year ended December 31, 2023, our purchases from B-C totaled \$16,878 and our sales to B-C totaled \$2,186. Our accounts receivable balances at December 31, 2023 include a receivable from B-C for \$700 and there was no accounts payable balance at December 31, 2023 payable to B-C.

Mr. Engquist's son, John McDowell Engquist, is an employee of the Company and was appointed as President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company, effective January 1, 2021. The annual total compensation of Mr. Engquist (McDowell) is reported in our Summary Compensation Table.

Mr. Barber's son-in-law is an employee of the Company and received compensation totaling \$269,879 for the year ended December 31, 2023.

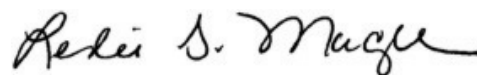
HOUSEHOLDING

Some banks, brokers and other nominee record holders may be participating in the practice of "householding" proxy statements and annual reports. This means that only one copy of the Company's Notice may have been sent to multiple stockholders in your household. The Company will promptly deliver a separate Notice to you if you request one by writing or calling as follows: Investor Relations, 7500 Pecue Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70809; Telephone: (225) 952-2308. If you want to receive separate copies of the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials in the future, or if you are receiving multiple copies and would like to receive only one copy for your household, you should contact your bank, broker or other nominee record holder, or you may contact the Company at the above address and phone number.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Company is not aware of any other matters that will be presented for stockholder action at the Annual Meeting. If other matters are properly introduced, the person named in the accompanying proxy will vote the shares they represent as recommended by the Board of Directors.

By Order of the Board of Directors



Leslie S. Magee
Chief Financial Officer and Secretary
April 2, 2024

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