

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE  
CARLISLE COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2020 TAXES**

**For The Period  
May 16, 2020 Through April 15, 2021**



**MIKE HARMON  
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**MIKE HARMON**  
**AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

To the People of Kentucky  
The Honorable Andy Beshear, Governor  
Holly M. Johnson, Secretary  
Finance and Administration Cabinet  
The Honorable Greg Terry, Carlisle County Judge/Executive  
The Honorable William Gilbert, Carlisle County Sheriff  
Members of the Carlisle County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

**Report on the Financial Statement**

We have audited the Carlisle County Sheriff's Settlement - 2020 Taxes for the period May 16, 2020 through April 15, 2021 - 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  
The Honorable Andy Beshear, Governor  
Holly M. Johnson, Secretary  
Finance and Administration Cabinet  
The Honorable Greg Terry, Carlisle County Judge/Executive  
The Honorable William Gilbert, Carlisle County Sheriff  
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**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 Carlisle 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 Carlisle County Sheriff, for the period May 16, 2020 through April 15, 2021.

**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 May 16, 2020 through April 15, 2021 of the Carlisle 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 24, 2021, on our consideration of the Carlisle 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 Carlisle County Sheriff’s internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

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

2020-001 The Carlisle County Sheriff’s Franchise Tax Settlement Was Materially Misstated

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Harmon  
Auditor of Public Accounts

September 24, 2021

CARLISLE COUNTY  
WILLIAM GILBERT, SHERIFF  
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2020 TAXES

For The Period May 16, 2020 Through April 15, 2021

	Special Taxing			
	County	Districts	School	State
<u>Charges</u>				
Real Estate	\$ 390,768	\$ 529,629	\$ 1,097,854	\$ 237,899
Tangible	42,932	42,375	120,855	86,534
Total Per Sheriff's Official Receipt	433,700	572,004	1,218,709	324,433
<u>Other Taxes &amp; Charges</u>				
Court Ordered Increases				22
Franchise Taxes	88,248	95,455	246,119	
Additional Billings	109	150	307	245
Penalties	1,319	1,531	3,711	810
Gross Chargeable to Sheriff	523,376	669,140	1,468,846	325,510
<u>Credits</u>				
Exonerations	1,331	2,180	3,746	833
Discounts	6,961	7,895	19,576	5,209
Delinquent Real Estate	5,067	7,459	14,247	3,087
Delinquent Tangible	9	9	25	20
Franchise Taxes - Delinquent	103	102	291	
Total Credits	13,471	17,645	37,885	9,149
Taxes Collected	509,905	651,495	1,430,961	316,361
Less: Sheriff's Commissions*	21,671	23,968	57,240	13,445
Taxes Due Districts	488,234	627,527	1,373,721	302,916
Taxes Paid	489,138	627,451	1,373,721	302,916
Taxes Due Districts (Refund Due Sheriff)	\$ (904)	\$ 76	\$ 0	\$ 0

\*\*

\* and \*\* See next page.

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

CARLISLE COUNTY  
WILLIAM GILBERT, SHERIFF  
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2020 TAXES  
For The Period May 16, 2020 Through April 15, 2021  
(Continued)

\* Commissions:

4.25% on	\$	1,184,255
4% on	\$	1,649,817
0% on	\$	74,650

\*\* Special Taxing Districts:

Extension District	\$	41
Ambulance District		<u>35</u>
Due Districts	\$	<u><u>76</u></u>



CARLISLE COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

April 15, 2021

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 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).

D. Preparation of State Settlement

The Kentucky Department of Revenue prepares the settlement relating to taxes collected for the state under the provision of KRS 134.192(2)(a). This is reported as the "State Taxes" column on the financial statement.

Note 2. Deposits

The Carlisle County Sheriff maintained deposits of public funds with federally insured banking institutions as required by the Department for Local Government's (DLG) *County Budget Preparation and State Local Finance Officer Policy Manual*. The DLG Manual strongly recommends perfected pledges of securities covering all public funds except direct federal obligations and funds protected by federal insurance. In order to be perfected 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. These requirements were met.

CARLISLE COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
April 15, 2021  
(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 Carlisle County Sheriff does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk, but rather follows the requirements of the DLG *County Budget Preparation and State Local Finance Officer Policy Manual*. As of April 15, 2021, 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, 2020. Property taxes were billed to finance governmental services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was September 28, 2020 through April 15, 2021.

B. Franchise Taxes

The franchise tax assessments were levied by the Department of Revenue for various tax years. Franchise taxes are billed to finance governmental services. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was May 16, 2020 through April 15, 2021.

Note 4. Interest Income

The Carlisle County Sheriff earned \$206 as interest income on 2020 taxes. The sheriff was in substantial compliance with his statutory responsibilities.

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

The Carlisle County Sheriff collected \$5,759 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*

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**MIKE HARMON**  
**AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

The Honorable Greg Terry, Carlisle County Judge/Executive  
The Honorable William Gilbert, Carlisle County Sheriff  
Members of the Carlisle 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 Carlisle County Sheriff's Settlement - 2020 Taxes for the period May 16, 2020 through April 15, 2021 - Regulatory Basis and the related notes to the financial statement and have issued our report thereon dated September 24, 2021. The Carlisle 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 Carlisle County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing 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 Carlisle County Sheriff's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Carlisle County Sheriff's internal control.

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 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 Schedule of Findings and Responses, 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 Schedule of Findings and Responses as item 2020-001 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 Carlisle County Sheriff's financial statement is free from 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 financial statement. 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 matter that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which is described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses as item 2020-001.

### **Views of Responsible Official and Planned Corrective Action**

The Carlisle County Sheriff's views and planned corrective action for the finding identified in our audit are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses. The Carlisle County Sheriff's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statement and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

### **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,



Mike Harmon  
Auditor of Public Accounts

September 24, 2021

## SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

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CARLISLE COUNTY  
WILLIAM GILBERT, SHERIFF  
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

For The Period May 16, 2020 Through April 15, 2021

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDING:

2020-001 The Carlisle County Sheriff's Franchise Tax Settlement Was Materially Misstated

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This is a repeat finding and was included in the prior year audit report as finding 2019-001. The Carlisle County Sheriff's Franchise Tax Settlement for the 2020 tax collection period was materially misstated. Current year franchise taxes were understated by \$266,626, taxes paid were understated by \$256,383, and sheriff's commissions were understated by \$10,843. This was due to the inexperience of the bookkeeper and sheriff. There was confusion as to what tax year the franchise taxes collected should be reported in. Though the taxes were properly collected and distributed, they were not correctly recorded on the franchise tax settlement. Due to the error that was made, the franchise tax settlement was materially misstated.

KRS 134.192(1) states, "[e]ach sheriff shall annually settle his or her account with the department, the county and any district for which the sheriff collects taxes on or before September 1 of each year." KRS 134.192(5) states, "[t]he report of the state and local settlement shall be filed in the county clerk's office and approved by the governing body of the county no later than September 1 of each year. The settlement shall show the amount of ad valorem tax collected for the county, the school district, and all taxing districts, and an itemized statement of the money disbursed to or on behalf of the county, the school district, and all taxing districts." Also, strong internal controls over the reporting process requires all reports to be reviewed throughout the reporting period to ensure all relevant data is included in the final settlement.

We recommend the Carlisle County Sheriff's office review all report to ensure the correct data for the correct time period is included.

*Sheriff's Response: This is a repeat finding included in 2019-001. The Carlisle County Sheriff's Franchise Tax Settlement was misstated. A copy of the 2019-001 response is attached. Future Sheriff's Settlements will include a column for the 12 months of the year with zeros in the field for months with no taxes collected. KRS 134.192 does not state the reporting period for Franchise Tax. Bookkeepers for the Sheriff's Office will work with Frankfort to obtain either a revision to KRS 134.192, or written correspondence stating the reporting period for Franchise tax. This will be complete by November 1, 2021.*

Auditor's Reply: The sheriff's response to finding 2019-001 was not reprinted. It can be found in the prior year audit report.