

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE
ROWAN COUNTY
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2015 TAXES**

**For The Period
April 16, 2015 Through April 15, 2016**



**MIKE HARMON
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
AUDIT OF THE
ROWAN COUNTY
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2015 TAXES

For The Period
April 16, 2015 Through April 15, 2016

The Auditor of Public Accounts has completed the audit of the Sheriff's Settlement - 2015 Taxes for the Rowan County Sheriff for the period April 16, 2015 through April 15, 2016. We have issued an unmodified opinion on the financial statement taken as a whole. Based upon the audit work performed, the financial statement is presented fairly in all material respects.

Financial Condition:

The sheriff collected 2015 taxes of \$10,077,303 for the districts, retaining commissions of \$412,955 to operate the sheriff's office. The sheriff distributed 2015 taxes of \$9,648,225 to the districts. Taxes of \$1,778 are due to the districts from the sheriff and refunds of \$1,221 are due to the sheriff from the taxing districts.

Report Comment:

2015-001 The Sheriff's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

Deposits:

The sheriff's deposits were insured and collateralized by bank securities.

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MIKE HARMON
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

To the People of Kentucky
Honorable Matthew G. Bevin, Governor
William M. Landrum III, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
Honorable Walter Blevins, Rowan County Judge/Executive
Honorable Matt Sparks, Rowan County Sheriff
Members of the Rowan County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

Report on the Financial Statement

We have audited the Rowan County Sheriff's Settlement - 2015 Taxes for the period April 16, 2015 through April 15, 2016 - 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
Honorable Matthew G. Bevin, Governor
William M. Landrum III, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
Honorable Walter Blevins, Rowan County Judge/Executive
Honorable Matt Sparks, Rowan County Sheriff
Members of the Rowan 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 Rowan 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 Rowan County Sheriff, for the period April 16, 2015 through April 15, 2016.

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 April 16, 2015 through April 15, 2016 of the Rowan 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 February 22, 2017 on our consideration of the Rowan 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 Rowan County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

To the People of Kentucky
Honorable Matthew G. Bevin, Governor
William M. Landrum III, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
Honorable Walter Blevins, Rowan County Judge/Executive
Honorable Matt Sparks, Rowan County Sheriff
Members of the Rowan County Fiscal Court

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

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 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 flourish extending to the right.

Mike Harmon
Auditor of Public Accounts

February 22, 2017

ROWAN COUNTY
MATT SPARKS, SHERIFF
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2015 TAXES

For The Period April 16, 2015 Through April 15, 2016

<u>Charges</u>	Special			
	<u>County Taxes</u>	<u>Taxing Districts</u>	<u>School Taxes</u>	<u>State Taxes</u>
Real Estate	\$ 630,321	\$ 1,364,127	\$ 5,343,616	\$ 1,147,749
Tangible Personal Property	81,843	234,995	568,912	377,811
Fire Protection	1,131			
Increases Through Exonerations	331	716	2,805	602
Franchise Taxes	68,457	155,028	514,308	
Additional Billings	1,011	2,229	7,842	23,906
Clay Property Taxes	47	103	402	86
Limestone, Sand and Gravel Reserves	1	3	10	2
Bank Franchises	62,663			
Penalties	2,609	5,651	21,872	4,606
Adjusted to Sheriff's Receipt	(27)	(14)	(117)	(36)
Gross Chargeable to Sheriff	<u>848,387</u>	<u>1,762,838</u>	<u>6,459,650</u>	<u>1,554,726</u>
 <u>Credits</u>				
Exonerations	9,788	21,965	74,958	30,165
Discounts	13,227	27,053	99,448	26,329
Delinquents:				
Real Estate	17,153	37,060	145,173	31,181
Tangible Personal Property	866	1,990	5,719	2,214
Uncollected:				
Additional Bills	301	640	2,507	545
Limestone, Sand and Gravel Reserves	1	3	10	2
Total Credits	<u>41,336</u>	<u>88,711</u>	<u>327,815</u>	<u>90,436</u>
Taxes Collected	807,051	1,674,127	6,131,835	1,464,290
Less: Commissions *	<u>34,300</u>	<u>71,150</u>	<u>245,273</u>	<u>62,232</u>
Taxes Due	772,751	1,602,977	5,886,562	1,402,058
Taxes Paid	771,795	1,600,855	5,876,166	1,399,409
Refunds (Current and Prior Year)	<u>1,161</u>	<u>2,789</u>	<u>9,014</u>	<u>2,602</u>
Due Districts or (Refunds Due Sheriff) as of Completion of Audit	<u>\$ (205)</u>	<u>\$ (667)</u>	<u>\$ 1,382</u>	<u>\$ 47</u>

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* and ** See next page.

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

ROWAN COUNTY
MATT SPARKS, SHERIFF
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2015 TAXES
For The Period April 16, 2015 Through April 15, 2016
(Continued)

* Commissions:

4.25% on \$ 3,945,468
4% on \$ 6,131,835

** Special Taxing Districts:

Library District	\$ 349
Health District	<u>(1,016)</u>

Due District or

(Refund Due Sheriff)	<u><u>\$ (667)</u></u>
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ROWAN COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

April 15, 2016

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 Rowan 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 Rowan 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 15, 2016, all deposits were covered by FDIC insurance or a properly executed collateral security agreement.

ROWAN COUNTY
 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
 April 15, 2016
 (Continued)

Note 3. Tax Collection Period

A. Property Taxes

The real and personal property tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 2015. Property taxes were billed to finance governmental services for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was October 7, 2015 through April 15, 2016.

B. Clay Taxes

The tangible property tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 2015. 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, 2015 through April 15, 2016.

C. Limestone, Sand, and Gravel Taxes

The tangible property tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 2015. 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, 2015 through April 15, 2016.

Note 4. Interest Income

The Rowan County Sheriff earned \$270 as interest income on 2015 taxes. The sheriff distributed the appropriate amount to the school district as required by statute, and the remainder was used to operate the sheriff's office. As of February 22, 2017, the sheriff owed \$71 in interest to the school district and \$52 in interest to his fee account.

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

The Rowan County Sheriff collected \$25,037 of 10% add-on fees allowed by KRS 134.119(7). This amount was used to operate the sheriff's office. As of February 22, 2017, the sheriff owed \$83 in 10% add-on fees to his fee account.

Note 6. Unrefundable Duplicate Payments And Unexplained Receipts

The sheriff deposited unrefundable duplicate payments and unexplained receipts in an interest-bearing account. The sheriff's escrowed amount was as follows:

2014	\$429
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KRS 393.090 states that after three years, if the funds have not been claimed, they are presumed abandoned. Abandoned funds are required to be sent to the Kentucky State Treasurer pursuant to KRS 393.110 and its accompanying regulations.

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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 Walter Blevins, Rowan County Judge/Executive
Honorable Matt Sparks, Rowan County Sheriff
Members of the Rowan 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 Rowan County Sheriff's Settlement - 2015 Taxes for the period April 16, 2015 through April 15, 2016 - Regulatory Basis and the related notes to the financial statement and have issued our report thereon dated February 22, 2017. The Rowan 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 Rowan 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 Rowan County Sheriff's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Rowan 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 Rowan 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*.

Sheriff's Response to Finding

The Rowan County Sheriff's response to the finding identified in our audit is described in the accompanying comment and recommendation. The Rowan County Sheriff's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statement and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

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,



Mike Harmon
Auditor of Public Accounts

February 22, 2017

COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

ROWAN COUNTY
MATT SPARKS, SHERIFF
COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

For The Period April 16, 2015 Through April 15, 2016

INTERNAL CONTROL - SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCY:

2015-001 The Sheriff's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

The sheriff's office lacks adequate segregation of duties. The bookkeeper collects and deposits tax receipts, records all transactions, prepares the monthly report, and reconciles the bank account. Inadequate segregation of duties allows one person to have a significant role in processing and recording receipts and disbursements which increases the risk of undetected misappropriation of assets and inaccurate financial reporting. Duties should be segregated to decrease the risk of misappropriation of assets, errors, and inaccurate financial reporting to external agencies. Although the sheriff has implemented some compensating controls, such as dual signatures on checks and recounting the daily deposits, they are not sufficient to offset the lack of segregation of duties. If these duties cannot be segregated, the sheriff should implement additional compensating controls to help offset this weakness, such as:

- Recount the daily deposit and verify that it agrees to the daily tax collection totals.
- Agree daily tax collection total to the receipts ledger and deposit slip.
- Review the monthly tax reports and agree them to the receipts ledger and disbursements ledger.
- Agree checks written to taxing districts to the monthly tax reports.
- Review the monthly bank reconciliation and trace transactions to source documents.

The sheriff should initial these documents as proof of his review.

Sheriff's Response: Because of the limited number of personnel in our office it is difficult to segregate all of our daily duties. We are aware of this issue and therefore I conduct unannounced inspections of the daily deposits and daily checkouts.

