



Auditor of Public Accounts
Mike Harmon

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Harmon Releases Agreed-Upon Procedures Engagement of Bell County
Clerk's Fee Account**

FRANKFORT, Ky. – State Auditor Mike Harmon today released the 2019 agreed-upon procedures engagement of Bell County Clerk Debbie Gambrel. State law requires the auditor to conduct annual audits of county clerks and sheriffs.

In 2018 the Kentucky General Assembly, following a recommendation by the State Auditor, passed legislation that allows county sheriffs and clerks that met certain criteria to apply for an Agreed-Upon Procedures (AUP) engagement in lieu of an audit of their fee account. The intent of the change, which became effective in July 2018, was to reduce audit costs for sheriffs and clerks that have a history of clean audits, while still maintaining an appropriate level of accountability.

The Bell County Clerk applied for and received approval from the Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) to obtain an AUP engagement for calendar year 2019 in accordance with KRS 43.070(1)(c). AUP reports present the procedures performed and the results of those procedures, called findings. Auditors performed the procedures, which were agreed to by the Bell County Clerk, on receipts and disbursements, excess fees, recordkeeping, and leases, contracts, and liabilities for the period January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

The following exceptions were identified during the AUP engagement:

- **Excess fees due to fiscal court were recalculated and there are \$5,745 in additional excess fees due to the fiscal court.**

County Clerk's Response: The excess fees of \$5,745 will be properly submitted to Fiscal Court.

- **The county clerk’s agreements and contract payments did agree to cost schedules and the services received were appropriate, for official business, and properly authorized. Liabilities were not properly disclosed on the fourth quarter financial statement.**

County Clerk’s Response: The Lease Agreement Report will be properly disclosed on our fourth quarter report in the future.

The county clerk’s responsibilities include collecting certain taxes, issuing licenses, maintaining county records and providing other services. The clerk’s office is funded through statutory fees collected in conjunction with these duties.

The agreed-upon procedures report can be found on the [auditor’s website](#).

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The Auditor of Public Accounts ensures that public resources are protected, accurately valued, properly accounted for, and effectively employed to raise the quality of life of Kentuckians.

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