

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE
OWEN COUNTY
SHERIFF**

**For The Year Ended
December 31, 2015**



**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**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
AUDIT OF THE
OWEN COUNTY SHERIFF

For The Year Ended
December 31, 2015

The Auditor of Public Accounts has completed the Owen County Sheriff's audit for the year ended December 31, 2015. Based upon the audit work performed, the financial statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the receipts, disbursements, and excess fees in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting.

Financial Condition:

Excess fees decreased by \$3,155 from the prior year, resulting in excess fees of \$64,129 as of December 31, 2015. Receipts decreased by \$23,032 from the prior year and disbursements decreased by \$19,877.

Report Comment:

2015-001 The Owen County Sheriff's Office Lacks Segregation Of Duties Over Bank Reconciliations

Deposits:

The sheriff's deposits were insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

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MIKE HARMON
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Casey Ellis, Owen County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Mark Bess, Owen County Sheriff
Members of the Owen County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

Report on the Financial Statement

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Excess Fees - Regulatory Basis of the Sheriff of Owen County, Kentucky, for the year ended December 31, 2015, 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, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the 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 County Fee Officials* 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.



The Honorable Casey Ellis, Owen County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Mark Bess, Owen County Sheriff
Members of the Owen 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 Owen County Sheriff on the basis of the 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 financial position of each fund of the Owen County Sheriff, as of December 31, 2015, or changes in financial position or cash flows thereof for the year then ended.

Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the Owen County Sheriff for the year ended December 31, 2015, 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 November 9, 2016 on our consideration of the Owen 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 solely 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. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

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

2015-001 The Owen County Sheriff's Office Lacks Segregation Of Duties Over Bank Reconciliations

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Harmon
Auditor of Public Accounts

November 9, 2016

OWEN COUNTY
 MARK BESS, SHERIFF
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS

For The Year Ended December 31, 2015

Receipts

State - Kentucky Law Enforcement Foundation Program Fund (KLEFPF) \$ 14,853

State Fees For Services:

Finance and Administration Cabinet	\$ 62,699	
Sheriff Security Service	5,367	
Cabinet For Health And Family Services	148	68,214

Circuit Court Clerk:

Fines and Fees Collected		1,447
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Fiscal Court		800
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County Clerk - Delinquent Taxes		16,886
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Commission On Taxes Collected		243,974
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Fees Collected For Services:

Auto Inspections	3,185	
Accident and Police Reports	463	
Serving Papers	18,370	
Carrying Concealed Deadly Weapon Permits	5,390	27,408

Other:

Add-On Fees	31,844	
Miscellaneous	3,734	35,578

Interest Earned		315
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Borrowed Money:

State Advancement		80,000
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Total Receipts		489,475
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

OWEN COUNTY
 MARK BESS, SHERIFF
 STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2015
 (Continued)

Disbursements

Operating Disbursements and Capital Outlay:

Personnel Services-		
Deputies' Salaries	\$ 122,622	
Part-Time Salaries	64,780	
Other Salaries	14,853	
Contracted Services-		
Advertising	364	
Vehicle Maintenance and Repairs	5,219	
Materials and Supplies-		
Office Materials and Supplies	9,223	
Uniforms	5,902	
Auto Expense-		
Gasoline	13,436	
Other Charges-		
Conventions and Travel	3,668	
Dues	847	
Postage	2,065	
Bond	5,369	
DUI	448	
Ordinance # 183	3,080	
Miscellaneous	3,182	
Capital Outlay-		
Vehicle	13,447	\$ 268,505
Debt Service:		
State Advancement		<u>80,000</u>
Total Disbursements		<u>\$ 348,505</u>
Net Receipts		140,970
Less: Statutory Maximum		<u>76,841</u>
Excess Fees Due County for 2015		64,129
Payment to Fiscal Court - February 8, 2016		<u>64,129</u>
Balance Due Fiscal Court at Completion of Audit		<u><u>\$ 0</u></u>

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

OWEN COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

December 31, 2015

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Fund Accounting

A fee official uses a fund to report on the results of operations. 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.

A fee official uses a fund for fees to account for activities for which the government desires periodic determination of the excess of receipts over disbursements to facilitate management control, accountability, and compliance with laws.

B. Basis of Accounting

KRS 64.820 directs the fiscal court to collect any amount, including excess fees, due from the sheriff as determined by the audit. KRS 134.192 requires the sheriff to settle excess fees with the fiscal court at the time he files his annual settlement with the fiscal court on or before September 1 of each year. KRS 64.830 requires an outgoing sheriff to settle excess fees with the fiscal court of his county by March 15 immediately following the expiration of his term of office.

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. Under this regulatory basis of accounting receipts and disbursements are generally recognized when cash is received or disbursed with the exception of accrual of the following items (not all-inclusive) at December 31 that may be included in the excess fees calculation:

- Interest receivable
- Collection on accounts due from others for 2015 services
- Reimbursements for 2015 activities
- Tax commissions due from December tax collections
- Payments due other governmental entities for payroll
- Payments due vendors for goods or services provided in 2015

The measurement focus of a fee official is upon excess fees. Remittance of excess fees is due to the county treasurer in the subsequent year.

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).

OWEN COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
December 31, 2015
(Continued)

Note 2. Employee Retirement System and Other Post-Employment Benefits

The county official and employees have elected to participate in the County Employees Retirement System (CERS), pursuant to KRS 78.530 administered by the Board of Trustees of the Kentucky Retirement Systems (KRS). This is a cost sharing, multiple employer defined benefit pension plan, which covers all eligible full-time employees and provides for retirement, disability and death benefits to plan members. Benefit contributions and provisions are established by statute.

Nonhazardous covered employees are required to contribute five percent of their salary to the plan. Nonhazardous covered employees who begin participation on or after September 1, 2008 are required to contribute six percent of their salary to the plan. The county's contribution rate for nonhazardous employees was 17.67 percent for the first six months and 17.06 percent for the last six months.

Hazardous covered employees are required to contribute eight percent of their salary to the plan. Hazardous covered employees who begin participation on or after September 1, 2008 are required to contribute nine percent of their salary to be allocated as follows: eight percent will go to the member's account and one percent will go to the KRS insurance fund. The county's contribution rate for hazardous employees was 34.31 percent for the first six months and 32.95 percent for the last six months.

In accordance with Senate Bill 2, signed by the Governor on April 4, 2014, plan members who began participating on, or after, January 1, 2014, were required to contribute to the Cash Balance Plan. The Cash Balance Plan is known as a hybrid plan because it has characteristics of both a defined benefit plan and a defined contribution plan. Members in the plan contribute a set percentage of their salary each month to their own accounts. Members contribute five percent (nonhazardous) and eight percent (hazardous) of their annual creditable compensation and one percent to the health insurance fund which is not credited to the member's account and is not refundable. The employer contribution rate is set annually by the Board based on an actuarial valuation. The employer contributes a set percentage of the member's salary. Each month, when employer contributions are received, an employer pay credit is deposited to the member's account. A member's account is credited with a four percent (nonhazardous) and seven and one-half percent (hazardous) employer pay credit. The employer pay credit represents a portion of the employer contribution.

Benefits fully vest on reaching five years of service for nonhazardous employees. Aspects of benefits for nonhazardous employees include retirement after 27 years of service or age 65. Nonhazardous employees who begin participation on or after September 1, 2008 must meet the rule of 87 (member's age plus years of service credit must equal 87, and the member must be a minimum of 57 years of age) or the member is age 65, with a minimum of 60 months service credit.

Aspects of benefits for hazardous employees include retirement after 20 years of service or age 55. For hazardous employees who begin participation on or after September 1, 2008 aspects of benefits include retirement after 25 years of service or the member is age 60, with a minimum of 60 months of service credit.

CERS also provides post-retirement health care coverage as follows:

OWEN COUNTY
 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
 December 31, 2015
 (Continued)

Note 2. Employee Retirement System and Other Post-Employment Benefits (Continued)

For members participating prior to July 1, 2003, years of service and respective percentages of the maximum contribution are as follows:

Years of Service	% Paid by Insurance Fund	% Paid by Member through Payroll Deduction
20 or more	100%	0%
15-19	75%	25%
10-14	50%	50%
4-9	25%	75%
Less than 4	0%	100%

As a result of House Bill 290 (2004 General Assembly), medical insurance benefits are calculated differently for members who began participation on or after July 1, 2003. Once members reach a minimum vesting period of ten years, non-hazardous employees whose participation began on or after July 1, 2003, earn ten dollars per month for insurance benefits at retirement for every year of earned service without regard to a maximum dollar amount. This dollar amount is subject to adjustment annually based on the retiree cost of living adjustment, which is updated annually due to changes in the Consumer Price Index.

Hazardous employees whose participation began on or after July 1, 2003, earn 15 dollars per month for insurance benefits at retirement for every year of earned service without regard to a maximum dollar amount. Upon the death of a hazardous employee, such employee's spouse receives ten dollars per month for insurance benefits for each year of the deceased employee's hazardous service. This dollar amount is subject to adjustment annually based on the retiree cost of living adjustment, which is updated annually due to changes in the Consumer Price Index.

KRS issues a publicly available annual financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information on CERS. This report may be obtained by writing the Kentucky Retirement Systems, 1260 Louisville Road, Frankfort, KY 40601-6124, or by telephone at (502) 564-4646.

Note 3. Deposits

The Owen County Sheriff maintained deposits of public funds with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (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 Owen 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 December 31, 2015, all deposits were covered by FDIC insurance.

OWEN COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
December 31, 2015
(Continued)

Note 4. Drug Forfeiture Account

The Owen County Sheriff's office maintains a bank account for the receipt and disbursement of funds resulting from drug related seizures and forfeitures. Disbursements from this account are for law enforcement activities. The balance in the account as of January 1, 2015 was \$0. There were receipts of \$13,391, including the ending balance from the former sheriff's drug account of \$2,478, and disbursements of \$7,132, during the year, resulting in an ending balance of \$6,259 as of December 31, 2015.

Note 5. Payroll Settlements

In August 2015, the Owen County Sheriff's office and the Owen County Fiscal Court, pursuant to legal settlements, agreed to pay two sheriff's deputies for unpaid compensation from August 1, 2010 to August 1, 2015. One settlement was for \$15,000 and one was for \$11,800.

Note 6. Lease Agreement

During calendar year 2015, the Owen County Sheriff's office paid off the lease agreement for a 2013 Dodge Charger.

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



MIKE HARMON
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Casey Ellis, Owen County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Mark Bess, Owen County Sheriff
Members of the Owen 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 Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Excess Fees - Regulatory Basis of the Owen County Sheriff for the year ended December 31, 2015, and the related notes to the financial statement and have issued our report thereon dated November 9, 2016. The Owen 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 Owen 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 Owen County Sheriff's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Owen County Sheriff's internal control.

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. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section 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. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified. We identified a certain deficiency in internal control, which is described in the accompanying comment and recommendation as item 2015-001 that we consider to be a significant deficiency.



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 Owen 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

November 9, 2016

COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

OWEN COUNTY
MARK BESS, SHERIFF
COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

For The Year Ended December 31, 2015

INTERNAL CONTROL - SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCY:

2015-001 The Owen County Sheriff's Office Lacks Segregation Of Duties Over Bank Reconciliations

The Owen County Sheriff's office lacks segregation of duties over bank reconciliations. The bookkeeper or office staff person performs the bank reconciliations. There is no independent review, i.e. compensating control, in place to offset the deficiency. Both employees are involved in functions related to receipts and disbursements. The bookkeeper collects receipts, batches receipts, posts them to a collection report and to the ledger, and records and makes the deposit. A second office staff member reviews the receipts, collection report, and deposit to ensure receipts are accounted for properly. She initials the collection report and deposit ticket evidencing her review. The bookkeeper or office staff person prepares checks, signs them, and records them in the disbursements ledger. The sheriff reviews the supporting documentation for each check issued and agrees it to the check issued to ensure the check is prepared accurately. The sheriff signs the check to evidence his review of supporting documentation and the check. The sheriff does not have segregation of duties over bank reconciliations included in the internal control procedures for the office, which results in increased risk that undetected errors in receipts and disbursements could be made. Strong internal controls dictate that bank reconciliations should be performed by someone independent of the receipts or disbursements functions to reduce risk of misstatements due to errors or fraud. Also, segregation of duties protects employees in their day-to-day activities. We recommend the sheriff either perform the bank reconciliations himself or designate someone who is not involved in receipts and disbursements controls to do them.

Sheriff's Response: No Response.

