

LITHIA MOTORS INC
Form 10-Q/A
December 18, 2006

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q/A

(Amendment No. 1)

(Mark One)

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES

EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2006

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES

EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from to

Commission file number: **001-14733**

LITHIA MOTORS, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Oregon

(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

93-0572810

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

360 E. Jackson Street, Medford, Oregon

(Address of principal executive offices)

97501

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **541-776-6899**

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

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer or a non-accelerated filer. See definition of accelerated filer and large accelerated filer in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer

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

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date.

Class A common stock without par value

15,791,486

Class B common stock without par value

3,762,231

(Class)

(Outstanding at November 7, 2006)

Explanatory Note

This report was initially filed on November 14, 2006 before our independent registered public accounting firm was able to complete its review of our interim financial statements for the quarterly periods ended September 30, 2006 and 2005. The sole changes to this form 10-Q/A are to eliminate references to the lack of independent registered public accounting firm review from the Explanatory Note and the certifications pursuant to Section 9-06 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and to restate our Controls and Procedures contained in Item 4 of this report.

LITHIA MOTORS, INC.

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Background

As disclosed in Amendment No. 1 to our Form 10-K, we have restated our previously issued consolidated financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2005, 2004 and 2003 to correct an error in those financial statements relating to our derivative accounting under Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 133, Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities (SFAS No. 133).

During the third quarter of 2006, we, in consultation with our independent registered public accounting firm, identified that our application of, and documentation related to, the short-cut method under SFAS No. 133 for our derivative instruments was incorrect. From inception of the hedging program, we applied a method of cash flow hedge accounting under SFAS No. 133 to account for the interest rate swap transactions that allowed us to assume the effectiveness of such transactions. We have determined that the prepayment clauses in the debt agreements, which had not been identified by us or by our accounting experts at implementation, disqualified us from being able to avoid periodic testing of effectiveness under SFAS no. 133. We are not permitted to retroactively apply an appropriate method of qualifying for hedge accounting treatment for these instruments and, as a result, the changes in the fair value of these derivative instruments during their term will be reflected as a net non-cash gain/loss in flooring interest expense rather than in other comprehensive income in the balance sheet. Following our discovery of the errors in the application and documentation of hedge accounting under SFAS No. 133, we initiated a comprehensive review of all of our determinations and documentation related to hedge accounting under the short cut method for our interest rate swaps, as well as our related processes and procedures.

Disclosure Controls and Procedures

We initially evaluated our disclosure controls and procedures (as such term is defined under Rule 13a-15(e) of the Exchange Act) as of the end of the period covered by this report under the direction and with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer. Based on that evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer initially concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of September 30, 2006.

In connection with the aforementioned restatement of financial statements, under the direction of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, we reevaluated our disclosure controls and procedures and concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were not effective as of September 30, 2006 due to a material weakness in internal control over financial reporting with respect to hedge accounting for interest rate swaps.

Remediation of Material Weakness

To remediate the material weakness described above and enhance our internal control over financial reporting, subsequent to the filing of this Form 10-Q/A, management will implement the following changes:

- Improve training and education and understanding of hedge accounting requirements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for all relevant personnel involved in derivatives transactions.
- Revise our documentation to qualify for hedge accounting in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles with the assistance of outside experts that have been engaged. This includes ongoing monitoring and review to ensure the continuing qualification of hedge accounting.

Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting identified in connection with the above evaluation that occurred during the fiscal quarter ended September 30, 2006 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

PART II - OTHER INFORMATION

Item 6. Exhibits

The following exhibits are filed herewith and this list is intended to constitute the exhibit index:

- 3.1 Restated Articles of Incorporation of Lithia Motors, Inc., as amended May 13, 1999 (filed as Exhibit 3.1 to Form 10-K filed March 30, 2000 and incorporated herein by reference).
- 3.2 Bylaws (filed as Exhibit 3.2 to Form S-1, Registration Statement No. 333-14031, as declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 18, 1996 and incorporated herein by reference).
- 10.1 2006 Board of Directors Compensation Package (filed as Exhibit 99.1 to Form 8-K filed May 18, 2006 and incorporated herein by reference).
- 31.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) or Rule 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.
- 31.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) or Rule 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.
- 32.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(b) or Rule 15d-14(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and 18 U.S.C. Section 1350.
- 32.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(b) or Rule 15d-14(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and 18 U.S.C. Section 1350.

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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.

Date: December 15, 2006

LITHIA MOTORS, INC.

By /s/ JEFFREY B. DEBOER
Jeffrey B. DeBoer
Senior Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial Officer)

By /s/ LINDA A. GANIM
Linda A. Ganim
Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer
(Principal Accounting Officer)