STITT JAMES E Form 4

February 25, 2005

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB Number:

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Expires:

January 31, 2005

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response...

if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5

obligations

Check this box

may continue.

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

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

See Instruction

(Middle)

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

Issuer

STITT JAMES E

Symbol FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS INC

(Check all applicable)

[FISI]

(Last) (First) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction

_X__ Director Officer (give title

10% Owner Other (specify

220 LIBERTY STREET

(Month/Day/Year) 02/23/2005

below)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)

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

(Instr. 8)

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

(Instr. 4)

Person

WARSAW, NY 14569

(City) (State) (Zip)

(Street)

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

1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)

2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year)

Execution Date, if

(Month/Day/Year)

3. 4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following

6. Ownership 7. Nature of Form: Direct Indirect (D) or Indirect Beneficial (I)

Ownership (Instr. 4)

(A) or

Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)

Code V Amount (D) Price

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

Persons who respond to the collection of SEC 1474 information contained in this form are not (9-02)required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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

1. Title of Derivative Conversion Security or Exercise

3. Transaction Date 3A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year)

Execution Date, if any

4. Transactionof Code

5. Number 6. Date Exercisable and **Expiration Date** Derivative (Month/Day/Year)

7. Title and Amount of 8. Pri **Underlying Securities** (Instr. 3 and 4)

Deriv

Secur

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(Instr. 3)	Price of Derivative Security	(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8		Acqui (A) or Dispos of (D)	isposed f(D) nstr. 3, 4,				(Instr	
			Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 21.05	02/23/2005	A		200		<u>(1)</u>	02/23/2015	Common Stock	200	\$ 21

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships						
1	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other			
STITT JAMES E 220 LIBERTY STREET WARSAW, NY 14569	X						

Signatures

Sonia M. Dumbleton for James E. Stitt 02/25/2005

**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) The option vests in four equal annual installments beginning on February 23, 2006.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.

Reporting Owners 2