

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE
BALLARD COUNTY
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2015 TAXES**

**For The Period
April 17, 2015 Through April 15, 2016**



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
AUDIT OF THE
BALLARD COUNTY
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2015 TAXES

For The Period
April 17, 2015 Through April 15, 2016

The Auditor of Public Accounts has completed the audit of the Sheriff's Settlement - 2015 Taxes for the Ballard County Sheriff for the period April 17, 2015 through April 15, 2016. We have issued an unmodified opinion on the financial statement taken as a whole. Based upon the audit work performed, the financial statement is presented fairly in all material respects.

Financial Condition:

The sheriff collected 2015 taxes of \$4,923,773 for the districts, retaining commissions of \$192,404 to operate the sheriff's office. The sheriff distributed 2015 taxes of \$4,728,855 to the districts. Refunds of \$11 are due to the sheriff from the taxing districts.

Report Comments:

2015-001 The Ballard County Sheriff Failed To Make Daily Deposits
2015-002 The Ballard County Sheriff's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

Deposits:

The sheriff's deposits were insured and collateralized by bank securities.

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MIKE HARMON
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

To the People of Kentucky
Honorable Matthew G. Bevin, Governor
William M. Landrum III, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
Honorable Vickie Viniard, Ballard County Judge/Executive
Honorable Carey Batts, Ballard County Sheriff
Members of the Ballard County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

Report on the Financial Statement

We have audited the Ballard County Sheriff's Settlement - 2015 Taxes for the period April 17, 2015 through April 15, 2016 - Regulatory Basis, and the related notes to the financial statement.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statement

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting as described in Note 1. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of a financial statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statement based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the *Audit Guide for Sheriff's Tax Settlements* issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statement.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.



To the People of Kentucky
Honorable Matthew G. Bevin, Governor
William M. Landrum III, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
Honorable Vicki Viniard, Ballard County Judge/Executive
Honorable Carey Batts, Ballard County Sheriff
Members of the Ballard County Fiscal Court

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 1 of the financial statement, the financial statement is prepared by the Ballard County Sheriff on the basis of accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The effects on the financial statement of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles paragraph, the financial statement referred to above does not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the taxes charged, credited and paid of the Ballard County Sheriff, for the period April 17, 2015 through April 15, 2016.

Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the taxes charged, credited, and paid for the period April 17, 2015 through April 15, 2016 of the Ballard County Sheriff, in accordance with the basis of accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Commonwealth of Kentucky as described in Note 1.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated September 22, 2016 on our consideration of the Ballard County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Ballard County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

To the People of Kentucky
Honorable Matthew G. Bevin, Governor
William M. Landrum III, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
Honorable Vicki Viniard, Ballard County Judge/Executive
Honorable Carey Batts, Ballard County Sheriff
Members of the Ballard County Fiscal Court

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards* (Continued)

Based on the results of our audit, we have presented the accompanying comments and recommendations, included herein, which discusses the following report comment:

- 2015-001 The Ballard County Sheriff Failed To Make Daily Deposits
- 2015-002 The Ballard County Sheriff Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Harmon", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mike Harmon
Auditor of Public Accounts

September 22, 2016

BALLARD COUNTY
CAREY BATTS, SHERIFF
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2015 TAXES

For The Period April 17, 2015 Through April 15, 2016

<u>Charges</u>	<u>County Taxes</u>	<u>Special Taxing Districts</u>	<u>School Taxes</u>	<u>State Taxes</u>
Real Estate	\$ 784,754	\$ 307,712	\$ 2,020,159	\$ 473,960
Tangible Personal Property	161,359	43,106	399,555	493,421
Fire Protection	679			
Increases Through Exonerations				15,514
Franchise Taxes	129,443	38,286	324,190	
Additional Billings	36	14	94	22
Limestone, Sand and Gravel Reserves	11	4	27	6
Omitted Limestone, Sand and Gravel	162	61	416	98
Bank Franchises	25,193			
Penalties	8,703	3,135	22,276	15,165
Adjusted to Sheriff's Receipt	(1)	4		(1)
Gross Chargeable to Sheriff	<u>1,110,339</u>	<u>392,322</u>	<u>2,766,717</u>	<u>998,185</u>
<u>Credits</u>				
Exonerations	25,624	7,062	63,645	49,689
Discounts	12,386	4,575	31,104	10,488
Delinquents:				
Real Estate	30,095	11,319	77,444	18,169
Tangible Personal Property	334	89	828	169
Omitted Limestone, Sand, and Gravel	162	61	416	98
Uncollected Franchise Taxes	9	2	22	
Total Credits	<u>68,610</u>	<u>23,108</u>	<u>173,459</u>	<u>78,613</u>
Taxes Collected	1,041,729	369,214	2,593,258	919,572
Less: Commissions *	<u>44,273</u>	<u>15,692</u>	<u>93,357</u>	<u>39,082</u>
Taxes Due	997,456	353,522	2,499,901	880,490
Taxes Paid	996,913	353,310	2,498,481	880,151
Refunds (Current and Prior Year)	<u>543</u>	<u>212</u>	<u>1,431</u>	<u>339</u>
(Refund Due Sheriff) as of Completion of Audit	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ (11)</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

* Commissions:
4.25% on \$ 2,330,515
3.6% on \$ 2,593,258

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

BALLARD COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

April 15, 2016

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Fund Accounting

The sheriff's office tax collection duties are limited to acting as an agent for assessed property owners and taxing districts. A fund is used to account for the collection and distribution of taxes. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

B. Basis of Accounting

The financial statement has been prepared on a regulatory basis of accounting, which demonstrates compliance with the laws of Kentucky and is a special purpose framework. Basis of accounting refers to when charges, credits, and taxes paid are reported in the settlement statement. It relates to the timing of measurements regardless of the measurement focus.

Charges are sources of revenue which are recognized in the tax period in which they become available and measurable. Credits are reductions of revenue which are recognized when there is proper authorization. Taxes paid are uses of revenue which are recognized when distributions are made to the taxing districts and others.

C. Cash and Investments

KRS 66.480 authorizes the sheriff's office to invest in the following, including but not limited to, obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

Note 2. Deposits

The Ballard County Sheriff maintained deposits of public funds with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as required by KRS 66.480(1)(d). According to KRS 41.240, the depository institution should pledge or provide sufficient collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount of public funds on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge or provision of collateral should be evidenced by an agreement between the sheriff and the depository institution, signed by both parties, that is (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution.

BALLARD COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
April 15, 2016
(Continued)

Note 2. Deposits (Continued)

Custodial Credit Risk - Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a depository institution failure, the sheriff's deposits may not be returned. The Ballard County Sheriff does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk but rather follows the requirements of KRS 66.480 and KRS 41.240. As of April 15, 2016, all deposits were covered by FDIC insurance or a properly executed collateral security agreement.

Note 3. Tax Collection Period

A. Property Taxes

The real and personal property tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 2015. Property taxes were billed to finance governmental services for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was September 30, 2015 through April 15, 2016.

B. Limestone, Sand, and Gravel Reserves

The tangible property tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 2015. Property taxes are billed to finance governmental services. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was November 13, 2015 through April 15, 2016.

C. Franchise Taxes

The real and tangible franchise tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 2015. Property taxes are billed to finance governmental services. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was April 17, 2015 through April 15, 2016.

Note 4. Interest Income

The Ballard County Sheriff earned \$2,125 as interest income on 2015 taxes. The sheriff was in substantial compliance with his statutory responsibilities.

Note 5. Sheriff's 10% Add-On Fee

The Ballard County Sheriff collected \$11,297 of 10% add-on fees allowed by KRS 134.119(7). This amount was used to operate the sheriff's office.

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND
ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL
STATEMENT PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*



MIKE HARMON
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Vickie Viniard, Ballard County Judge/Executive
Honorable Carey Batts, Ballard County Sheriff
Members of the Ballard County Fiscal Court

**Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And On
Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards***

Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the Ballard County Sheriff's Settlement - 2015 Taxes for the period April 17, 2015 through April 15, 2016 - Regulatory Basis and the related notes to the financial statement and have issued our report thereon dated September 22, 2016. The Ballard County Sheriff's financial statement is prepared on a regulatory basis of accounting, which demonstrates compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statement, we considered the Ballard County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Ballard County Sheriff's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Ballard County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as described in the accompanying comment and recommendation, we identified a certain deficiency in internal control that we consider to be a material weakness.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statement will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. We consider the deficiency described in the accompanying comments and recommendations as item 2015-002 to be a material weakness.



Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And On
Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards*
(Continued)

Compliance And Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Ballard County Sheriff's financial statement is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance or other matters that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which is described in the accompanying comments and recommendations as item 2015-001.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Harmon", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mike Harmon
Auditor of Public Accounts

September 22, 2016

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

BALLARD COUNTY
CAREY BATTS, SHERIFF
COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

For The Period April 17, 2015 Through April 15, 2016

STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS:

2015-001 The Ballard County Sheriff Failed To Make Daily Deposits

The Ballard County Sheriff does not perform daily check-out procedures or make daily deposits for tax collections. Instead, the sheriff batches tax receipts and makes deposits approximately twice per week.

Daily checkout procedures were not being performed due to the bookkeeper being out of the office frequently. Due to the lack of segregation of duties, as noted in comment two, there was no one else in the office to perform daily checkout procedures and make daily deposits. Failure to make deposits intact on a daily basis leaves tax collections vulnerable to misappropriation and loss.

KRS 68.210 gives the State Local Finance Officer the authority to establish minimum accounting requirements, which include performing daily check-out procedures and making daily deposits intact to a federally insured financial institution. We recommend that the sheriff perform daily checkout procedures and deposit tax collections intact on a daily basis.

Sheriff's Response: The sheriff did not respond.

INTERNAL CONTROL - MATERIAL WEAKNESS:

2015-002 The Ballard County Sheriff's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

The Ballard County Sheriff's office has a lack of adequate segregation of duties. Due to a limited number of staff and the diversity of operations, the bookkeeper is required to perform multiple tasks such as the collection of cash from customers, bookkeeping, bank reconciliations, the preparation of monthly reports, and the preparation of checks for disbursements.

A lack of segregation of duties or strong oversight increases the risk of undetected fraud or errors. This condition is the result of a limited budget, which restricts the number of employees the sheriff can hire or delegate duties to.

Segregation of duties over these tasks, or the implementation of compensating controls when limited by the number of staff, is essential for providing protection from asset misappropriation and helping prevent inaccurate financial reporting. Additionally, proper segregation of duties protects employees in the normal course of performing their daily responsibilities.

BALLARD COUNTY
CAREY BATTS, SHERIFF
COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
For The Period April 17, 2015 Through April 15, 2016
(Continued)

INTERNAL CONTROL - MATERIAL WEAKNESS (Continued):

2015-002 The Ballard County Sheriff's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties (Continued)

To adequately protect against the misappropriation of assets, we recommend the sheriff segregate the duties noted above by allowing different deputies to perform these functions. Also, deputies could be cross-trained to accommodate the rotation of these functions. For those duties that cannot be segregated due to a limited number of staff, then strong oversight should be provided to the employee or employees responsible for these duties. This oversight should include the sheriff, or a designee, reviewing the daily collection report and comparing it to the daily deposit. It should also include reviewing the monthly tax reports and comparing them to the monthly bank reconciliations and tax distributions. Documentation, such as the sheriff's or designee's initials or signature, should be provided on those items that have been reviewed.

Sheriff's Response: The sheriff did not respond.

