



DIVISION OF  
CORPORATION FINANCE

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

July 10, 2024

David R. Melville, III  
President and CEO  
Business First Bancshares, Inc.  
500 Laurel Street, Suite 101  
Baton Rouge, LA 70801

**Re: Business First Bancshares, Inc.  
Registration Statement on Form S-4  
Filed June 17, 2024  
File No. 333-280245**

Dear David R. Melville, III:

This is to advise you that we have not reviewed and will not review your registration statement.

Please refer to Rules 460 and 461 regarding requests for acceleration. We remind you that the company and its management are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of their disclosures, notwithstanding any review, comments, action or absence of action by the staff.

Please contact Madeleine Joy Mateo at 202-551-3465 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Division of Corporation Finance  
Office of Finance