

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE
FLEMING COUNTY
CLERK**

**For The Year Ended
December 31, 2020**



**MIKE HARMON
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
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CONTENTS

PAGE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT 1

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS 3

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT 7

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* 15

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES 19

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MIKE HARMON
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Larry Foxworthy, Fleming County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Jarrod Fritz, Fleming County Clerk
Members of the Fleming 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 County Clerk of Fleming County, Kentucky, for the year ended December 31, 2020, 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 this 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 and budget laws. 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 this 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 Larry Foxworthy, Fleming County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Jarrod Fritz, Fleming County Clerk
Members of the Fleming 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 Fleming County Clerk 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 the Fleming County Clerk, as of December 31, 2020, 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 Fleming County Clerk for the year ended December 31, 2020, 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 August 4, 2021, on our consideration of the Fleming County Clerk'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 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 Fleming County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

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

2020-001 The County Clerk's Office Does Not Have Adequate Segregation Of Duties

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Harmon
Auditor of Public Accounts

August 4, 2021

FLEMING COUNTY
 JARROD FRITZ, COUNTY CLERK
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS

For The Year Ended December 31, 2020

Receipts

Federal Grant		\$ 27,132	
State Grant			2,000
State Revenue Supplement			68,059
State Fees For Services			3,837
Fiscal Court			20,444
Licenses and Taxes:			
Motor Vehicle-			
Licenses and Transfers	\$ 545,501		
Usage Tax	1,548,811		
Tangible Personal Property Tax	1,573,151		
Notary Fees	329		
Other-			
Fish and Game Licenses	4,078		
Marriage Licenses	4,200		
Deed Transfer Tax	46,774		
Delinquent Tax	189,294		
			3,912,138
Fees Collected for Services:			
Recordings-			
Deeds, Easements, and Contracts	21,516		
Real Estate Mortgages	46,766		
Chattel Mortgages and Financing Statements	47,230		
Powers of Attorney	2,065		
Affordable Housing Trust	16,314		
All Other Recordings	4,980		
Bail Bonds	94		
Leases	391		
Liens & Lis Pendens	5,200		
Releases	28,788		
Wills, Estate Settlements & Accom.	1,926		
			175,270

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

FLEMING COUNTY
 JARROD FRITZ, COUNTY CLERK
 STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2020
 (Continued)

Receipts (Continued)

Fees Collected for Services: (Continued)

Charges for Other Services-

Candidate Filing Fees	\$	1,130	
Copywork		392	
Postage		6,987	
Child Victim Fund		217	
Lien Release Fees		6,308	
Storage Fee		28,260	
Refunds/Overpayments		28,658	

Other:

Miscellaneous Income		<u>2,917</u>	\$ 74,869
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Interest Earned			<u>226</u>
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Total Receipts			4,283,975
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Disbursements

Payments to State:

Motor Vehicle-

Licenses and Transfers	\$	386,765	
Usage Tax		1,502,346	
Tangible Personal Property Tax		560,939	
Licenses, Taxes, and Fees-			
Fish and Game Licenses		4,021	
Delinquent Tax		15,913	
Legal Process Tax		14,007	
Affordable Housing Trust		<u>16,314</u>	2,500,305

Payments to Fiscal Court:

Tangible Personal Property Tax		164,739	
Delinquent Tax		23,639	
Deed Transfer Tax		<u>44,436</u>	232,814

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

FLEMING COUNTY
 JARROD FRITZ, COUNTY CLERK
 STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2020
 (Continued)

Disbursements (Continued)

Payments to Other Districts:		
Tangible Personal Property Tax	\$ 782,380	
Delinquent Tax	<u>93,195</u>	\$ 875,575
Payments to Sheriff		15,521
Payments to County Attorney		25,966
Tax Bill Preparation		5,252
Other Regulatory Payments:		
Refunds		28,748
Operating Disbursements and Capital Outlay:		
Personnel Services-		
Deputies' Salaries	214,268	
Contracted Services-		
Advertising	3,430	
Printing and Binding	23,949	
Materials and Supplies-		
Office Supplies	16,294	
Other Charges-		
Bank Charges	103	
Conventions and Travel	2,026	
Dues	1,920	
Phone	5,553	
Election Expense	53,255	
Miscellaneous	5,829	
Postage	10,264	
Training	140	
Libraries & Archives Grant Expense	2,000	
Capital Outlay-		
Office Equipment	<u>3,840</u>	<u>342,871</u>
Total Disbursements		<u>\$ 4,027,052</u>

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

FLEMING COUNTY
 JARROD FRITZ, COUNTY CLERK
 STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2020
 (Continued)

Net Receipts		\$ 256,923
Less: Statutory Maximum		<u>90,562</u>
Excess Fees		166,361
Less: Expense Allowance	\$ 3,600	
Training Incentive Benefit	<u>4,313</u>	<u>7,913</u>
Excess Fees Due County for 2020		158,448
Payments to Fiscal Court - July 8, 2020	20,000	
December 15, 2020	50,000	
January 6, 2021	30,000	
January 26, 2021	25,000	
February 10, 2021	19,684	
February 10, 2021	<u>10,000</u>	<u>154,684</u>
Balance Due Fiscal Court at Completion of Audit		<u>\$ 3,764</u>

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

FLEMING COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

December 31, 2020

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 county clerk as determined by the audit. KRS 64.152 requires the county clerk to settle excess fees with the fiscal court by March 15 each year.

The financial statement has 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 that may be included in the excess fees calculation:

- Interest receivable
- Collection on accounts due from others for 2020 services
- Reimbursements for 2020 activities
- Payments due other governmental entities for December tax and fee collections and payroll
- Payments due vendors for goods or services provided in 2020

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 county clerk'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. Employee Retirement System and Other Post-Employment Benefits

The clerk'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.

FLEMING COUNTY
 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
 December 31, 2020
 (Continued)

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

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 24.06 percent for the year.

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%

FLEMING COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
December 31, 2020
(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)

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.

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. 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.

D. 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.

E. 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.

FLEMING COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
December 31, 2020
(Continued)

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

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 Fleming County Clerk maintained deposits of public funds with federally insured banking institutions as required by the Department for Local Government's (DLG) *County Budget Preparation and State Local Finance Officer Policy Manual*. The DLG Manual strongly recommends perfected pledges of securities covering all public funds except direct federal obligations and funds protected by federal insurance. In order to be perfected 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 county clerk 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. These requirements were met.

Custodial Credit Risk - Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a depository institution failure, the county clerk's deposits may not be returned. The Fleming County Clerk does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk, but rather follows the requirements of the DLG *County Budget Preparation and State Local Finance Officer Policy Manual*. As of December 31, 2020, all deposits were covered by FDIC insurance or a properly executed collateral security agreement.

Note 4. State Grant

The Fleming County Clerk's office received a local records grant from the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives in the amount of \$29,830 in January 2019. The balance as of January 1, 2020, was \$2,001. The account earned interest of \$1 and funds totaling \$2,000 were expended during the year, leaving a balance of \$2 as of December 31, 2020.

Note 5. Federal Grant

The Fleming County Clerk's Office received a CARES Act (Help America Vote) grant passed through the state via the Kentucky State Board of Elections in the amount of \$27,132. All grant funds were spent during the year and the grant balance was \$0 as of December 21, 2020.

FLEMING COUNTY
 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
 December 31, 2020
 (Continued)

Note 6. Lease Agreements

The Fleming County Clerk's office was committed to the following lease agreements as of December 31, 2020:

Item Purchased	Monthly Payment	Term Of Agreement	Ending Date	Principal Balance December 31, 2020
Copier	\$ 275	60 months	8/1/2021	\$ 2,200
Software	1,875	36 months	2/10/2022	26,250
Hardware	<u>93</u>	36 months	2/10/2022	<u>1,307</u>
Total	<u>\$ 2,243</u>			<u>\$ 29,757</u>

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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*

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MIKE HARMON
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Larry Foxworthy, Fleming County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Jarrod Fritz, Fleming County Clerk
Members of the Fleming 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 Fleming County Clerk for the year ended December 31, 2020, and the related notes to the financial statement and have issued our report thereon dated August 4, 2021. The Fleming County Clerk'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 Fleming County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing 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 Fleming County Clerk's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fleming County Clerk'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 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 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 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 Schedule of Findings and Responses as item 2020-001 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)

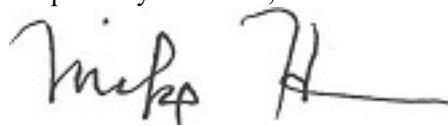
Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Fleming County Clerk'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 financial statement. 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

August 4, 2021

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

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FLEMING COUNTY
JARROD FRITZ, COUNTY CLERK
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

For The Year Ended December 31, 2020

INTERNAL CONTROL - SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCY:

2020-001 The County Clerk's Office Does Not Have Adequate Segregation Of Duties

This is a repeat finding and was included in the prior year audit report as finding 2019-001. The Fleming County Clerk's office does not have adequate segregation of duties. A deputy clerk prepares the bank reconciliations. The deputy initials the statement when completed, but there is no documentation of review by the county clerk. The county clerk or one of two deputies prepares checks for all disbursements and posts to the disbursements ledger. There is no documentation that this work is reviewed. The county clerk and two deputies are the authorized check signers and only one signature is required on checks. If the county clerk does not sign the check, both deputies sign it.

According to the county clerk, the clerk's office has a small budget which limits the number of employees he can hire. The lack of adequate segregation of duties can result in undetected misstatements and inaccurate financial reporting. To adequately protect assets, effective segregation of duties involving deposit preparation, recording of receipts, reconciling the bank account, and posting disbursements to ledgers is essential. Additionally, proper segregation of duties protects employees in the normal course of performing their daily responsibilities. Good internal controls dictate that duties should be adequately segregated or compensating controls implemented to ensure accurate financial reporting.

We recommend the county clerk segregate duties or implement strong compensating controls to mitigate risks. If duties cannot be adequately segregated due to a limited number of staff, compensating controls are recommended. We recommend the county clerk implement compensating controls, such as:

- The county clerk should review the deputy clerk's bank reconciliations for accuracy and compare to the ledgers and ending financial statement balances.
- The county clerk or another deputy should review disbursements ledger postings.

The reviews should be documented in writing, detailing who performed the reconciliation and review.

County Clerk's Response: The official did not provide a response.