



Auditor of Public Accounts
Allison Ball

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Joy Pidgorodetska Markland
Joy.Markland@ky.gov
502.352.5216
502.209.2867

Ball Releases Audit of Former Garrard County Sheriff's Tax Settlement

FRANKFORT, Ky. – State Auditor Allison Ball released the audit of the sheriff's settlement – 2022 taxes for former Garrard County Sheriff Tim Davis. 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 sheriff's settlement presents fairly the taxes charged, credited, and paid in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The sheriff's settlement is prepared on a regulatory basis, which is described in the auditor's opinion letter. Regulatory basis reporting for the sheriff's settlement is an acceptable reporting methodology, and this reporting methodology is followed for all 120 sheriff settlements in Kentucky.

The former sheriff's financial statement fairly presents the taxes charged, credited, and paid, for the period, September 1, 2022, through December 16, 2022, in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting.

As part of the audit process, the auditor must comment on noncompliance 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 finding:

The former Garrard County Sheriff's Office did not have adequate segregation of duties: The former sheriff's office lacked adequate segregation of duties over receipts, disbursements, and reconciliations. The former sheriff's office manager received, processed, recorded receipts, prepared checks for tax distribution, and posted payments to the disbursements ledger.

According to the former sheriff, due to the office having a small staff, it was very difficult to segregate duties over receipts and disbursements.

We recommend the sheriff segregate the duties noted above by allowing different deputies to perform them. For those duties that cannot be segregated due to a limited staff size, strong management oversight by the sheriff or designee could be a cost-effective alternative. This oversight should include reviewing daily checkout sheets, daily deposits, and monthly bank reconciliations. Documentation, such as the sheriff's or designee's initials or signature, should be provided on those items that were reviewed.

Former Sheriff's Response: More employees needed to correct issue. More employees are signing off on receipts and deposits now.

The sheriff's responsibilities include collecting property taxes, providing law enforcement, and performing services for the county fiscal county 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](#).

###

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.

Call 1-800-KY-ALERT or visit our website to report suspected waste and abuse.

