

STATE AUTO FINANCIAL CORP  
 Form 4  
 February 10, 2005

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
 LOWTHER JOHN R

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 STATE AUTO FINANCIAL CORP [STFC]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  
 (Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 518 E. BROAD STREET  
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 02/10/2005

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
 Senior Vice President, Secreta

COLUMBUS, OH 43215  
 (City) (State) (Zip)

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

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

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

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |  | Code                           | V   | Amount (A) or (D) Price   |  |                                   |
| Common Shares without par value | 02/10/2005                           |  | M                              |   | 2,500 A \$ 5.5  | 53,756.359 <sup>(1)</sup> D                              |                                   |

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

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

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) ISO   | \$ 5.5   | 02/10/2005                           |  | M                              | 2,500   | 03/01/1996 02/28/2005                                    | Common Shares 6,750   |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                              | Relationships |           |                                  |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|----------------------------------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                          | Other |
| LOWTHER JOHN R<br>518 E. BROAD STREET<br>COLUMBUS, OH 43215 |               |           | Senior Vice President, Secretary |       |

## Signatures

John R. Lowther                      02/10/2005  
 \*\*Signature of                      Date  
 Reporting Person

## 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).  
 Includes indirect holdings of 14,224.00 shares. Also includes the following acquisitions: 19,265 shares acquired in December 2004 under the dividend reinvestment feature of the STFC Employee Stock Purchase Plan; and 0.409 shares acquired in December 2004 under the STFC Dividend Reinvestment Plan.
- (2) Field should be left blank, but due to a software defect, requires input.

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.