



Auditor of Public Accounts  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

**FRANKFORT, Ky.** – State Auditor Mike Harmon today released the 2020 agreed-upon procedures engagement of Oldham County Sheriff Steve Sparrow. 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 Oldham 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 Oldham 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 by \$4,727.**

*County Sheriff's Response: This was due to an error in commission amount paid to the Oldham County Board of Education.*

- **Tax commissions were not accounted for properly. A variance of \$94,032 was noted; however, \$99,896 was add-on fees included in the tax commissions.**

*County Sheriff's Response: The Sheriff's 10% add-on fee had not been separated. This issue has been resolved as of January 2021*

- **Disbursements were determined to be for official business; however, the sheriff's office had one automatic withdrawal for checks which is in violation of the fee pooling ordinance between the sheriff and the fiscal court.**

*County Sheriff's Response: This has never been an issue since we have been fee pooling. However, we will get approval prior to ordering checks in the future.*

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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