

LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORP
 Form 4
 February 29, 2012

FORM 4 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
 DEARDORFF KEVIN L

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 LAKELAND FINANCIAL CORP
 [LKFN]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 3254 W. STATE RD 14
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 02/27/2012

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
 Executive Vice President

SILVER LAKE, IN 46982

(City) (State) (Zip)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| | | | | Code V | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price |
| Common Stock | 02/27/2012 | | M | | 4,526 | A | \$ 0 |
| Common Stock | 02/27/2012 | | S | | 4,526 | D | \$ 25.6986 |
| Common Stock | | | | | 0 | I | 401(k) Plan |

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

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number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------|
| | | | | Code V (A) (D) | | Date Exercisable Expiration Date | Title | |
| Stock Options (Right to Buy) | \$ 17.185 | 02/27/2012 | | M | 4,526 | 12/09/2008 12/09/2013 | Common Stock | 4,526 |
| Restricted Stock Units ⁽³⁾ | \$ 0 ⁽¹⁾ | | | | | 02/01/2015 02/01/2015 ⁽²⁾ | Common Stock | 4,000 |
| Restricted Stock Units ⁽³⁾ | \$ 0 ⁽¹⁾ | | | | | 02/01/2013 02/01/2013 ⁽²⁾ | Common Stock | 3,000 |
| Restricted Stock Units ⁽³⁾ | \$ 0 ⁽¹⁾ | | | | | 02/01/2014 02/01/2014 ⁽²⁾ | Common Stock | 4,000 |
| Stock Options (Right to Buy) | \$ 24.05 | | | | | 05/14/2013 05/14/2018 | Common Stock | 3,000 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|--------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| DEARDORFF KEVIN L 3254 W. STATE RD 14 SILVER LAKE, IN 46982 | | | Executive Vice President | |

Signatures

Teresa A. Bartman,
Attorney-in-Fact 02/29/2012

__Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Each Restricted Stock Unit exercises into 1 share of Common Stock.
- (2) Restricted Stock Unit awards are a conditional promise to transfer a share at a specific future date and do not have an expiration date.
- (3) The Restricted Stock Units are subject to forfeiture based on corporate performance criteria.

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

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