

AMERISAFE INC
Form 10-Q
October 30, 2015
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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20549

FORM 10-Q

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d)
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
FOR THE QUARTERLY PERIOD ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

Commission file number:

001-12251

AMERISAFE, INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Texas
(State of Incorporation)

75-2069407
(I.R.S. Employer)

Identification Number)

2301 Highway 190 West, DeRidder, Louisiana
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

70634
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (337) 463-9052

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant: (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the Registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer
Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes No

As of October 28, 2015, there were 19,093,792 shares of the Registrant's common stock, par value \$.01 per share, outstanding.

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FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This report contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. You should not place undue reliance on these statements. These forward-looking statements include statements that reflect the current views of our senior management with respect to our financial performance and future events with respect to our business and the insurance industry in general. Statements that include the words expect, intend, plan, believe, project, forecast, estimate, may, should, similar statements of a future or forward-looking nature identify forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements address matters that involve risks and uncertainties. Accordingly, there are or will be important factors that could cause our actual results to differ materially from those indicated in these statements. We believe that these factors include, but are not limited to, the following:

increased competition on the basis of types of insurance offered, premium rates, coverage availability, payment terms, claims management, safety services, policy terms, overall financial strength, financial ratings and reputation;

the cyclical nature of the workers' compensation insurance industry;

general economic conditions, including recession, inflation, performance of financial markets, interest rates, unemployment rates and fluctuating asset values;

greater frequency or severity of claims and loss activity, including as a result of natural or man-made catastrophic events, than our underwriting, reserving or investment practices anticipate based on historical experience or industry data;

technology breaches or failures, including those resulting from a malicious cyber attack on the Company or its policyholders and medical providers;

adverse developments in economic, competitive or regulatory conditions within the workers' compensation insurance industry;

decreased demand for our insurance;

changes in regulations, laws, rates, or rating factors applicable to the Company, its policyholders or the agencies that sell its insurance;

loss of the services of any of our senior management or other key employees;

changes in rating agency policies, practices or ratings;

changes in the availability, cost or quality of reinsurance and the failure of our reinsurers to pay claims in a timely manner or at all;

decreased level of business activity of our policyholders caused by decreased business activity generally, and in particular in the industries we target;

changes in legal theories of liability under our insurance policies;

developments in capital markets that adversely affect the performance of our investments;

the effects of U.S. involvement in hostilities with other countries and large-scale acts of terrorism, or the threat of hostilities or terrorist acts; and

other risks and uncertainties described from time to time in the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The foregoing factors should not be construed as exhaustive and should be read together with the other cautionary statements included in this report, and under the caption "Risk Factors" in Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014. If one or more events related to these or other risks or uncertainties materialize, or if our underlying assumptions prove to be incorrect, actual results may differ materially from what we anticipate.

Table of Contents**PART I - FINANCIAL INFORMATION****Item 1. Financial Statements.****AMERISAFE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS****(in thousands, except share and per share data)**

| | September 30, 2015 (unaudited) | December 31, 2014 |
|---|---|------------------------------|
| Assets | | |
| Investments: | | |
| Fixed maturity securities held-to-maturity, at amortized cost (fair value \$679,893 and \$664,371 in 2015 and 2014, respectively) | \$ 660,250 | \$ 639,631 |
| Fixed maturity securities available-for-sale, at fair value (cost \$364,748 and \$327,004 in 2015 and 2014, respectively) | 369,833 | 331,242 |
| Equity securities available-for-sale, at fair value (cost \$0 in 2015 and 2014) | 31 | 28 |
| Short-term investments | 7,057 | 33,684 |
| Other investments | 11,759 | 11,748 |
| Total investments | 1,048,930 | 1,016,333 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 99,899 | 90,956 |
| Amounts recoverable from reinsurers | 91,092 | 85,888 |
| Premiums receivable, net of allowance | 194,086 | 178,917 |
| Deferred income taxes | 31,688 | 31,231 |
| Accrued interest receivable | 12,208 | 11,637 |
| Property and equipment, net | 6,945 | 7,240 |
| Deferred policy acquisition costs | 21,089 | 19,649 |
| Federal income tax recoverable | | 1,082 |
| Other assets | 46,603 | 14,287 |
| Total assets | \$ 1,552,540 | \$ 1,457,220 |
| Liabilities and shareholders equity | | |
| Liabilities: | | |
| Reserves for loss and loss adjustment expenses | \$ 720,710 | \$ 687,602 |
| Unearned premiums | 176,270 | 168,576 |
| Reinsurance premiums payable | 274 | 843 |
| Amounts held for others | 49,287 | 42,827 |
| Policyholder deposits | 47,944 | 48,722 |
| Insurance-related assessments | 33,531 | 29,315 |
| Federal income tax payable | 979 | |

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| | | |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| Accounts payable and other liabilities | 30,000 | 30,110 |
| Payable for investments purchased | 2,969 | 2,257 |
| Total liabilities | 1,061,964 | 1,010,252 |
| Shareholders' equity: | | |
| Common stock: | | |
| Voting \$0.01 par value authorized shares 50,000,000 in 2015 and 2014; 20,352,042 and 20,155,936 shares issued and 19,093,792 and 18,897,686 shares outstanding in 2015 and 2014, respectively | 203 | 201 |
| Additional paid-in capital | 203,322 | 199,138 |
| Treasury stock at cost (1,258,250 shares in 2015 and 2014) | (22,370) | (22,370) |
| Accumulated earnings | 306,061 | 267,189 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income, net | 3,360 | 2,810 |
| Total shareholders' equity | 490,576 | 446,968 |
| Total liabilities and shareholders' equity | \$ 1,552,540 | \$ 1,457,220 |

See accompanying notes.

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AMERISAFE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME

(in thousands, except share and per share data)

(unaudited)

| | Three Months Ended September 30, | | Nine Months Ended September 30, | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|------------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 |
| Revenues | | | | |
| Gross premiums written | \$ 91,061 | \$ 93,962 | \$ 297,872 | \$ 303,485 |
| Ceded premiums written | (4,232) | (3,823) | (9,317) | (10,655) |
| Net premiums written | \$ 86,829 | \$ 90,139 | \$ 288,555 | \$ 292,830 |
| Net premiums earned | \$ 90,504 | \$ 95,928 | \$ 280,860 | \$ 278,677 |
| Net investment income | 6,923 | 6,495 | 20,646 | 20,048 |
| Net realized gains/(losses) on investments | 40 | (152) | (2,518) | 181 |
| Fee and other income | 3 | 65 | 206 | 227 |
| Total revenues | 97,470 | 102,336 | 299,194 | 299,133 |
| Expenses | | | | |
| Loss and loss adjustment expenses incurred | 48,942 | 61,822 | 166,252 | 185,570 |
| Underwriting and certain other operating costs | 9,293 | 7,822 | 26,043 | 24,624 |
| Commissions | 6,696 | 7,022 | 20,606 | 20,696 |
| Salaries and benefits | 6,278 | 6,183 | 18,070 | 18,090 |
| Policyholder dividends | 371 | 139 | 1,024 | 340 |
| Total expenses | 71,580 | 82,988 | 231,995 | 249,320 |
| Income before income taxes | 25,890 | 19,348 | 67,199 | 49,813 |
| Income tax expense | 7,950 | 5,869 | 19,810 | 13,012 |
| Net income | 17,940 | 13,479 | 47,389 | 36,801 |
| Net income available to common shareholders | \$ 17,940 | \$ 13,479 | \$ 47,389 | \$ 36,801 |
| Earnings per share | | | | |
| Basic | \$ 0.95 | \$ 0.72 | \$ 2.51 | \$ 1.98 |
| Diluted | \$ 0.94 | \$ 0.71 | \$ 2.48 | \$ 1.95 |

Shares used in computing earnings per share

| | | | | |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Basic | 18,968,718 | 18,676,033 | 18,911,675 | 18,603,227 |
| Diluted | 19,096,259 | 18,929,777 | 19,088,140 | 18,905,880 |
| Extraordinary cash dividends declared per common share | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ 0.50 |
| Cash dividends declared per common share | \$ 0.15 | \$ 0.12 | \$ 0.45 | \$ 0.36 |

See accompanying notes.

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AMERISAFE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

(in thousands)

(unaudited)

| | Three Months Ended September 30, | | Nine Months Ended September 30, | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 |
| Net income | \$ 17,940 | \$ 13,479 | \$ 47,389 | \$ 36,801 |
| Other comprehensive income: | | | | |
| Unrealized gain on securities, net of tax | 1,308 | 117 | 550 | 6,373 |
| Comprehensive income | \$ 19,248 | \$ 13,596 | \$ 47,939 | \$ 43,174 |

AMERISAFE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

(in thousands, except share data)

(unaudited)

| | Common Stock | | Treasury Stock | | Additional Paid-In Capital | Accumulated Earnings | Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss | Total |
|---|--------------|--------|----------------|-------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---|------------|
| | Shares | Amount | Shares | Amounts | | | | |
| Balance at December 31, 2014 | 20,155,936 | \$ 201 | (1,258,250) | \$ (22,370) | \$ 199,138 | \$ 267,189 | \$ 2,810 | \$ 446,968 |
| Comprehensive income | | | | | | 47,389 | 550 | 47,939 |
| Options exercised | 156,850 | 2 | | | 1,275 | | | 1,277 |
| Tax benefit from share-based payments | | | | | 1,795 | | | 1,795 |
| Restricted common stock issued | 39,256 | | | | 502 | | | 502 |
| Share-based compensation | | | | | 612 | | | 612 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|---------|--|---------|
| Dividends to stockholders | | | | | | (8,517) | | (8,517) |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|---------|--|---------|

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|--------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|----------|------------|
| Balance at September 30, 2015 | 20,352,042 | \$ 203 | (1,258,250) | \$ (22,370) | \$ 203,322 | \$ 306,061 | \$ 3,360 | \$ 490,576 |
|-------------------------------|------------|--------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|----------|------------|

See accompanying notes.

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AMERISAFE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(in thousands)

(unaudited)

| | Nine Months Ended September 30, | |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------|
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Operating Activities | | |
| Net income | \$ 47,389 | \$ 36,801 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: | | |
| Depreciation | 1,030 | 958 |
| Net amortization of investments | 12,295 | 11,336 |
| Deferred income taxes | (752) | (3,616) |
| Net realized (gains)/losses on investments | 2,518 | (181) |
| Net realized losses on sale of fixed assets | 24 | |
| Share-based compensation | 691 | 988 |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities: | | |
| Premiums receivable, net | (15,169) | (22,036) |
| Accrued interest receivable | (571) | (26) |
| Deferred policy acquisition costs | (1,440) | (1,845) |
| Amounts held by others | (27,847) | (1,081) |
| Other assets | (1,712) | (2,669) |
| Reserves for loss and loss adjustment expenses | 33,108 | 62,052 |
| Unearned premiums | 7,694 | 14,153 |
| Reinsurance balances | (5,773) | (13,817) |
| Amounts held for others and policyholder deposits | 5,682 | 9,423 |
| Accounts payable and other liabilities | 5,555 | 12,354 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 62,722 | 102,794 |
| Investing Activities | | |
| Purchases of investments held-to-maturity | (145,771) | (151,608) |
| Purchases of investments available-for-sale | (114,406) | (104,172) |
| Purchases of short-term investments | (7,000) | (72,900) |
| Proceeds from maturities of investments held-to-maturity | 115,656 | 79,042 |
| Proceeds from sales and maturities of investments available-for-sale | 70,652 | 42,633 |
| Proceeds from sales and maturities of short-term investments | 33,341 | 112,652 |
| Purchases of property and equipment | (759) | (771) |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (48,287) | (95,124) |
| Financing Activities | | |
| Proceeds from stock option exercises | 1,277 | 1,820 |

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| | | |
|--|-----------|------------|
| Tax benefit from share-based payments | 1,795 | 1,975 |
| Dividends to stockholders | (8,564) | (15,998) |
| Net cash used in financing activities | (5,492) | (12,203) |
| Change in cash and cash equivalents | 8,943 | (4,533) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period | 90,956 | 123,077 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of period | \$ 99,899 | \$ 118,544 |

See accompanying notes.

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AMERISAFE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(unaudited)

Note 1. Basis of Presentation

AMERISAFE, Inc. (the Company) is an insurance holding company incorporated in the state of Texas. The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and its subsidiaries: American Interstate Insurance Company (AIIC), Silver Oak Casualty, Inc. (SOCI), American Interstate Insurance Company of Texas (AIICTX), Amerisafe Risk Services, Inc. (RISK) and Amerisafe General Agency, Inc. (AGAI). AIIC and SOCI are property and casualty insurance companies organized under the laws of the state of Nebraska. AIICTX is a property and casualty insurance company organized under the laws of the state of Texas. RISK, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company, is a claims and safety services company, currently servicing only affiliated insurance companies. AGAI, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company, is a general agent for the Company. AGAI sells insurance, which is underwritten by AIIC, SOCI and AIICTX, as well as by nonaffiliated insurance carriers. The assets and operations of AGAI are not significant to that of the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries. The terms AMERISAFE, the Company, we, us or our refer to AMERISAFE, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries, as the context requires.

The Company provides workers' compensation insurance for small to mid-sized employers engaged in hazardous industries, principally construction, trucking, manufacturing, oil and gas, and agriculture. Assets and revenues of AIIC represent at least 95% of comparable consolidated amounts of the Company for each of 2015 and 2014.

In the opinion of management of the Company, the accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements contain all adjustments (consisting of normal recurring accruals) necessary to present fairly the financial position, the results of operations and cash flows for the periods presented. The unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the instructions to Form 10-Q under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and therefore do not include all information and footnotes to be in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (GAAP). The results for the interim periods are not necessarily indicative of the results of operations that may be expected for the year. The unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements contained herein should be read in conjunction with our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Certain prior year amounts have been reclassified to conform with the current year presentation.

Note 2. Stock Options and Restricted Stock

As of September 30, 2015, the Company has three equity incentive plans: the AMERISAFE 2005 Equity Incentive Plan (the 2005 Incentive Plan), the AMERISAFE 2010 Non-Employee Director Restricted Stock Plan (the 2010 Restricted Stock Plan) and the AMERISAFE 2012 Equity and Incentive Compensation Plan (the 2012 Incentive Plan). The 2005 Incentive Plan expired on October 27, 2015. No grants will be made under the 2005 Incentive Plan

after October 27, 2015 but all grants made on or prior to such date will continue in effect thereafter subject to the terms and conditions of the 2005 Incentive Plan. See Note 12 to our consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014 for additional information regarding the Company's incentive plans.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2015, the Company granted 50,461 and 7,112 shares of restricted common stock to executive officers and non-employee directors, respectively. The market value of the restricted shares granted totaled \$2.6 million. During the nine months ended September 30, 2014, the Company granted 4,312 and 4,866 shares of restricted common stock to executive officers and non-employee directors, respectively. The market value of the restricted shares granted totaled \$0.4 million.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2015, options to purchase 156,850 shares of common stock were exercised. During the nine months ended September 30, 2014, options to purchase 204,667 shares of common stock were exercised. In connection with these exercises, the Company received \$1.3 million and \$1.8 million of stock option proceeds, respectively.

The Company recognized share-based compensation expense of \$0.7 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and \$1.0 million for the same period of 2014.

Table of Contents**Note 3. Earnings Per Share**

The Company computes earnings per share (EPS) in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) Topic 260, *Earnings Per Share*. The Company has no participating unvested common shares which contain nonforfeitable rights to dividends and applies the treasury stock method in computing basic and diluted earnings per share.

Basic EPS is calculated by dividing income available to common shareholders by the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding during the period. The diluted EPS calculation includes potential common shares assumed issued under the treasury stock method, which reflects the potential dilution that would occur if any outstanding options or warrants were exercised or restricted stock becomes vested, and includes the if converted method for participating securities if the effect is dilutive.

| | Three Months Ended September 30, | | Nine Months Ended September 30, | |
|---|---|-------------|--|-------------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 |
| | (in thousands, except share and per share amounts) | | | |
| Basic EPS: | | | | |
| Net income available to common shareholders - basic | \$ 17,940 | \$ 13,479 | \$ 47,389 | \$ 36,801 |
| Basic weighted average common shares | 18,968,718 | 18,676,033 | 18,911,675 | 18,603,227 |
| Basic earnings per common share | \$ 0.95 | \$ 0.72 | \$ 2.51 | \$ 1.98 |
| Diluted EPS: | | | | |
| Net income available to common shareholders - diluted | \$ 17,940 | \$ 13,479 | \$ 47,389 | \$ 36,801 |
| Diluted weighted average common shares: | | | | |
| Weighted average common shares | 18,968,718 | 18,676,033 | 18,911,675 | 18,603,227 |
| Stock options and performance shares | 127,541 | 253,744 | 176,465 | 302,653 |
| Diluted weighted average common shares | 19,096,259 | 18,929,777 | 19,088,140 | 18,905,880 |
| Diluted earnings per common share | \$ 0.94 | \$ 0.71 | \$ 2.48 | \$ 1.95 |

Note 4. Investments

The gross unrealized gains and losses on, and the amortized cost and fair value of, those investments classified as held-to-maturity at September 30, 2015 are summarized as follows:

| Amortized Cost | Gross Unrealized Gains | Gross Unrealized Losses | Fair Value |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| (in thousands) | | | |

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| | | | | |
|--|------------|-----------|----------|------------|
| States and political subdivisions | \$ 417,804 | \$ 16,307 | \$ (195) | \$ 433,916 |
| Corporate bonds | 170,176 | 555 | (241) | 170,490 |
| Commercial mortgage-backed securities | 43,396 | 586 | | 43,982 |
| U.S. agency-based mortgage-backed securities | 14,094 | 1,393 | (1) | 15,486 |
| U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. Government agencies | 12,365 | 1,074 | | 13,439 |
| Asset-backed securities | 2,415 | 224 | (59) | 2,580 |
| Totals | \$ 660,250 | \$ 20,139 | \$ (496) | \$ 679,893 |

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The gross unrealized gains and losses on, and the cost or amortized cost and fair value of, those investments classified as available-for-sale at September 30, 2015 are summarized as follows:

| | Cost or Amortized Cost | Gross Unrealized Gains | Gross Unrealized Losses | Fair Value |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| | (in thousands) | | | |
| Fixed maturity: | | | | |
| States and political subdivisions | \$ 166,520 | \$ 6,685 | \$ (447) | \$ 172,758 |
| Corporate bonds | 189,169 | 762 | (451) | 189,480 |
| U.S. agency-based mortgage-backed securities | 9,059 | 7 | (1,471) | 7,595 |
| Total fixed maturity | 364,748 | 7,454 | (2,369) | 369,833 |
| Other investments | 10,000 | 1,759 | | 11,759 |
| Equity securities | | 31 | | 31 |
| Totals | \$ 374,748 | \$ 9,244 | \$ (2,369) | \$ 381,623 |

The gross unrealized gains and losses on, and the amortized cost and fair value of, those investments classified as held-to-maturity at December 31, 2014 are summarized as follows:

| | Amortized Cost | Gross Unrealized Gains | Gross Unrealized Losses | Fair Value |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| | (in thousands) | | | |
| States and political subdivisions | \$ 385,623 | \$ 20,100 | \$ (58) | \$ 405,665 |
| Corporate bonds | 176,880 | 374 | (520) | 176,734 |
| Commercial mortgage-backed securities | 46,662 | 1,867 | | 48,529 |
| U.S. agency-based mortgage-backed securities | 16,972 | 1,702 | (2) | 18,672 |
| U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. Government agencies | 10,697 | 1,097 | (2) | 11,792 |
| Asset-backed securities | 2,797 | 264 | (82) | 2,979 |
| Totals | \$ 639,631 | \$ 25,404 | \$ (664) | \$ 664,371 |

The gross unrealized gains and losses on, and the cost or amortized cost and fair value of, those investments classified as available-for-sale at December 31, 2014 are summarized as follows:

| | Cost or Amortized Cost | Gross Unrealized Gains | Gross Unrealized Losses | Fair Value |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------|
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------|

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(in thousands)

| | | | | |
|--|------------|----------|------------|------------|
| Fixed maturity: | | | | |
| States and political subdivisions | \$ 151,744 | \$ 7,302 | \$ (1,672) | \$ 157,374 |
| Corporate bonds | 165,412 | 428 | (470) | 165,370 |
| U.S. agency-based mortgage-backed securities | 9,848 | 2 | (1,352) | 8,498 |
| Total fixed maturity | 327,004 | 7,732 | (3,494) | 331,242 |
| Other investments | 10,000 | 1,748 | | 11,748 |
| Equity securities | | 28 | | 28 |
| Totals | \$ 337,004 | \$ 9,508 | \$ (3,494) | \$ 343,018 |

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A summary of the cost and fair value of investments in fixed maturity securities, classified as held-to-maturity at September 30, 2015, by contractual maturity, is as follows:

| Remaining Time to Maturity | Amortized | |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|
| | Cost Basis | Fair Value |
| | (in thousands) | |
| Within one year | \$ 125,030 | \$ 125,807 |
| After one year through five years | 281,139 | 289,630 |
| After five years through ten years | 123,928 | 129,689 |
| After ten years | 70,248 | 72,719 |
| U.S. agency-based mortgage-backed securities | 14,094 | 15,486 |
| Commercial mortgage-backed securities | 43,396 | 43,982 |
| Asset-backed securities | 2,415 | 2,580 |
| Total | \$ 660,250 | \$ 679,893 |

A summary of cost and fair value of investments in fixed maturity securities, classified as available-for-sale at September 30, 2015, by contractual maturity, is as follows:

| Remaining Time to Maturity | Amortized | |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|
| | Cost Basis | Fair Value |
| | (in thousands) | |
| Within one year | \$ 31,131 | \$ 31,258 |
| After one year through five years | 183,756 | 185,173 |
| After five years through ten years | 25,294 | 25,470 |
| After ten years | 115,508 | 120,337 |
| U.S. agency-based mortgage-backed securities | 9,059 | 7,595 |
| Total | \$ 364,748 | \$ 369,833 |

The following table summarizes the fair value and gross unrealized losses on securities, aggregated by major investment category and length of time that the individual securities have been in a continuous unrealized loss position:

| Less Than 12 Months | | 12 Months or Greater | | Total | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Fair Value of Investments with Unrealized | Gross Unrealized Losses | Fair Value of Investments with Unrealized | Gross Unrealized Losses | Fair Value of Investments with Unrealized | Gross Unrealized Losses |

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| | Losses | | Losses (in thousands) | | Losses | |
|--|------------|--------|--------------------------|----------|------------|----------|
| September 30, 2015 | | | | | | |
| Held-to-Maturity | | | | | | |
| Fixed maturity securities: | | | | | | |
| Corporate bonds | \$ 52,041 | \$ 192 | \$ 20,270 | \$ 49 | \$ 72,311 | \$ 241 |
| States and political subdivisions | 36,630 | 195 | | | 36,630 | 195 |
| U.S. agency-based mortgage-backed securities | 53 | 1 | 5 | | 58 | 1 |
| Asset-backed securities | | | 1,480 | 59 | 1,480 | 59 |
| Total held-to-maturity securities | 88,724 | 388 | 21,755 | 108 | 110,479 | 496 |
| Available-for Sale | | | | | | |
| Fixed maturity securities: | | | | | | |
| Corporate bonds | \$ 46,388 | \$ 440 | \$ 4,241 | \$ 11 | \$ 50,629 | \$ 451 |
| States and political subdivisions | 11,419 | 61 | 4,263 | 386 | 15,682 | 447 |
| U.S. agency-based mortgage-backed securities | 486 | 26 | 7,023 | 1,445 | 7,509 | 1,471 |
| Total available-for-sale securities | 58,293 | 527 | 15,527 | 1,842 | 73,820 | 2,369 |
| Total | \$ 147,017 | \$ 915 | \$ 37,282 | \$ 1,950 | \$ 184,299 | \$ 2,865 |

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| | Less Than 12 Months | | 12 Months or Greater | | Total | |
|--|--|-------------------------|--|-------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| | Fair Value of Investments with Unrealized Losses | Gross Unrealized Losses | Fair Value of Investments with Unrealized Losses | Gross Unrealized Losses | Fair Value of Investments with Unrealized Losses | Gross Unrealized Losses |
| December 31, 2014 | | | | | | |
| Held-to-Maturity | | | | | | |
| Fixed maturity securities: | | | | | | |
| Corporate bonds | \$ 129,788 | \$ 520 | \$ | \$ | \$ 129,788 | \$ 520 |
| States and political subdivisions | 16,896 | 58 | | | 16,896 | 58 |
| U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. Government agencies | 3,385 | 2 | | | 3,385 | 2 |
| U.S. agency-based mortgage-backed securities | 78 | 2 | | | 78 | 2 |
| Asset-backed securities | | | 1,662 | 82 | 1,662 | 82 |
| Total held-to-maturity securities | 150,147 | 582 | 1,662 | 82 | 151,809 | 664 |
| Available-for Sale | | | | | | |
| Fixed maturity securities: | | | | | | |
| Corporate bonds | \$ 106,185 | \$ 470 | \$ | \$ | \$ 106,185 | \$ 470 |
| States and political subdivisions | 3,810 | 6 | 10,347 | 1,666 | 14,157 | 1,672 |
| U.S. agency-based mortgage-backed securities | 627 | 11 | 7,757 | 1,341 | 8,384 | 1,352 |
| Total available-for-sale securities | 110,622 | 487 | 18,104 | 3,007 | 128,726 | 3,494 |
| Total | \$ 260,769 | \$ 1,069 | \$ 19,766 | \$ 3,089 | \$ 280,535 | \$ 4,158 |

At September 30, 2015, the Company held 121 individual fixed maturity securities that were in an unrealized loss position, of which 28 individual fixed maturity securities were in a continuous unrealized loss position for longer than 12 months.

The Company holds investments in a long/short equity fund, accounted for under the equity method. The carrying value of this investment is \$11.8 million at September 30, 2015.

Investment income is recognized as it is earned. The discount or premium on fixed maturity securities is amortized using the constant yield method. Anticipated prepayments, where applicable, are considered when determining the amortization of premiums or discounts. Realized investment gains and losses are determined using the specific identification method.

We regularly review our investment portfolio to evaluate the necessity of recording impairment losses for other-than-temporary declines in the fair value of specific investments. We consider various factors in determining if a decline in the fair value of an individual security is other-than-temporary. The key factors we consider are:

any reduction or elimination of preferred dividends, or nonpayment of scheduled principal or interest payments;

the financial condition and near-term prospects of the issuer of the applicable security, including any specific events that may affect its operations or earnings;

how long and by how much the fair value of the security has been below its cost or amortized cost;

any downgrades of the security by a rating agency;

our intent not to sell the security for a sufficient time period for it to recover its value;

the likelihood of being forced to sell the security before the recovery of its value; and

an evaluation as to whether there are any credit losses on debt securities.

We reviewed all securities with unrealized losses in accordance with the impairment policy described above. With the exception of four securities deemed to be other-than-temporarily impaired, the Company determined that the unrealized losses in the fixed maturity securities portfolio related primarily to changes in market interest rates since the date of purchase, current conditions in the capital markets and the impact of those conditions on market liquidity and prices generally, and the transfer of the investments from the available-for-sale classification to the held-to-maturity classification in January 2004. We expect to recover the carrying value of these securities as it is not more likely than not that we will be required to sell the securities before the recovery of the amortized cost basis.

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During the nine months ended September 30, 2015, the Company impaired four fixed maturity securities in the amount of \$2.7 million. The impairment charge is included in Net realized gains/(losses) on investments for 2015. We impaired the securities due to recent downgrades of the securities and the amount of the accumulated unrealized loss. After reviewing the change in relevant benchmark yields, the Company determined the loss was credit related.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2014, the Company impaired a fixed maturity security in the amount of \$0.2 million. The impairment charge is included in Net realized gains (losses) on investments for 2014. We impaired the security due to a downgrade of the security and the amount of the accumulated unrealized loss.

Net realized losses in the nine months ended September 30, 2015 were \$2.5 million resulting from an impairment loss of \$2.7 million recognized for the other-than-temporary declines in the fair value of four fixed maturity securities. Net realized gains in the nine months ended September 30, 2014 were \$0.2 million resulting from \$0.4 million in gains on called fixed maturity securities offset by an impairment loss of \$0.2 million recognized for the other-than-temporary decline in the fair value of a fixed maturity security.

Note 5. Income Taxes

In accordance with FASB ASC Topic 740, Income Taxes, we provide for the recognition and measurement of deferred income tax benefits based on the likelihood of their realization in future years. As of September 30, 2015, the Company had no material unrecognized tax benefits and no adjustments to liabilities or operations were required.

The Company recognizes interest and penalties related to uncertain tax positions in income tax expense. There were no uncertain tax positions recognized for the periods ended September 30, 2015 and 2014.

Tax years 2011 through 2014 are subject to examination by the federal and state taxing authorities.

Note 6. Comprehensive Income and Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income

Comprehensive income was \$19.2 million for the three months ended September 30, 2015, compared to \$13.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2014. Comprehensive income was \$47.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2015, compared to \$43.2 million for the same period in 2014. The difference between net income as reported and comprehensive income was due to changes in unrealized gains and losses, net of tax on available-for-sale securities.

Comprehensive income includes net income plus unrealized gains/losses on our available-for-sale investment securities, net of tax. In reporting comprehensive income on a net basis in the statement of income, we used a 35 percent tax rate. The following table illustrates the changes in the balance of each component of accumulated other comprehensive income for each period presented in the interim financial statements.

| | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|
| | September 30, | | Ended | |
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 |
| | (in thousands) | | | |
| Beginning balance | \$ 2,052 | \$ 1,961 | \$ 2,810 | \$ (4,295) |

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| | | | | |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Other comprehensive income/(loss) before reclassification | 1,400 | 121 | (188) | 6,192 |
| Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive income | (92) | (4) | 738 | 181 |
| Net current period other comprehensive income/(loss) | 1,308 | 117 | 550 | 6,373 |
| Ending balance | \$ 3,360 | \$ 2,078 | \$ 3,360 | \$ 2,078 |

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The sale or other-than-temporary impairment of an available-for-sale security results in amounts being reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive income to current period net income. The effects of reclassifications out of accumulated other comprehensive income by the respective line items of net income are presented in the following table.

| Component of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income | Three Months Ended | | | | Affected line item in the statement of income |
|--|--------------------|------|---------------|----------|---|
| | September 30, | | September 30, | | |
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | |
| | (in thousands) | | | | |
| Unrealized gains/(losses) on available-for-sale securities | \$ 142 | \$ 1 | \$ 464 | \$ (270) | Net realized gains/(losses) on investments |
| Other-than-temporary impairment | | 5 | (1,600) | (8) | Net realized gains/(losses) on investments |
| | 142 | 6 | (1,136) | (278) | Income before income taxes |
| | (50) | (2) | 398 | 97 | Income tax expense |
| | \$ 92 | \$ 4 | \$ (738) | \$ (181) | Net income |

Note 7. Fair Value Measurements

We carry available-for-sale securities at fair value in our consolidated financial statements and determine fair value measurements and disclosure in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 820, Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures.

The Company determines the fair values of its financial instruments based on the fair value hierarchy established in ASC Topic 820, which requires an entity to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when measuring fair value. The standard defines fair value, describes three levels of inputs that may be used to measure fair value, and expands disclosures about fair value measurements.

Fair value is defined in ASC Topic 820 as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Fair value is the price to sell an asset or transfer a liability and, therefore, represents an exit price, not an entry price. Fair value is the exit price in the principal market (or, if lacking a principal market, the most advantageous market) in which the reporting entity would transact. Fair value is a market-based measurement, not an entity-specific measurement, and, as such, is determined based on the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability. The exit price objective of a fair value measurement applies regardless of the reporting entity's intent and/or ability to sell the asset or transfer the liability at the measurement date.

ASC Topic 820 requires the use of valuation techniques that are consistent with the market approach, the income approach and/or the cost approach. The market approach uses prices and other relevant information generated by market transactions involving identical or comparable assets and liabilities. The income approach uses valuation techniques to convert future amounts, such as cash flows or earnings, to a single present value amount on a discounted basis. The cost approach is based on the amount that currently would be required to replace the service capacity of an asset, also known as current replacement cost. Valuation techniques used to measure fair value are to be consistently

applied.

In ASC Topic 820, inputs refer broadly to the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability, including assumptions about risk, for example, the risk inherent in a particular valuation technique used to measure fair value (such as a pricing model) and/or the risk inherent in the inputs to the valuation technique. Inputs may be observable or unobservable:

Observable inputs are inputs that reflect the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on market data obtained from sources independent of the reporting entity.

Unobservable inputs are inputs that reflect the reporting entity's own assumptions about the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on the best information available in the circumstances.

Valuation techniques used to measure fair value are intended to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. ASC Topic 820 establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the use of inputs used in valuation techniques into the following three levels:

Level 1 inputs are quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the reporting entity has the ability to access at the measurement date.

Level 2 inputs are inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. Level 2 inputs include quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active, inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability, or inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data.

Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs for the asset or liability. Unobservable inputs are to be used to measure fair value to the extent that observable inputs are not available, thereby allowing for situations in which there is little, if any, market activity for the asset or liability at the measurement date.

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In general, fair value is based upon quoted market prices, where available. If such quoted market prices are not available, fair value is based upon internally developed models that primarily use, as inputs, observable market-based parameters.

The fair values of the Company's investments are based upon prices provided by an independent pricing service. The Company has reviewed these prices for reasonableness and has not adjusted any prices received from the independent provider. Securities reported at fair value utilizing Level 1 inputs represent assets whose fair value is determined based upon observable unadjusted quoted market prices for identical assets in active markets. Level 2 securities represent assets whose fair value is determined using observable market information such as previous day trade prices, quotes from less active markets or quoted prices of securities with similar characteristics. There were no transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 during the nine months ended September 30, 2015.

At September 30, 2015, assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis are summarized below:

| | September 30, 2015 | | | Total Fair Value |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| | Level 1 Inputs | Level 2 Inputs | Level 3 Inputs | |
| (in thousands) | | | | |
| Financial instruments carried at fair value, classified as a part of: | | | | |
| Other investments | \$ | \$ | \$ 11,759 | \$ 11,759 |
| Securities available for sale - equity: | | | | |
| Domestic common stock | 31 | | | 31 |
| Securities available for sale - fixed maturity: | | | | |
| States and political subdivisions | | 172,758 | | 172,758 |
| Corporate bonds | | 189,480 | | 189,480 |
| U.S. agency-based mortgage-backed securities | | 7,595 | | 7,595 |
| Total securities available for sale - fixed maturity | | 369,833 | | 369,833 |
| Total available for sale | \$ 31 | \$ 369,833 | \$ 11,759 | \$ 381,623 |

At September 30, 2015, assets and liabilities measured at amortized cost are summarized below:

| | September 30, 2015 | | | Total Fair Value |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| | Level 1 Inputs | Level 2 Inputs | Level 3 Inputs | |
| (in thousands) | | | | |
| Securities held-to-maturity - fixed maturity | | | | |
| States and political subdivisions | \$ | \$ 433,916 | \$ | \$ 433,916 |
| Corporate bonds | | 170,490 | | 170,490 |
| Commercial mortgage-backed securities | | 43,982 | | 43,982 |
| U.S. agency-based mortgage-backed securities | | 15,486 | | 15,486 |
| U.S. Treasury securities | 13,439 | | | 13,439 |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|------------|----|------------|
| Asset-backed securities | | 2,580 | | 2,580 |
| Total held-to-maturity | \$ 13,439 | \$ 666,454 | \$ | \$ 679,893 |

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At December 31, 2014, assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis are summarized below:

| | December 31, 2014 | | | Total Fair Value |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | Level 1 Inputs | Level 2 Inputs | Level 3 Inputs | |
| (in thousands) | | | | |
| Financial instruments carried at fair value, classified as part of: | | | | |
| Other investments | \$ | \$ | \$ 11,748 | \$ 11,748 |
| Securities available for sale equity: | | | | |
| Domestic common stock | 28 | | | 28 |
| Securities available for sale fixed maturity: | | | | |
| States and political subdivisions | | 157,374 | | 157,374 |
| U.S. agency-based mortgage-backed securities | | 8,498 | | 8,498 |
| Corporate bonds | | 165,370 | | 165,370 |
| Total available for sale fixed maturity | \$ | \$ 331,242 | \$ | \$ 331,242 |
| Total available for sale | \$ 28 | \$ 331,242 | \$ 11,748 | \$ 343,018 |

At December 31, 2014, assets and liabilities measured at amortized cost are summarized below:

| | December 31, 2014 | | | Total Fair Value |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | Level 1 Inputs | Level 2 Inputs | Level 3 Inputs | |
| (in thousands) | | | | |
| Securities held-to-maturity fixed maturity: | | | | |
| States and political subdivisions | \$ | \$ 405,665 | \$ | \$ 405,665 |
| Corporate bonds | | 176,734 | | 176,734 |
| Commercial mortgage-backed securities | | 48,529 | | 48,529 |
| U.S. agency-based mortgage-backed securities | | 18,672 | | 18,672 |
| U.S. Treasury securities | 11,792 | | | 11,792 |
| Asset-backed securities | | 2,979 | | 2,979 |
| Total held-to-maturity | \$ 11,792 | \$ 652,579 | \$ | \$ 664,371 |

The Company determines fair value amounts for financial instruments using available third-party market information. When such information is not available, the Company determines the fair value amounts using appropriate valuation methodologies. Nonfinancial instruments such as real estate, property and equipment, deferred policy acquisition costs, deferred income taxes and loss and loss adjustment expense reserves are excluded from the fair value disclosure.

Cash and Cash Equivalents The carrying amounts reported in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets for these financial instruments approximate their fair values, which are characterized as Level 1 assets.

Investments The fair values for fixed maturity and equity securities are based on prices obtained from an independent pricing service. Equity and treasury securities are characterized as Level 1 assets, as their fair values are based on quoted prices in active markets. Fixed maturity securities, other than treasury securities, are characterized as Level 2 assets, as their fair values are determined using observable market inputs.

Short Term Investments The carrying amounts reported in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets for these financial instruments approximate their fair values. These securities are characterized as Level 2 assets in the fair value hierarchy.

Other Investments Other investments consist of limited partnership (LP) interests valued using the net asset value provided by the general partner of the LP, which approximates the fair value of the interest. The LP's objective is to generate absolute returns by investing long and short in publicly-traded global securities. Redemptions are allowed monthly following a sixty day notice with no lock up periods. The Company has no unfunded commitments related to the LP. This investment is characterized as a Level 3 asset in the fair value hierarchy.

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The following table summarizes the carrying values and corresponding fair values for financial instruments:

| | As of September 30, 2015 | | As of December 31, 2014 | |
|--|--------------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|
| | Carrying Amount | Fair Value | Carrying Amount | Fair Value |
| (in thousands) | | | | |
| Assets: | | | | |
| Fixed maturity securities held-to-maturity | \$ 660,250 | \$ 679,893 | \$ 639,631 | \$ 664,371 |
| Fixed maturity securities available-for-sale | 369,833 | 369,833 | 331,242 | 331,242 |
| Equity securities | 31 | 31 | 28 | 28 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 99,899 | 99,899 | 90,956 | 90,956 |
| Short-term investments | 7,057 | 7,057 | 33,684 | 33,684 |
| Other investments | 11,759 | 11,759 | 11,748 | 11,748 |

The following table presents summary information regarding changes in the fair value of assets measured at fair value using Level 3 input.

| | Nine Months Ended | Twelve Months Ended |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| | September 30, 2015 | December 31, 2014 |
| (in thousands) | | |
| Beginning balance | \$ 11,748 | \$ 10,591 |
| Total unrealized gains | 11 | 1,157 |
| Ending balance | \$ 11,759 | \$ 11,748 |

Note 8. Treasury Stock

The Company's Board of Directors initiated a share repurchase program in February 2010. In October 2015, the Board reauthorized this program with a limit of \$25.0 million. Unless reauthorized, the program will expire on December 31, 2016. Since the beginning of this plan, the Company has repurchased a total of 1,258,250 shares for \$22.4 million, or an average price of \$17.78, including commissions.

Note 9. Commitments and Contingencies

In February 2015, the Company was notified of an adverse verdict against its subsidiary, American Interstate Insurance Company, related to a 2009 workers' compensation claim in the State of Iowa. The verdict was for \$25.3 million, of which \$0.3 million was for actual damages and \$25.0 million was awarded for punitive damages. American Interstate is appealing both the verdict and the damage awards. The Company has posted an appeal bond in the amount of \$27.8 million, as required by law. As of September 30, 2015, the Company's total reserve for the claim was \$2.6 million. The Company presently believes that this reserve amount, together with its reinsurance coverage, is adequate to satisfy this claim.

Note 10. Subsequent Events

On October 27, 2015, the Company's Board of Directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.15 per share payable on December 28, 2015 to shareholders of record as of December 14, 2015. The Board intends to consider the payment of a regular cash dividend each calendar quarter.

On October 27, 2015, the Company's Board of Directors declared an extraordinary cash dividend of \$3.00 per share payable on December 28, 2015 to shareholders of record on December 14, 2015.

On October 27, 2015, the Company's Board of Directors reauthorized the share repurchase program with a limit of \$25.0 million. Unless reauthorized, the program will expire on December 31, 2016.

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements and the related notes included in Item 1 of Part I of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, together with Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014.

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We begin our discussion with an overview of our Company to give you an understanding of our business and the markets we serve. We then discuss our critical accounting policies. This is followed with a discussion of our results of operations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014. This discussion includes an analysis of certain significant period-to-period variances in our consolidated statements of operations. Our cash flows and financial condition are discussed under the caption Liquidity and Capital Resources.

Business Overview

AMERISAFE is a holding company that markets and underwrites workers compensation insurance through its insurance subsidiaries. Workers compensation insurance covers statutorily prescribed benefits that employers are obligated to provide to their employees who are injured in the course and scope of their employment. Our business strategy is focused on providing this coverage to small to mid-sized employers engaged in hazardous industries, principally construction, trucking, manufacturing, oil and gas and agriculture. Employers engaged in hazardous industries pay substantially higher than average rates for workers compensation insurance compared to employers in other industries, as measured per payroll dollar. The higher premium rates are due to the nature of the work performed and the inherent workplace danger of our target employers. Hazardous industry employers also tend to have less frequent but more severe claims as compared to employers in other industries due to the nature of their businesses. We provide proactive safety reviews of employers workplaces. These safety reviews are a vital component of our underwriting process and also promote safer workplaces. We utilize intensive claims management practices that we believe permit us to reduce the overall cost of our claims. In addition, our audit services ensure that our policyholders pay the appropriate premiums required under the terms of their policies and enable us to monitor payroll patterns that cause underwriting, safety or fraud concerns. We believe that the higher premiums typically paid by our policyholders, together with our disciplined underwriting and safety, claims and audit services, provide us with the opportunity to earn attractive returns for our shareholders.

We actively market our insurance in 30 states and the District of Columbia through independent agencies, as well as through our wholly owned insurance agency subsidiary. We are also licensed in an additional 17 states and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Critical Accounting Policies

Understanding our accounting policies is key to understanding our financial statements. Management considers some of these policies to be very important to the presentation of our financial results because they require us to make significant estimates and assumptions. These estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of our assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses and related disclosures. Some of the estimates result from judgments that can be subjective and complex and, consequently, actual results in future periods might differ from these estimates.

Management believes that the most critical accounting policies relate to the reporting of reserves for loss and loss adjustment expenses, including losses that have occurred but have not been reported prior to the reporting date, amounts recoverable from reinsurers, premiums receivable, assessments, deferred policy acquisition costs, deferred income taxes, the impairment of investment securities and share-based compensation. These critical accounting policies are more fully described in Item 7, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014.

Results of Operations

The following table summarizes our consolidated financial results for the three months and nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014.

| | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------|-------------------|------------|
| | September 30, | | September 30, | |
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 |
| | (dollars in thousands, except per share data) | | | |
| | (unaudited) | | | |
| Gross premiums written | \$ 91,061 | \$ 93,962 | \$ 297,872 | \$ 303,485 |
| Net premiums earned | 90,504 | 95,928 | 280,860 | 278,677 |
| Net investment income | 6,923 | 6,495 | 20,646 | 20,048 |
| Total revenues | 97,470 | 102,336 | 299,194 | 299,133 |
| Total expenses | 71,580 | 82,988 | 231,995 | 249,320 |
| Net income | 17,940 | 13,479 | 47,389 | 36,801 |
| Diluted earnings per common share | \$ 0.94 | \$ 0.71 | \$ 2.48 | \$ 1.95 |
| Other Key Measures | | | | |
| Net combined ratio (1) | 79.1% | 86.4% | 82.6% | 89.5% |
| Return on average equity (2) | 14.9% | 12.2% | 13.5% | 11.3% |
| Book value per share (3) | \$ 25.69 | \$ 23.85 | \$ 25.69 | \$ 23.85 |

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- (1) The net combined ratio is calculated by dividing the sum of loss and loss adjustment expenses incurred, underwriting and certain other operating costs, commissions, salaries and benefits, and policyholder dividends by net premiums earned in the current period.
- (2) Return on average equity is calculated by dividing the annualized net income by the average shareholders' equity for the applicable period.
- (3) Book value per share is calculated by dividing shareholders' equity by total outstanding shares, as of the end of the period.

Consolidated Results of Operations for Three Months Ended September 30, 2015 Compared to September 30, 2014

Gross Premiums Written. Gross premiums written for the quarter ended September 30, 2015 were \$91.1 million, compared to \$94.0 million for the same period in 2014, a decrease of 3.1%. The decrease was attributable to a \$4.6 million decrease in premiums resulting from payroll audits and related premium adjustments for policies written in previous quarters. These decreases were partially offset by a \$2.0 million increase in annual premiums on voluntary policies written during the period and a \$0.1 million increase in assumed premium from mandatory pooling arrangements. The effective loss cost multiplier, or LCM, for our voluntary business was 1.77 for the quarter ended September 30, 2015 compared to 1.80 for the same period in 2014.

Net Premiums Written. Net premiums written for the quarter ended September 30, 2015 were \$86.8 million, compared to \$90.1 million for the same period in 2014, a decrease of 3.7%. The decrease was primarily attributable to the decrease in gross premiums written. As a percentage of gross premiums earned, ceded premiums were 4.5% for the third quarter of 2015 compared to 3.8% for the third quarter of 2014. The increase in ceded premiums as a percentage of gross premiums earned reflects additional ceded premium of \$1.8 million resulting from ceded losses offset by improved pricing for our 2015 reinsurance program. For additional information, see Item 1, Business Reinsurance in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014.

Net Premiums Earned. Net premiums earned for the third quarter of 2015 were \$90.5 million, compared to \$95.9 million for the same period in 2014, a decrease of 5.7%. The decrease was attributable to the decrease in net premiums written in the quarter and a decrease in the change in unearned premiums.

Net Investment Income. Net investment income for the quarter ended September 30, 2015 was \$6.9 million, compared to \$6.5 million for the same period in 2014, an increase of 6.6%. Average invested assets, including cash and cash equivalents increased 5.5% to \$1.1 billion in the quarter ended September 30, 2015. The pre-tax investment yield on our investment portfolio was 2.4% per annum during the quarters ended September 30, 2015 and 2014. The tax-equivalent yield on our investment portfolio was 3.5% per annum for the quarters ended September 30, 2015 and 2014. The tax-equivalent yield is calculated using the effective interest rate and a 35% marginal tax rate.

Net Realized Gains/(Losses) on Investments. Net realized gains on investments for the three months ended September 30, 2015 were immaterial compared to net realized losses of \$0.2 million for the same period in 2014. Net realized losses in the third quarter of 2014 were attributable to an other-than-temporary impairment of a fixed maturity security.

Loss and Loss Adjustment Expenses Incurred. Loss and loss adjustment expenses (LAE) incurred totaled \$48.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2015, compared to \$61.8 million for the same period in 2014, a decrease of \$12.9 million, or 20.8%. The current accident year losses and LAE incurred were \$63.2 million, or 69.8% of net premiums earned, compared to \$68.6 million, or 71.5% of net premiums earned, for the same period in 2014. We recorded favorable prior accident year development of \$14.2 million in the third quarter of 2015, compared

to favorable prior accident year development of \$6.8 million in the same period of 2014, as further discussed below in Prior Year Development. Our net loss ratio was 54.1% in the third quarter of 2015, compared to 64.4% for the same period of 2014.

Underwriting and Certain Other Operating Costs, Commissions and Salaries and Benefits. Underwriting and certain other operating costs, commissions and salaries and benefits for the quarter ended September 30, 2015 were \$22.3 million, compared to \$21.0 million for the same period in 2014, an increase of 5.9%. This increase was primarily due to a \$1.1 million decrease in reinsurance contingent profit commission and a \$0.5 million increase in insurance related assessments. Offsetting these increases was a \$0.3 million decrease in commission expense. Our expense ratio was 24.6% in the third quarter of 2015 compared to 21.9% in the third quarter of 2014.

Income Tax Expense. Income tax expense for the three months ended September 30, 2015 was \$8.0 million, compared to \$5.9 million for the same period in 2014. The increase was attributable to an increase in the pre-tax income to \$25.9 million in the quarter ended September 30, 2015 from \$19.3 million in the same period in 2014. The effective tax rate increased to 30.7% in the quarter ended September 30, 2015 from 30.3% in the same period in 2014.

Consolidated Results of Operations for Nine Months Ended September 30, 2015 Compared to September 30, 2014

Gross Premiums Written. Gross premiums written for the first nine months of 2015 were \$297.9 million, compared to \$303.5 million for the same period in 2014, a decrease of 1.8%. The decrease was attributable to a \$3.4 million decrease in premiums

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resulting from payroll audits and related premium adjustments for policies written in previous quarters and a \$2.0 million decrease in annual premiums on voluntary policies written during the period. These decreases were partially offset by a \$0.3 million increase in assumed premium from mandatory pooling arrangements. The effective LCM for our voluntary business was 1.80 for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to 1.84 for the same period in 2014.

Net Premiums Written. Net premiums written for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 were \$288.6 million, compared to \$292.8 million for the same period in 2014, a decrease of 1.5%. The decrease was primarily attributable to the decrease in gross premiums written. As a percentage of gross premiums earned, ceded premiums were 3.2% and 3.7% for the first nine months of 2015 and 2014, respectively. The decrease in ceded premiums as a percentage of gross premiums earned reflects improved pricing for our 2015 reinsurance program offset by an increase of \$1.8 million of additional ceded premium as a result of ceded losses during the period. For additional information, see Item 1, *Business Reinsurance* in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014.

Net Premiums Earned. Net premiums earned for the first nine months of 2015 were \$280.9 million, compared to \$278.7 million for the same period in 2014, an increase of 0.8%. The increase was attributable to premium written during 2014.

Net Investment Income. Net investment income for the first nine months of 2015 was \$20.6 million, compared to \$20.0 million for the same period in 2014, an increase of 3.0%. Average invested assets, including cash and cash equivalents, were \$1.1 billion in the nine months ended September 30, 2015, compared to \$1.0 billion for the same period in 2014, an increase of 8.5%. The pre-tax investment yield on our investment portfolio was 2.4% per annum during the nine months ended September 30, 2015, compared to 2.6% per annum during the same period in 2014. The tax-equivalent yield on our investment portfolio was 3.5% per annum for the first nine months of 2015 and 2014. The tax-equivalent yield is calculated using the effective interest rate and a 35% marginal tax rate.

Net Realized Gains/(Losses) on Investments. Net realized losses on investments for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 totaled \$2.5 million, compared to net realized gains of \$0.2 million for the same period in 2014. Net realized losses in the first nine months of 2015 were attributable to other-than-temporary impairments of four fixed maturity securities of \$2.7 million. Net realized gains in the first nine months of 2014 were attributable to realized gains from the redemption of corporate bonds of \$0.4 million offset by an other-than-temporary impairment of a fixed maturity security of \$0.2 million.

Loss and Loss Adjustment Expenses Incurred. Loss and LAE incurred totaled \$166.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2015, compared to \$185.6 million for the same period in 2014, a decrease of \$19.3 million, or 10.4%. The current accident year losses and LAE incurred were \$196.0 million, or 69.8% of net premiums earned, compared to \$199.3 million, or 71.5% of net premiums earned, for the same period in 2014. We recorded favorable prior accident year development of \$29.8 million in the first nine months of 2015, compared to favorable prior accident year development of \$13.7 million in the same period of 2014, as further discussed below in *Prior Year Development*. Our net loss ratio was 59.2% in the first nine months of 2015, compared to 66.6% for the same period of 2014.

Underwriting and Certain Other Operating Costs, Commissions and Salaries and Benefits. Underwriting and certain other operating costs, commissions and salaries and benefits for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 were \$64.7 million, compared to \$63.4 million for the same period in 2014, an increase of 2.1%. This increase was primarily due to a \$3.1 million decrease in reinsurance contingent profit commission offset by a \$1.4 million decrease in insurance related assessments and a \$0.7 million decrease in accounts receivable write-offs. Our expense ratio was 23.0% in the first nine months of 2015 compared to 22.8% in the same period of 2014.

Income Tax Expense. Income tax expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 was \$19.8 million, compared to \$13.0 million for the same period in 2014. The increase was attributable to an increase in pre-tax income to \$67.2 million in the first nine months of 2015 from \$49.8 million in the first nine months of 2014. The effective tax rate increased to 29.5% for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 from 26.1% for the nine months ended September 30, 2014.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Our principal sources of operating funds are premiums, investment income and proceeds from sales and maturities of investments. Our primary uses of operating funds include payments of claims and operating expenses. Currently, we pay claims using cash flow from operations and invest the remaining funds.

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$62.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2015, which represented a \$40.1 million decrease from \$102.8 million in net cash provided by operating activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2014. This decrease in operating cash flow was attributable to a \$26.8 million increase in amounts held by others, an \$8.1 million increase in underwriting expenses paid, a \$4.4 million increase in federal income taxes paid and a \$3.2 million increase in loss and loss adjustment expenses paid. Offsetting these decreases were a \$2.0 million increase in premium collections, a \$1.0 million increase in investment income, a \$0.6 million increase in paid losses payable and a \$0.5 million decrease in dividends paid.

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Net cash used in investing activities was \$48.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2015, compared to net cash used in investment activities of \$95.1 million for the same period in 2014. Cash provided by sales and maturities of investments totaled \$219.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2015, compared to \$234.3 million for the same period in 2014. A total of \$267.2 million in cash was used to purchase investments in the nine months ended September 30, 2015, compared to \$328.7 million in purchases for the same period in 2014.

Net cash used in financing activities in the nine months ended September 30, 2015 was \$5.5 million compared to net cash used in financing activities of \$12.2 million for the same period in 2014. In the nine months ended September 30, 2015, \$8.6 million of cash was used for dividends paid to shareholders compared to \$16.0 million in the same period of 2014. Offsetting the payment of dividends were proceeds of \$1.3 million and \$1.8 million from stock option exercises in the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively. During the nine months ended September 30, 2015, the tax benefit from share based compensation was \$1.8 million compared to \$2.0 million for the same period in 2014.

Investment Portfolio

Our investment portfolio, including cash and cash equivalents, totaled \$1.1 billion on September 30, 2014 and December 31, 2014. Effective April 1, 2010, purchases of fixed maturity securities are classified as available-for-sale or held-to-maturity based on the individual security. Such classification is made at the time of purchase. The reported value of our fixed maturity securities classified as held-to-maturity, as defined by FASB ASC Topic 320,

Investments-Debt and Equity Securities, was equal to their amortized cost, and thus was not impacted by changing interest rates. Our equity securities and fixed maturity securities classified as available-for-sale were reported at fair value.

The composition of our investment portfolio, including cash and cash equivalents, as of September 30, 2015, is shown in the following table:

| | Carrying Value | Percentage of Portfolio |
|---|-------------------|----------------------------|
| | (in thousands) | |
| Fixed maturity securities held-to-maturity: | | |
| States and political subdivisions | \$ 417,804 | 36.5% |
| U.S. agency-based mortgage-backed securities | 14,094 | 1.2% |
| Commercial mortgage-backed securities | 43,396 | 3.8% |
| U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. | | |
| Government agencies | 12,365 | 1.1% |
| Corporate bonds | 170,176 | 14.9% |
| Asset-backed securities | 2,415 | 0.2% |
| Total fixed maturity securities held-to-maturity | 660,250 | 57.7% |
| Fixed maturity securities available-for-sale: | | |
| States and political subdivisions | 172,758 | 15.1% |
| U.S. agency-based mortgage-backed securities | 7,595 | 0.7% |
| Corporate bonds | 189,480 | 16.5% |

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| | | |
|--|--------------|--------|
| Total fixed maturity securities available-for-sale | 369,833 | 32.3% |
| Equity securities | 31 | 0.0% |
| Short-term investments | 7,057 | 0.5% |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 99,899 | 8.6% |
| Other investments | 11,759 | 0.9% |
| Total investments, including cash and cash equivalents | \$ 1,148,829 | 100.0% |

Our securities classified as available-for-sale are marked to market as of the end of each calendar quarter. As of that date, unrealized gains and losses are recorded to Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income, except when such securities are deemed to be other-than-temporarily impaired. For our securities classified as held-to-maturity, unrealized gains and losses are not recorded in the financial statements until realized or until a decline in fair value, below amortized cost, is deemed to be other-than-temporary.

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During the nine months ended September 30, 2015, the Company recorded charges for four fixed maturity securities whose fair values were determined to be other-than-temporarily impaired. These charges are included in Net realized gains/(losses) on investments, and totaled \$2.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2015.

During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014, the Company recorded charges for a fixed maturity security whose fair value was determined to be other-than-temporarily impaired. These charges are included in Net realized gains/(losses) on investments, and totaled \$0.2 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014.

Prior Year Development

The Company recorded favorable prior accident year development of \$14.2 million in the three months ended September 30, 2015. The table below sets forth the favorable development for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014 for accident years 2010 through 2014 and, collectively, for all accident years prior to 2010.

| Accident Year | Favorable Development | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
| | September 30, 2015 | September 30, 2014 | September 30, 2015 | September 30, 2014 |
| | | | (in millions) | |
| 2014 | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| 2013 | 3.3 | | 4.3 | |
| 2012 | 6.1 | 3.5 | 14.3 | 4.0 |
| 2011 | | | 1.1 | |
| 2010 | 2.6 | 1.9 | 3.6 | 3.7 |
| Prior to 2010 | 2.2 | 1.4 | 6.5 | 6.0 |
| Total net development | \$ 14.2 | \$ 6.8 | \$ 29.8 | \$ 13.7 |

The table below sets forth the number of open claims as of September 30, 2015 and 2014, and the number of claims reported and closed during the three and nine months then ended.

| | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | September 30, 2015 | September 30, 2014 | September 30, 2015 | September 30, 2014 |
| Open claims at beginning of period | 5,236 | 5,342 | 5,515 | 5,297 |
| Claims reported | 1,593 | 1,668 | 4,196 | 4,387 |
| Claims closed | (1,386) | (1,438) | (4,268) | (4,112) |
| Open claims at end of period | 5,443 | 5,572 | 5,443 | 5,572 |

The number of open claims at September 30, 2015 decreased by 129 claims as compared to the number of open claims at September 30, 2014. Efforts continue to close prior year claims, especially in those circumstances where the claim could be settled for less than the corresponding case reserve amount (which amount represents the estimated ultimate cost to settle the claim, undiscounted). Management believes that these efforts have contributed, in part, to the favorable prior accident year development recorded for the three months ended September 30, 2015.

Our reserves for loss and loss adjustment expenses are inherently uncertain and our focus on providing workers compensation insurance to employers engaged in hazardous industries results in our receiving relatively fewer but more severe claims than many other workers compensation insurance companies. As a result of this focus on higher severity, lower frequency business, our reserve for loss and loss adjustment expenses may have greater volatility than other workers compensation insurance companies. For additional information, see Item 1, Business Loss Reserves in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.

Market risk is the risk of potential economic loss principally arising from adverse changes in the fair value of financial instruments. The major components of market risk affecting us are credit risk, interest rate risk and equity price risk. We currently have no exposure to foreign currency risk.

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Since December 31, 2014, there have been no material changes in the quantitative or qualitative aspect of our market risk profile. For additional information regarding the Company's exposure to certain market risks, see Item 7A,

Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures.

Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, we have evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act)) as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based on that evaluation, our chief executive officer and chief financial officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of the end of the period covered by this report to provide reasonable assurance that information we are required to disclose in reports that are filed or submitted under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the rules and forms. We note that the design of any system of controls is based in part upon assumptions about the likelihood of future events, and there can be no assurance that any design will succeed in achieving the stated goals under all potential future conditions.

Because of its inherent limitations, management does not expect that our disclosure controls and procedures and our internal controls over financial reporting will prevent or detect all misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the degree of compliance with policies and procedures may deteriorate. Any control system, no matter how well designed and operated, is based upon certain assumptions and can only provide reasonable, not absolute assurance that its objectives will be met. Further, no evaluation of controls can provide absolute assurance that misstatements due to errors or fraud will not occur or that all control issues and instances of fraud, if any within the Company, have been detected.

There have not been any changes in our internal control over financial reporting during the period covered by this report that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

PART II OTHER INFORMATION

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds.

The Board of Directors initially authorized the Company's share repurchase program in February 2010. In October 2015, the Board reauthorized this program. As of September 30, 2015, we had repurchased a total of 1,258,250 shares of our outstanding common stock for \$22.4 million. There were no shares purchased during the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014. We intend to purchase shares of our common stock from time to time depending upon market conditions and subject to applicable regulatory considerations. It is anticipated that future purchases will be funded from available capital. At September 30, 2015, the dollar value of shares that may yet be purchased under the program is \$25.0 million.

Table of Contents**Item 6. Exhibits.****Exhibit**

| No. | Description |
|------------|---|
| 10.1 | Employment Agreement effective as of September 15, 2015 by and between the Company and Neal A. Fuller incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed August 31, 2015 |
| 31.1 | Certification of G. Janelle Frost filed pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 |
| 31.2 | Certification of Neal A. Fuller filed pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 |
| 32.1 | Certification of G. Janelle Frost and Neal A. Fuller filed pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 |
| 101.INS | XBRL Instance Document |
| 101.SCH | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document |
| 101.CAL | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document |
| 101.LAB | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document |
| 101.PRE | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document |
| 101.DEF | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document |

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

AMERISAFE, INC.

October 30, 2015

/s/ G. Janelle Frost
G. Janelle Frost
President and Chief Executive Officer
(Principal Executive Officer)

October 30, 2015

/s/ Neal A. Fuller
Neal A. Fuller
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial
Officer
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)

Table of Contents**EXHIBIT INDEX**

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