



Auditor of Public Accounts
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Harmon Releases Audit of Former Boyle County Sheriff's Office

FRANKFORT, Ky. – State Auditor Mike Harmon today released the audit of the 2015 financial statement of former Boyle County Sheriff Marty Elliott. State law requires the auditor to annually audit the accounts of each county sheriff. In compliance with this law, the auditor issues two sheriff's reports each year: one reporting on the audit of the sheriff's tax account, and the other reporting on the audit of the fee account used to operate the office.

Auditing standards require the auditor's letter to communicate whether the financial statement presents fairly the receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the former Boyle County Sheriff in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The sheriff's financial statement did not follow this format. However, the sheriff's financial statement is fairly presented in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting, which is an acceptable reporting methodology. This reporting methodology is followed for all 120 sheriff audits in Kentucky.

As part of the audit process, the auditor must comment on non-compliance with laws, regulations, contracts and grants. The auditor must also comment on material weaknesses involving the internal control over financial operations and reporting.

The audit contains the following comments:

The former sheriff had a deficit of \$65,390 in the 2015 fee account. The former sheriff had a deficit balance of \$65,390 in the 2015 fee account that was attributed to unpaid payroll liabilities. The cause of the deficit appears to be spending without verifying that receipts were sufficient to cover the disbursements. The effect was not having sufficient funds to cover incurred payroll expenses. Good internal controls dictate that disbursements should be monitored closely to ensure receipts are sufficient to cover disbursements. It is recommended that the former sheriff work with the fiscal court to determine how to handle the deficit.

Former Sheriff's response: The deficit was covered by the Fiscal Court on over-extended payroll. Prior to the audit, the former Sheriff and Fiscal Court had made an agreement to cover the deficit. The former Sheriff will have excess fees to be turned over to offset some of the deficit. If the current Sheriff has excess fees, they will also be applied to the deficit. This office will make all efforts to pay Fiscal Court back for any remaining balance from the deficit. Also the Fiscal Ct will provide assistance on payroll and other disbursement for the 2016 Budget.

The sheriff's responsibilities include collecting property taxes, providing law enforcement and performing services for the county fiscal court and courts of justice. The sheriff's office is funded through statutory commissions and fees collected in conjunction with these duties.

The audit report can be found on the [auditor's website](#).

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