



Auditor of Public Accounts  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Harmon Releases Agreed-Upon Procedures Engagement of Nelson County Sheriff's Office**

**FRANKFORT, Ky.** – State Auditor Mike Harmon today released the 2020 agreed-upon procedures engagement of Nelson County Sheriff Ramon Pineiroa. 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.

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 Nelson County Sheriff applied for and received approval from the Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) to obtain an AUP engagement for calendar year 2020 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 Nelson County Sheriff, on receipts and disbursements, excess fees, recordkeeping, and leases, contracts, and liabilities for the period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

The following exceptions were identified during the AUP engagement:

- **The sheriff's operating disbursements were compared to the sheriff's approved budget and the sheriff overspent his operating budget in the amount of \$176,576.**

*County Sheriff's Response: We attempted to amend the budget in January 2021. It was denied by Fiscal Court and DLG because it was a new budget year.*

- **The sheriff did not have a settlement of excess fees that was approved by the fiscal court.**

*County Sheriff's Response: All past years were approved. However, illness caused the oversight of the approved settlement by the bookkeeper for the 2020 year.*

- **Excess fees due to the fiscal court were recalculated and there are \$5,369 additional excess fees due to the fiscal court.**

*County Sheriff's Response: Check #1199 in the amount of \$5,369.11 was written August 12, 2021 to close the 2020 year.*

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

*County Sheriff's Response: No response.*

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

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