

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE
WOLFE COUNTY
SHERIFF**

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



**MIKE HARMON
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MIKE HARMON
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Raymond Banks, Wolfe County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Chris Carson, Wolfe County Sheriff
Members of the Wolfe County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

Report on the Financial Statement

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Excess Fees - Regulatory Basis of the Sheriff of Wolfe County, Kentucky, for the year ended December 31, 2019, 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 the financial statement based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the *Audit Guide for County Fee Officials* issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statement.

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

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER M / F / D



The Honorable Raymond Banks, Wolfe County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Chris Carson, Wolfe County Sheriff
Members of the Wolfe 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 Wolfe County Sheriff on the basis of the accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The effects on the financial statement of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles paragraph, the financial statement referred to above does not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Wolfe 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 statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the Wolfe County Sheriff 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 August 25, 2020, on our consideration of the Wolfe 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 Wolfe 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 comments:

- 2019-001 The Wolfe County Sheriff's Financial Statement Was Materially Misstated
- 2019-002 The Sheriff Ran A Charitable Account Through His Office That Did Not Serve A Public Purpose Associated With A Regular Function Of The Sheriff's Office

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Harmon
Auditor of Public Accounts

August 25, 2020

WOLFE COUNTY
CHRIS CARSON, SHERIFF
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS

For The Year Ended December 31, 2019

Receipts

Federal:

United States Forest Service	\$	6,975
National Highway Traffic Safety Grant		622
Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT)		24,727

State - Kentucky Law Enforcement Foundation Program Fund (KLEFPF)		4,971
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State Fees For Services:

Finance and Administration Cabinet	\$ 112,766	
Sheriff Security Service	7,462	120,228

Circuit Court Clerk:

Fines and Fees Collected		8,619
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Fiscal Court		103,000
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County Clerk - Delinquent Taxes		9,071
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Commission On Taxes Collected		80,666
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Telecommunication Tax		727
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Fees Collected For Services:

Auto Inspections	1,675	
Accident and Police Reports	370	
Serving Papers	12,610	
Carry Concealed Deadly Weapon Permits	1,685	
Prisoner Transports	500	16,840

Other:

Add-On Fees		9,954
Miscellaneous		9,634

Borrowed Money:

State Advancement		25,000
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Total Receipts		421,034
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

WOLFE COUNTY
CHRIS CARSON, SHERIFF
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS
For The Year Ended December 31, 2019
(Continued)

Disbursements

Operating Disbursements and Capital Outlay:

Personnel Services-		
Deputies' Salaries	\$	38,070
Part-Time Salaries		80,137
Other Salaries		55,898
Overtime		37,533
KLEFPF		4,971
Contracted Services-		
Vehicle Maintenance and Repairs		5,997
Materials and Supplies-		
Office Materials and Supplies		776
Uniforms		1,440
Other		59
Auto Expense-		
Gasoline		12,377
Mileage		2,467
Vehicle Insurance		329
Transport		35
Depreciation		347
Other Charges-		
Dues		400
Postage		323
Bond		799
Miscellaneous		23,173
Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT)		24,727
State Advancement		25,000
Capital Outlay-		
Office Equipment		<u>1,925</u>
Total Disbursements	\$	<u>316,783</u>
Net Receipts		104,251
Less: Statutory Maximum		<u>82,215</u>
Excess Fees		22,036
Less: Training Incentive Benefit		<u>4,216</u>
Excess Fees Due County for 2019		17,820
Payment to Fiscal Court - December 31, 2019		<u>11,535</u>
Balance Due Fiscal Court at Completion of Audit	\$	<u><u>6,285</u></u>

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

WOLFE COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

The financial statement has been prepared on a regulatory basis of accounting, which 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 2019 services
- Reimbursements for 2019 activities
- Tax commissions due from December tax collections
- Payments due other governmental entities for payroll
- Payments due vendors for goods or services provided in 2019

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

C. Cash and Investments

KRS 66.480 authorizes the sheriff's office to invest in obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

WOLFE COUNTY
 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
 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.

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 half of the year and 24.06 percent for the second half of 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%

WOLFE COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
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)

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.

WOLFE COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
December 31, 2019
(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 Wolfe 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 Wolfe 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.

Note 4. Donation Account

The Wolfe County Sheriff's office maintains a donation account to account for private and public donations to the sheriff's office. The account had a beginning balance of \$724 as of January 1, 2019. The sheriff's office received \$8,662 in donations for the period January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019. The office expended \$7,436 during the period. As of December 31, 2019, the account had a balance of \$1,950.

Note 5. Contract

The Wolfe County Sheriff's office contracts with the U.S. Forest Service to provide law enforcement patrol in the Daniel Boone National Forest. The contract is based on reimbursements for actual time spent patrolling the national forest in May of 2019. The sheriff received \$6,975 in reimbursements during this period.

WOLFE COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
December 31, 2019
(Continued)

Note 6. Grant

The Wolfe County Sheriff's office was awarded a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration grant in the amount of \$1,000 to provide police traffic services enforcement. The grant was passed through the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Office of Highway Safety and is based on reimbursements for actual time spent on police traffic services from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019. The sheriff received \$622 in reimbursements during this period.

Note 7. Lease Agreement

The Wolfe County Sheriff's office was committed to a lease agreement for a copier. The agreement requires a monthly payment of \$99 for 60 months to be completed on September 30, 2021. The total remaining balance of the agreement was \$2,178 as of December 31, 2019.

Note 8. Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)

The Department of the Interior (the Department) issued payments under the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program. The PILT program compensates eligible local jurisdictions for Federal lands administered by Agencies within the Department and on behalf of the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. For 2019, the sheriff's office received a PILT payment of \$24,727 that was passed through to the fiscal court.

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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 Raymond Banks, Wolfe County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Chris Carson, Wolfe County Sheriff
Members of the Wolfe 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 Wolfe County Sheriff for the year ended December 31, 2019, and the related notes to the financial statement and have issued our report thereon dated August 25, 2020. The Wolfe 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 Wolfe 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 Wolfe County Sheriff's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Wolfe County Sheriff's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph 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. 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 and another deficiency that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

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)

Internal Control over Financial Reporting (Continued)

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. We consider the deficiency described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses as item 2019-002 to be a significant deficiency.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Wolfe 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 an instance of noncompliance or other matters 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.

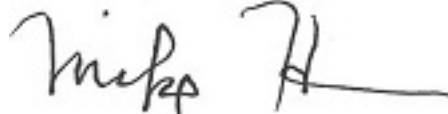
Views of Responsible Official and Planned Corrective Action

The Wolfe County Sheriff's views and planned corrective action for the findings identified in our audit are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses. The Wolfe Sheriff's responses were not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statement and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

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 25, 2020

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

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WOLFE COUNTY
CHRIS CARSON, SHERIFF
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

For The Year Ended December 31, 2019

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS:

2019-001 The Wolfe County Sheriff's Financial Statement Was Materially Misstated

The Wolfe County Sheriff's calendar year 2019 financial statement was materially misstated and numerous receipts and disbursements were posted incorrectly. Receipt and disbursement activity of the 2019 fee account that occurred after December 31, 2019, was not posted to the sheriff's financial statement. This resulted in receivables of \$34,292 being omitted from reported receipts and \$45,411 of liabilities being omitted from reported disbursements. Receipt line items for various fees were not handled the same for each quarter causing many reclassifications in order to correct postings. Salaries were incorrectly posted as net amounts instead of gross. The majority of the issues were caused by errors in bookkeeping.

The bookkeeper was not aware that after December 31, receivables and liabilities needed to be posted to the fee account ledgers and fourth quarter report. The undetected errors resulted in a materially misstated fourth quarter financial report.

Good internal controls dictate that all transactions should be posted to the ledgers to produce an accurate representation of the financial activity. Further, line items on ledgers should be given the same treatment each time a financial statement is produced and salaries should be posted as gross amounts, this gives a clear representation of the year's finances. We recommend the Wolfe County Sheriff improve procedures over financial reporting to ensure transactions are properly recorded and financial statements are materially stated.

Sheriff's Response: I will work to make sure the receivables and liabilities are posted more accurately.

2019-002 The Sheriff Ran A Charitable Account Through His Office That Did Not Serve A Public Purpose Associated With A Regular Function Of The Sheriff's Office

The sheriff deposits and expends donations for the "Shop With A Cop" program administered through the special account managed in his office. The sheriff did not know the requirement that special accounts have to further a public purpose of the sheriff's office and that the "Shop With A Cop" program did not qualify. Due to the nature of the program being handled by the sheriff's office, the lack of proper financial oversight could lead to greater opportunity for the misappropriation of funds.

Per KRS 61.310, sheriffs may accept donations to be used for the public purposes of the office. This program does not further a public purpose of the sheriff's office. The sheriff may participate in the "Shop With A Cop" program on personal time, and the program may be operated completely externally and separate from the sheriff's office by a private or not for profit entity. We recommend the sheriff not manage charitable accounts through his office that do not serve a public purpose associated with a regular function of the sheriff's office.

Sheriff's Response: The sheriff's office plans to close out the Shop with a Cop fund account and not continue to run through sheriff's office.