

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE
WARREN COUNTY
SHERIFF**

**For The Year Ended
December 31, 2019**



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MIKE HARMON
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Michael O. Buchanon, Warren County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Brett Hightower, Warren County Sheriff
Members of the Warren County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Receipts and Disbursements - Regulatory Basis of the Sheriff of Warren County, Kentucky, and the Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Fund Balances of the Sheriff's Operating Fund and County Fund with the State Treasurer - Regulatory Basis for the year ended December 31, 2019, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements 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 and budget laws. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements 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 statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, 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 statements 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 statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.



The Honorable Michael O. Buchanon, Warren County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Brett Hightower, Warren County Sheriff
Members of the Warren County Fiscal Court

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 1 of the financial statements, the financial statements are prepared by the Warren 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 statements 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 statements referred to above do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Warren County Sheriff, as of December 31, 2019, 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 statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the receipts and disbursements of the Warren County Sheriff and the receipts, disbursements, and fund balances of the Warren County Sheriff’s operating fund and county fund with the state treasurer for the year ended December 31, 2019, 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 17, 2021, on our consideration of the Warren County Sheriff’s internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, 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.

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Harmon
Auditor of Public Accounts

February 17, 2021

WARREN COUNTY
BRETT HIGHTOWER, SHERIFF
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS - REGULATORY BASIS

For The Year Ended December 31, 2019

Receipts

Federal Grants:		
Federal Highway Safety	\$ 4,846	
High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program (HIDTA)	<u>11,792</u>	\$ 16,638
State - Kentucky Law Enforcement Foundation Program Fund (KLEFPF)		214,961
State Fees for Services:		
Finance and Administration Cabinet	386,935	
Sheriff Security Service	<u>64,251</u>	451,186
Circuit Court Clerk:		
Fines/Fees Collected	48,366	
Court Ordered Payments	<u>524</u>	48,890
Fiscal Court		4,467,625
County Clerk - Delinquent Taxes		92,914
Commission on Taxes		2,363,417
Fees Collected for Services:		
Auto Inspections	70,940	
Accident/Police Reports	33,137	
Serving Papers	313,970	
Carry Concealed Deadly Weapon Permits	31,220	
Additional Fiscal Court Fees	64,130	
Transports	<u>74,617</u>	588,014
Other:		
Add-On Fees	162,984	
Miscellaneous	47,239	
School Resource Officer	<u>200,745</u>	410,968
Interest Earned		<u>43,261</u>
Total Receipts		8,697,874

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

WARREN COUNTY
 BRETT HIGHTOWER, SHERIFF
 STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS - REGULATORY BASIS
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2019
 (Continued)

Disbursements

Payments to County:

Fees Collected - Fiscal Court	\$ 64,130	
KLEFPF Reimbursement	<u>8,700</u>	\$ 72,830

Other Disbursements:

Juror Expenses		<u>200</u>
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Total Disbursements		<u>\$ 73,030</u>
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Net Receipts		8,624,844
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Payments to State Treasurer:

75% Operating Fund *	8,073,948	
25% County Fund	<u>550,896</u>	<u>8,624,844</u>

Balance Due at Completion of Audit		<u><u>\$ 0</u></u>
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* Includes reimbursed expenses in the amount of \$6,421,259 for the audit period.
 See Note 1 of Notes to Financial Statements.

WARREN COUNTY
 BRETT HIGHTOWER, SHERIFF
 STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND
 FUND BALANCES OF THE SHERIFF'S OPERATING FUND
 AND COUNTY FUND WITH THE STATE TREASURER - REGULATORY BASIS

For The Year Ended December 31, 2019

	75% Operating Fund	25% County Fund	Totals
Fund Balance - January 1, 2019	\$	\$	\$
<u>Receipts</u>			
Fees Paid to State - Operating Funds (75%)	8,073,948		8,073,948
Fees Paid to State - County Funds (25%)		550,896	550,896
Total Funds Available	<u>8,073,948</u>	<u>550,896</u>	<u>8,624,844</u>
<u>Disbursements</u>			
Warren County Fiscal Court		501,706	501,706
Personal Services-			
Official's Statutory Maximum	104,350		104,350
Official's Training Incentive	1,054		1,054
Deputies' Salaries	3,719,506		3,719,506
Overtime Gross	314,160		314,160
Other Payroll	19,263		19,263
Employee Benefits-			
Employer's Share Social Security	312,370		312,370
Employer's Share Retirement	1,166,344		1,166,344
Employer's Share Health Insurance	464,342		464,342
Employer's Share Life Insurance	595		595
Workers' Compensation	57,734		57,734
Contracted Services-			
Technical Programming Support	142,733		142,733
Supplies and Materials-			
Office Supplies	26,036		26,036
Uniforms/Equipment	49,394		49,394

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

WARREN COUNTY
 BRETT HIGHTOWER, SHERIFF
 STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND
 FUND BALANCES OF THE SHERIFF'S OPERATING FUND
 AND COUNTY FUND WITH THE STATE TREASURER - REGULATORY BASIS
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2019
 (Continued)

	75%	25%	
	Operating	County	Totals
	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u></u>
<u>Disbursements (Continued)</u>			
Operating Expenses			
Departmental	\$ 110,071	\$	\$ 110,071
Safety Equipment	34,606		34,606
Law Enforcement	43,523		43,523
Radio Maintenance & Repair	4,788		4,788
Other Charges-			
Postage	37,706		37,706
Fire Arms and Ammunition	18,852		18,852
Telephone/Fax/Cellular	55,189		55,189
Training	24,951		24,951
Transport	44,794		44,794
Auto Expenses-			
Gasoline	136,372		136,372
Maintenance and Repairs	123,584		123,584
Capital Outlay-			
Computer Equipment	<u>23,646</u>		<u>23,646</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>7,035,963</u>	<u>501,706</u>	<u>7,537,669</u>
Fund Balance - December 31, 2019	<u>\$ 1,037,985</u>	<u>\$ 49,190</u>	<u>\$ 1,087,175</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

WARREN COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2019

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 due from the sheriff as determined by the audit.

KRS 64.350 establishes that a fee official in counties with a population over 70,000 has two funds with the state treasurer for the deposit of fees collected. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the fees collected are deposited in the sheriff's operating fund and used for office expenses of the fee official. The remaining twenty-five percent (25%) of fees collected are deposited to the county fiscal court fund and paid to the fiscal courts, urban-county governments, or consolidated local governments of the respective counties quarterly no later than April 15, July 15, October 15, and January 15. These funds are closed at the end of each official term by paying the balances to the respective county government.

Also, some revenues of the fee official offices could be considered reimbursed expenses. All reimbursed expenses are treated as revenue in the 75 percent fund.

The financial statements have been prepared on a regulatory basis of accounting, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. This basis 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:

- Interest receivable
- Collection on accounts due from others for 2019 services
- Reimbursements for 2019 activities
- Payments due other governmental entities for December tax and fee collections
- Payroll expenditures incurred but not paid
- Payments due vendors for goods or services provided in 2019

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).

WARREN COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2019
(Continued)

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

The sheriff's office has elected to participate, pursuant to KRS 78.530, in the County Employees Retirement System (CERS), which is 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.

The sheriff's contribution for calendar year 2017 was \$1,092,358, calendar year 2018 was \$1,128,025, and calendar year 2019 was \$1,166,344.

Nonhazardous

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 be allocated as follows: five percent will go to the member's account and one percent will go to the KRS insurance fund.

In accordance with Senate Bill 2, signed by the Governor on April 4, 2013, 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. Nonhazardous covered employees contribute five percent of their annual creditable compensation. Nonhazardous members also contribute 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 KRS Board of Directors 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 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.

The county's contribution rate for nonhazardous employees was 21.48 percent for the first six months and 24.06 percent for the last six months.

Hazardous

Hazardous covered employees are required to contribute 8 percent of their salary to the plan. Hazardous covered employees who begin participation on or after September 1, 2008, are required to contribute 9 percent of their salary to be allocated as follows: 8 percent will go to the member's account and 1 percent will go to the KRS insurance fund.

WARREN COUNTY
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 December 31, 2019
 (Continued)

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

Hazardous (Continued)

In accordance with Senate Bill 2, signed by the Governor on April 4, 2013, 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. Hazardous members contribute eight percent of their annual creditable compensation and also contribute 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 hazardous member's account is credited with a 7.5 percent employer pay credit. The employer pay credit represents a portion of the employer contribution.

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.

The county's contribution rate for hazardous employees was 35.34 percent for the first six months and 39.58 percent for the last six months.

Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)

A. Health Insurance Coverage - Tier 1

CERS provides post-retirement health care coverage as follows:

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.

WARREN COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2019
(Continued)

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

Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) (Continued)

A. Health Insurance Coverage - Tier 1 (Continued)

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, the 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.

Benefits are covered under KRS 161.714 with exception of COLA and retiree health benefits after July 2003.

B. Health Insurance Coverage - Tier 2 and Tier 3 - Nonhazardous

Once members reach a minimum vesting period of 15 years, 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 by 1.5 percent. This was established for Tier 2 members during the 2008 Special Legislative Session by House Bill 1. During the 2013 Legislative Session, Senate Bill 2 was enacted, creating Tier 3 benefits for members.

The monthly insurance benefit has been increased annually as a 1.5 percent cost of living adjustment (COLA) since July 2003 when the law changed. The annual increase is cumulative and continues to accrue after the member's retirement.

Tier 2 member benefits are covered by KRS 161.714 with exception of COLA and retiree health benefits after July 2003. Tier 3 members are not covered by the same provisions.

C. Health Insurance Coverage - Tier 2 and Tier 3 - Hazardous

Once members reach a minimum vesting period of 15 years, earn fifteen 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 by 1.5 percent. Upon the death of a hazardous employee, the employee's spouse receives ten dollars per month for insurance benefits for each year of the deceased employee's hazardous service. This was established for Tier 2 members during the 2008 Special Legislative Session by House Bill 1. During the 2013 Legislative Session, Senate Bill 2 was enacted, creating Tier 3 benefits for members.

The monthly insurance benefit has been increased annually as a 1.5 percent COLA since July 2003 when the law changed. The annual increase is cumulative and continues to accrue after the member's retirement.

D. Cost of Living Adjustments - Tier 1

The 1996 General Assembly enacted an automatic cost of living adjustment (COLA) provision for all recipients of KRS benefits. During the 2008 Special Session, the General Assembly determined that each July beginning in 2009, retirees who have been receiving a retirement allowance for at least 12 months will receive an automatic COLA of 1.5 percent. The COLA is not a guaranteed benefit. If a retiree has been receiving a benefit for less than 12 months, and a COLA is provided, it will be prorated based on the number of months the recipient has been receiving a benefit.

WARREN COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2019
(Continued)

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

Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) (Continued)

E. Cost of Living Adjustments - Tier 2 and Tier 3

No COLA is given unless authorized by the legislature with specific criteria. To this point, no COLA has been authorized by the legislature for Tier 2 or Tier 3 members.

F. Death Benefit

If a retired member is receiving a monthly benefit based on at least 48 months of service credit, KRS will pay a \$5,000 death benefit payment to the beneficiary designated by the member specifically for this benefit. Members with multiple accounts are entitled to only one death benefit.

KRS Annual Financial Report and Proportionate Share Audit Report

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.

KRS also issues proportionate share audit reports for both total pension liability and other post-employment benefits for CERS determined by actuarial valuation as well as each participating county's proportionate share. Both the Schedules of Employer Allocations and Pension Amounts by Employer and the Schedules of Employer Allocations and OPEB Amounts by Employer reports and the related actuarial tables are available online at <https://kyret.ky.gov>. The complete actuarial valuation report, including all actuarial assumptions and methods, is also available on the website or can be obtained as described in the paragraph above.

Note 3. Deposits

The Warren 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 Warren 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, 2019, all deposits were covered by FDIC insurance or a properly executed collateral security agreement.

WARREN COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2019
(Continued)

Note 4. Grants

A. Federal Highway Safety Grant

The Warren County Sheriff's office received a highway safety grant passed through the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's Office of Highway Safety for calendar year 2019. Funds totaling \$4,846 were expended during the year.

B. High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program (HIDTA) Grant

The Warren County Sheriff received a 2019 High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program (HIDTA) grant from the United States Office of National Drug Control Policy, passed through the Financial Commission for Appalachia, in the amount of \$36,000. During 2019, reimbursement grant funds in the amount of \$11,792 were received and \$17,706 was expended. The remaining reimbursement grant funds of \$5,914 were received in January 2020. The unexpended grant balance at December 31, 2019, was \$18,294.

Note 5. Health Reimbursement Account

The Warren County Sheriff's office established a health reimbursement account on January 1, 2012, to provide employees an additional health benefit. The sheriff's office has contracted with a third-party administrator to administer the plan. The plan provides a debit card to each eligible employee providing \$4,134 to pay for qualified medical expenses for calendar year 2019. Funds remaining at the end of each year roll forward to the next year. If employees are no longer employed by the sheriff's office or decide to no longer participate in the health reimbursement account, the funds revert to the sheriff's office. The balance of the plan as of December 31, 2019, is \$70,004 which will roll over to calendar year 2020.

Note 6. Seized Funds Account

The Warren County Sheriff maintains a seized funds account with funds received as the result of court-ordered payments for drug investigations. These funds are to be used for drug enforcement and drug education. The balance was \$0 as of January 1, 2019. The account received \$103,548 and expended \$32,083. The ending balance at December 31, 2019, was \$71,465.

Note 7. Donation Account

The Warren County Sheriff maintained an account for the receipt of donations. These funds are to be used for the operation of the sheriff's office as established by KRS 61.310. The balance was \$0 as of January 1, 2019. The account received \$3,815 and expended \$1,321. The ending balance as of December 31, 2019, was \$2,494.

Note 8. Leases

- A. The Warren County Sheriff's office was committed to a lease agreement for a copier. The agreement requires quarterly payments of \$509 for 60 months. The lease started on February 26, 2016, and expires on February 26, 2021. The sheriff is in compliance with this agreement.
- B. The Warren County Sheriff's office was committed to a lease agreement for three postage meters. The agreement requires a quarterly payment of \$94 for 60 months expiring in July 31, 2020. The sheriff is in compliance with this agreement.

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND
ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

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MIKE HARMON
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Michael O. Buchanon, Warren County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Brett Hightower, Warren County Sheriff
Members of the Warren County Fiscal Court

Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And
On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statements 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 and Disbursements - Regulatory Basis of the Sheriff of Warren County, Kentucky, the Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Fund Balances of the Sheriff's Operating Fund and County Fund with the State Treasurer - Regulatory Basis for the year ended December 31, 2019, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated February 17, 2021. The Warren County Sheriff's financial statements are 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 statements, we considered the Warren County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Warren County Sheriff's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Warren 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 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 was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.



Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And
On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statements Performed In Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards*
(Continued)

Compliance And Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Warren County Sheriff's financial statements are 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 line extending to the right.

Mike Harmon
Auditor of Public Accounts

February 17, 2021