

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE  
GRANT COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2019 TAXES**

**For The Period  
April 16, 2019 Through May 15, 2020**



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**MIKE HARMON**  
**AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

To the People of Kentucky  
The Honorable Andy Beshear, Governor  
Holly M. Johnson, Secretary  
Finance and Administration Cabinet  
The Honorable Chuck Dills, Grant County Judge/Executive  
The Honorable Brian Maines, Grant County Sheriff  
Members of the Grant County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

**Report on the Financial Statement**

We have audited the Grant County Sheriff's Settlement - 2019 Taxes for the period April 16, 2019 through May 15, 2020 - 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  
The Honorable Andy Beshear, Governor  
Holly M. Johnson, Secretary  
Finance and Administration Cabinet  
The Honorable Chuck Dills, Grant County Judge/Executive  
The Honorable Brian Maines, Grant County Sheriff  
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**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 Grant 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 Grant County Sheriff, for the period April 16, 2019 through May 15, 2020.

**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, 2019 through May 15, 2020 of the Grant 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 August 30, 2021, on our consideration of the Grant 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 Grant County Sheriff’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:

2019-001 The Grant County Sheriff’s Tax Settlement Was Not Accurate

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Harmon  
Auditor of Public Accounts

August 30, 2021

GRANT COUNTY  
BRIAN MAINES, SHERIFF  
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2019 TAXES

For The Period April 16, 2019 Through May 15, 2020

	Special Taxing			
	County	Districts	School	State
<u>Charges</u>				
Real Estate and Tangible	\$ 1,650,976	\$ 3,539,299	\$ 7,610,549	\$ 1,644,457
Total Per Sheriff's Official Receipt	1,650,976	3,539,299	7,610,549	1,644,457
<u>Other Taxes &amp; Charges</u>				
Franchise Taxes	172,590	303,726	531,727	
Additional Billings	386	881	1,663	352
Penalties	4,931	9,977	22,212	4,523
Gross Chargeable to Sheriff	1,828,883	3,853,883	8,166,151	1,649,332
<u>Credits</u>				
Exonerations	3,347	7,191	15,563	3,205
Discounts	28,105	53,319	129,526	28,245
Delinquent Real Estate	24,557	69,707	116,206	21,998
Delinquent Tangible	214	348	717	399
Total Credits	56,223	130,565	262,012	53,847
Taxes Collected	1,772,660	3,723,318	7,904,139	1,595,485
Less: Sheriff's Commissions*	75,374	158,778	197,664	67,808
Taxes Due Districts	1,697,286	3,564,540	7,706,475	1,527,677
Taxes Paid	1,697,568	3,561,783	7,708,242	1,527,515
Refunds (Current and Prior Year)	559	902	2,648	506
Taxes Due Districts (Refund Due Sheriff)	\$ (841)	\$ 1,855	\$ (4,415)	\$ (344)
		**	***	

\*, \*\*, and \*\*\* See next page.

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

GRANT COUNTY  
 BRIAN MAINES, SHERIFF  
 SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2019 TAXES  
 For The Period April 16, 2019 Through May 15, 2020  
 (Continued)

\* Commissions:

4.25% on	\$	7,091,463
2.5% on	\$	7,904,139

\*\* Special Taxing Districts:

Library District	\$	(413)
Health District		(86)
Extension District		42
Soil District		3
Mental Health District		(26)
911 Fees		360
Jonesville Fire District		25
Crittenden Fire District		<u>1,950</u>

Due Districts or (Refunds Due Sheriff)	\$	<u>1,855</u>
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\*\*\* School Taxing Districts

Common School District	\$	(2,837)
Williamstown School District		<u>(1,578)</u>

Due Districts or (Refunds Due Sheriff)	\$	<u>(4,415)</u>
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GRANT COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

May 15, 2020

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).

D. Preparation of State Settlement

The Kentucky Department of Revenue prepares the settlement relating to taxes collected for the state under the provision of KRS 134.192(2)(a). This is reported as the "State Taxes" column on the financial statement.

Note 2. Deposits

The Grant County Sheriff 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 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. These requirements were met.

GRANT COUNTY  
 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
 May 15, 2020  
 (Continued)

Note 2. Deposits (Continued)

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 Grant County Sheriff 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 May 15, 2020, all deposits were covered by FDIC insurance or a properly executed collateral security agreement.

Note 3. Tax Collection Period

A. Property Taxes

The real and personal property tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 2019. Property taxes were billed to finance governmental services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was September 30, 2019 through May 15, 2020.

B. Franchise Taxes

The franchise tax assessments were levied by the Department of Revenue for various tax years. Franchise taxes are billed to finance governmental services. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was April 16, 2019 through May 15, 2020.

Note 4. Interest Income

The Grant County Sheriff earned \$2,261 as interest income on 2019 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 August 30, 2021, the sheriff owed \$796 in interest to the school districts and \$899 in interest to his fee account.

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

The Grant County Sheriff collected \$14,149 of 10% add-on fees allowed by KRS 134.119(7). This amount was used to operate the sheriff's office. As of August 30, 2021, the sheriff owed \$8,869 in 10% add-on fees to his fee account.

Note 6. Escrow Account

The sheriff deposited unrefundable payments in an interest-bearing accounts. The sheriff's escrowed beginning balance was \$0. The sheriff received \$1,837 and disbursed \$0 resulting in a total ending balance as of May 15, 2020 of \$1,837. The ending balance consists of escrowed amounts of:

2015	\$1,736,
2016	\$99 and interest of \$2.

When statutorily required, the sheriff will turn over the escrowed funds to the Kentucky State Treasurer as unclaimed property.

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 Chuck Dills, Grant County Judge/Executive  
The Honorable Brian Maines, Grant County Sheriff  
Members of the Grant 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 Grant County Sheriff's Settlement - 2019 Taxes for the period April 16, 2019 through May 15, 2020 - Regulatory Basis and the related notes to the financial statement and have issued our report thereon dated August 30, 2021. The Grant 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 Grant 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 Grant County Sheriff's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Grant County Sheriff's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph 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. However, as described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses, we identified a certain deficiency in internal control that we consider to be a material weakness.

*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. We consider the deficiency described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses as item 2019-001 to be a material weakness.



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 Grant County Sheriff's financial statement is free from 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 an instance of noncompliance or other matter that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which is described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses as item 2019-001.

### **Views of Responsible Official and Planned Corrective Action**

The Grant County Sheriff's views and planned corrective action for the finding identified in our audit are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses. The Grant 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

August 30, 2021

## SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

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GRANT COUNTY  
BRIAN MAINES, SHERIFF  
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

For The Period April 16, 2019 Through May 15, 2020

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDING:

2019-001 The Grant County Sheriff's Tax Settlement Was Not Accurate

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This is a repeat finding and was included in the prior year audit report as finding 2018-001. The Grant County Sheriff's tax settlement was materially misstated, requiring the following adjustments:

- Current Year Franchises of \$566,066;
- Total Taxes Collected of \$566,066;
- Sheriff's Commissions of \$17,883; and
- Total Taxes Paid of \$548,182;

Controls were not in place to ensure the tax settlement was accurate. Part of the variances were due to the third party who prepared the sheriff's tax settlement including charges for franchise taxes collected during the previous tax period. This lack of controls could result in incomplete and inaccurate tax settlements.

Strong internal controls over financial reporting are needed in order to ensure accurate reporting of tax collections and distributions. Accurate financial reporting helps ensure the proper amounts of taxes are distributed to the taxing districts. KRS 134.192(5) states in part, "[t]he settlement shall show the amount of ad valorem tax collected for the county, the school district, and all taxing districts, and an itemized statement of the money disbursed to or on behalf of the county, the school district, and all taxing districts.

We recommend the sheriff's office strengthen controls over the preparation of the tax settlement, ensuring it is complete and accurate.

*Sheriff's Response: We will strengthen controls and make sure they are complete and accurate.*