

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE
ELLIOTT COUNTY
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2017 TAXES**

**For The Period
September 1, 2017 Through April 16, 2018**



**MIKE HARMON
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
www.auditor.ky.gov**

**209 ST. CLAIR STREET
FRANKFORT, KY 40601-1817
TELEPHONE 502.564.5841
FACSIMILE 502.564.2912**

CONTENTS

PAGE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT 1

SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2017 TAXES4

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT6

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* 11

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES 15

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY



MIKE HARMON
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

To the People of Kentucky

The Honorable Matthew G. Bevin, Governor
William M. Landrum III, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
The Honorable Carl Fannin, Elliott County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Ronnie Stephens, Elliott County Sheriff
Members of the Elliott County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

Report on the Financial Statement

We have audited the Elliott County Sheriff's Settlement - 2017 Taxes for the period September 1, 2017 through April 16, 2018 - 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 Matthew G. Bevin, Governor
William M. Landrum III, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
The Honorable Carl Fannin, Elliott County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Ronnie Stephens, Elliott County Sheriff
Members of the Elliott 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 Elliott 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 Elliott County Sheriff, for the period September 1, 2017 through April 16, 2018.

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 September 1, 2017 through April 16, 2018 of the Elliott 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 26, 2018, on our consideration of the Elliott 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 Elliott County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

To the People of Kentucky

The Honorable Matthew G. Bevin, Governor

William M. Landrum III, Secretary

Finance and Administration Cabinet

The Honorable Carl Fannin, Elliott County Judge/Executive

The Honorable Ronnie Stephens, Elliott County Sheriff

Members of the Elliott County Fiscal Court

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

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:

2017-001 The Sheriff's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

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 26, 2018

ELLIOTT COUNTY
 RONNIE STEPHENS, SHERIFF
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2017 TAXES

For The Period September 1, 2017 Through April 16, 2018

<u>Charges</u>	Special			
	<u>County Taxes</u>	<u>Taxing Districts</u>	<u>School Taxes</u>	<u>State Taxes</u>
Real Estate	\$ 164,423	\$ 440,460	\$ 609,332	\$ 168,568
Tangible Personal Property	3,656	8,408	13,550	8,682
Fire Protection	2,415			
Increases Through Exonerations	28	6	9	2
Franchise Taxes	25,456	58,535	94,335	
Additional Billings	452	1,210	1,676	465
Oil Property Taxes	1,097	2,938	4,064	1,124
Penalties	1,358	3,618	5,031	1,407
Adjusted to Sheriff's Receipt	(7)	157	212	55
Gross Chargeable to Sheriff	<u>198,878</u>	<u>515,332</u>	<u>728,209</u>	<u>180,303</u>
 <u>Credits</u>				
Exonerations	1,000	2,680	3,707	1,026
Discounts	2,771	7,201	10,148	2,570
Delinquents:				
Real Estate	9,630	25,445	35,201	9,738
Tangible Personal Property	90	207	334	367
Total Credits	<u>13,491</u>	<u>35,533</u>	<u>49,390</u>	<u>13,701</u>
Taxes Collected	185,387	479,799	678,819	166,602
Less: Commissions *	<u>7,879</u>	<u>20,007</u>	<u>27,153</u>	<u>7,081</u>
Taxes Due	177,508	459,792	651,666	159,521
Taxes Paid	163,123	425,158	598,417	159,035
Refunds (Current and Prior Year)	<u>452</u>	<u>1,173</u>	<u>1,663</u>	<u>486</u>
Due Districts				
as of Completion of Audit	<u>\$ 13,933</u>	<u>\$ 33,461</u>	<u>\$ 51,586</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

**

* and ** See next page.

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

ELLIOTT COUNTY
RONNIE STEPHENS, SHERIFF
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2017 TAXES
For The Period September 1, 2017 Through April 16, 2018
(Continued)

* Commissions:

4.25% on	\$	677,856
4% on	\$	832,751

** Special Taxing Districts:

Health District	\$	9,471
Extension District		10,322
Soil District		1,970
Ambulance District		<u>11,698</u>
Due Districts	\$	<u><u>33,461</u></u>

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

ELLIOTT COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

April 16, 2018

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).

Note 2. Deposits

The Elliott County Sheriff maintained deposits of public funds with depository institutions insured by the 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.

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 Elliott County Sheriff does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk but rather follows the requirements of KRS 66.480(1)(d) and KRS 41.240. As of April 16, 2018, all deposits were covered by FDIC insurance or a properly executed collateral security agreement.

ELLIOTT COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
April 16, 2018
(Continued)

Note 3. Tax Collection Period

A. Property Taxes

The real and personal property tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 2017. Property taxes were billed to finance governmental services for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was November 1, 2017 through April 16, 2018.

B. Oil Property Taxes

The oil property tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 2017. 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, 2017 through May 15, 2018.

C. Franchise Taxes

The franchise tax assessments were levied by the Department of Revenue for various tax years. Property taxes are billed to finance governmental services. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was September 1, 2017 through April 16, 2018.

Note 4. Interest Income

The Elliott County Sheriff earned \$44 as interest income on 2017 taxes. As of September 26, 2018, the sheriff owed \$19 in interest to the school district and \$25 in interest to his fee account.

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

The Elliott County Sheriff collected \$9,172 of 10% add-on fees allowed by KRS 134.119(7). This amount was used to operate the sheriff's office. As of September 26, 2018, the sheriff owed \$2,690 in 10% add-on fees to his fee account.

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

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*

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY



MIKE HARMON
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Carl Fannin, Elliott County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Ronnie Stephens, Elliott County Sheriff
Members of the Elliott 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 Elliott County Sheriff's Settlement - 2017 Taxes for the period September 1, 2017 through April 16, 2018 - Regulatory Basis and the related notes to the financial statement and have issued our report thereon dated September 26, 2018. The Elliott 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 Elliott 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 Elliott County Sheriff's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Elliott 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 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 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 2017-001 to be a material weakness.

209 ST. CLAIR STREET
FRANKFORT, KY 40601-1817

TELEPHONE 502.564.5841
FACSIMILE 502.564.2912
WWW.AUDITOR.KY.GOV

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER M / F / D



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 Elliott 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 no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

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 flourish extending to the right.

Mike Harmon
Auditor of Public Accounts

September 26, 2018

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

ELLIOTT COUNTY
RONNIE STEPHENS, SHERIFF
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

For The Period September 1, 2017 Through April 16, 2018

INTERNAL CONTROL - MATERIAL WEAKNESS:

2017-001 The Sheriff's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

This is a repeat finding and was included in the prior year audit report as finding 2016-001. The sheriff's office lacks segregation of duties. The bookkeeper is required to perform multiple tasks such as the collection of cash from customers, deposit preparation, bookkeeping, bank reconciliations, and the preparation of checks for disbursements. According to the sheriff, the lack of segregation of duties is due to a small budget which limits staff size. A lack of segregation of duties or strong oversight could result in the undetected misappropriation of assets or incorrect financial reporting.

Internal control duties should be segregated to decrease the risk of misappropriation of assets, errors, and inaccurate financial reporting to external agencies. The sheriff could implement some compensating controls such as comparing the daily checkout sheet to the receipts ledger and the bank deposit. Although they do not eliminate the lack of adequate segregation of duties, compensating controls do decrease the risk present in the absence of proper segregation of duties.

To adequately protect against the misappropriation of assets and inaccurate financial reporting, we recommend the same person not perform multiple accounting functions, and if the duties cannot be segregated, then compensating controls could be implemented, and strong oversight over the employee's work should be provided and documented.

Sheriff's Response: The sheriff did not provide a response.