| SEC | Form | 4 |
|-----|------|---|
|-----|------|---|

## FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

| OMB  | APPROVAL |   |
|------|----------|---|
|      |          |   |
| <br> |          | - |

\_

| Section 1   | is box if no lon<br>6. Form 4 or F<br>is may continu<br>n 1(b).       | form 5                                    | STA  |      |   |  |  |            | -  |                     |                          |                         |  | SHIP  | Estim   | Numbe<br>ated av  | erage burde  | 3235-0287<br>n<br>0.5  |
|---|---|---|--|------|---|--|--|------------|--|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*<br>BONI ERIC N                       |   |   |  | or 8 | pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934<br>or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940<br>2. Issuer Name <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading Symbol<br><u>ASHLAND INC.</u> [ ASH ] |  |  |            |  |                     |                          |                         | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer<br>(Check all applicable)<br>Director 10% Owner |   |   |   |  |  |
| (Last)<br>8145 BLA  | (Firs<br>ZER DRIV   | ,   | (Middle)   |      |   |  | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)<br>12/06/2023 |            |  |                     |                          |                         |  | X Officer (give title Other (specify below) Principal Accounting Officer  |   |   |  | r  |
| (Street)<br>WILMINC   | GTON DE   |   | 19808  |      | 4. lt.  | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) |  |            |  |                     |                          |                         |  | Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable<br>e)<br>X Form filed by One Reporting Person<br>Form filed by More than One Reporting<br>Person |   |   |  | n  |
| (City)  | (Sta  | te)                                       | (Zip)  |      | Ru<br>X   | Check  | k this b   | ox to indi | cate that a  | ı trans             | ion Indi<br>action was m | nade pursual            | nt to a cont<br>e Instructio   | tract, instructio   | on or written   | plan th   | at is intende  | d to   |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) 2. Tr: Date Of Date Of More   Common Stock 12 |   | 2. Transa<br>Date                         | 2. Transaction 22.<br>Date E<br>(Month/Day/Year) ((N |      | 2A. Deemed<br>Execution Date,<br>if any<br>(Month/Day/Year)   |  | 3.<br>Transaction<br>Code (Instr.                              |            | 4. Securities Acquired (A)<br>Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 |                     | d (A) or                 | 5. Amou                 | nt of<br>es<br>ally<br>Following   | Form  | : Direct<br>Indirect<br>str. 4)   | 7. Nature of<br>Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |  |  |
|   |   | 12/06                                     |  |      |   |  | Code   | v          | Amount   | (A) or<br>(D) Price |                          | Transact<br>(Instr. 3 a | Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 3 and 4)   |   | D   | (1150. 4)   |  |  |
|   |   | 12/06/2023<br>12/07/2023                  |  | _    |   |  | M<br>S <sup>(1)</sup>  |            | 843<br>843   | A<br>D              | \$47.63<br>\$82.38       |                         | 13,915<br>13,072   |   | D   |   |  |  |
| Common S  | tock  |   |  |      |   |  |  |            |  |                     |                          |                         |  | 7,886 <sup>(2)</sup> I 4  |   |   | By<br>401(k)<br>Plan   |  |
|   |   | -   | Fable II -   |      |   |  |  |            |  |                     | osed of,<br>onvertit     |                         |  | Owned   |   |   |  |  |
| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3)                           | 2.<br>Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | 3. Transaction<br>Date<br>(Month/Day/Year |  |      | 4.<br>Transa<br>Code (<br>8)  |  |  |            | 6. Date Exercis<br>Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Yea       |                     | e Amount of              |                         | f<br>9<br>Security   | 8. Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 5)   | 9. Numbe<br>derivative<br>Securitie<br>Beneficia<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transacti<br>(Instr. 4) | e<br>s<br>illy<br>g   | 10.<br>Ownership<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|   |   |   |  |      | Code  | v  | (A)  | (D)        | Date<br>Exercisa   |                     | Expiration<br>Date       | Title                   | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares   |   |   |   |  |  |
| Stock<br>Appreciation<br>Right  | \$47.63   | 12/06/2023                                |  |      | М   |  |  | 2,825      | (3)  |                     | 12/13/2023               | Common<br>Stock         | 2,825  | \$0   | 0   |   | D  |  |

Explanation of Responses:

1. This transaction was effected pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan adopted by the reporting person.

2. Based on Employee Savings Plan information as of November 14, 2023.

3. Stock Appreciation Rights previously granted to the reporting person on November 13, 2013, which became fully exercisable on November 13, 2016, and are scheduled to expire on December 13, 2023.

| Serena S. Kenost, Attorney-in- | 12/08/2023 |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Fact                           | 12/08/2025 |

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person Date

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

\* 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).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.