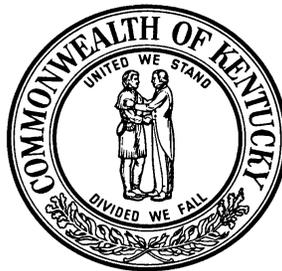


**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE
LAUREL COUNTY
CLERK**

**For The Year Ended
December 31, 2015**



**MIKE HARMON
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
www.auditor.ky.gov**

**209 ST. CLAIR STREET
FRANKFORT, KY 40601-1817
TELEPHONE (502) 564-5841
FACSIMILE (502) 564-2912**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
AUDIT OF THE
LAUREL COUNTY CLERK

For The Year Ended
December 31, 2015

The Auditor of Public Accounts has completed the Laurel County Clerk's audit for the year ended December 31, 2015. Based upon the audit work performed, the financial statement presents fairly in all material respects, the receipts, disbursements, and excess fees in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting.

Financial Condition:

Excess fees decreased by \$1,197 from the prior year, resulting in excess fees of \$317,190 as of December 31, 2015. Receipts decreased by \$23,310 from the prior year and disbursements decreased by \$22,113.

Deposits:

The county clerk's deposits as of August 03, 2015, were exposed to custodial credit risk as follows:

- Uncollateralized and Uninsured \$28,706

The county clerk's deposits were covered by FDIC insurance and a properly executed collateral security agreement, but the bank did not adequately collateralize the county clerk's deposits in accordance with the security agreement.

CONTENTS

PAGE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT 1

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

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT 6

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* 13



MIKE HARMON
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable David Westerfield, Laurel County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Dean Johnson, Laurel County Clerk
Members of the Laurel 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 Laurel County, Kentucky, for the year ended December 31, 2015, 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 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 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 David Westerfield, Laurel County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Dean Johnson, Laurel County Clerk
Members of the Laurel 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 Laurel 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 each fund of the Laurel County Clerk, as of December 31, 2015, 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 Laurel County Clerk for the year ended December 31, 2015, 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 July 20, 2016 on our consideration of the Laurel County Clerk'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 entity's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Harmon
Auditor of Public Accounts

July 20, 2016

LAUREL COUNTY
DEAN JOHNSON, COUNTY CLERK
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS

For The Year Ended December 31, 2015

Receipts

State Grants - Libraries and Archives	\$	25,990
State Fees For Services		22,101
Fiscal Court		16,719
Licenses and Taxes:		
Motor Vehicle-		
Licenses and Transfers	\$ 2,021,346	
Usage Tax	6,501,640	
Tangible Personal Property Tax	3,644,347	
Temporary Tags	18,480	
Other-		
Election Income	1,875	
Marriage Licenses	18,212	
Occupational Licenses	370	
Deed Transfer Tax	135,029	
Delinquent Tax	942,125	13,283,424
Fees Collected for Services:		
Recordings-		
Deeds, Easements, and Contracts	45,905	
Real Estate Mortgages	68,508	
Chattel Mortgages and Financing Statements	179,520	
Powers of Attorney	6,368	
All Other Recordings	57,143	
Charges for Other Services-		
Candidate Filing Fees	3,582	
Copywork	23,313	
Postage	3,358	387,697
Other:		
Miscellaneous		34,588
Interest Earned		732
Total Receipts		13,771,251

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

LAUREL COUNTY
 DEAN JOHNSON, COUNTY CLERK
 STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2015
 (Continued)

Disbursements

Payments to State:

Motor Vehicle-

Licenses and Transfers	\$ 1,399,749	
Usage Tax	6,300,275	
Tangible Personal Property Tax	1,533,991	

Licenses, Taxes, and Fees-

Marriage Licenses	7,439	
Delinquent Tax	100,841	
Legal Process Tax	52,172	
Affordable Housing Trust	<u>48,804</u>	\$ 9,443,271

Payments to Fiscal Court:

Tangible Personal Property Tax	305,974	
Delinquent Tax	49,737	
Deed Transfer Tax	<u>128,278</u>	483,989

Payments to Other Districts:

Tangible Personal Property Tax	1,663,070	
Delinquent Tax	<u>492,678</u>	2,155,748

Payments to Sheriff

73,799

Payments to County Attorney

131,251

Operating Disbursements:

Personnel Services-

Deputies' Salaries	695,901	
Overtime	25,868	

Employee Benefits-

Employer's Share Social Security	58,715	
Employer's Paid Health Insurance	130,545	
Other Payroll Disbursements	4,800	

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

LAUREL COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

December 31, 2015

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 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 2015 services
- Reimbursements for 2015 activities
- Payments due other governmental entities for December tax and fee collections and payroll
- Payments due vendors for goods or services provided in 2015

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 the following, including but not limited to, 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).

LAUREL COUNTY
 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
 December 31, 2015
 (Continued)

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

The county official and employees have elected to participate in the County Employees Retirement System (CERS), pursuant to KRS 78.530 administered by the Board of Trustees of the Kentucky Retirement Systems. 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 the plan. The county's contribution rate for nonhazardous employees was 17.67 percent for the first six months and 17.06 percent for the last six months.

In accordance with Senate Bill 2, signed by the Governor on April 4, 2014, 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. Members contribute five percent (nonhazardous) of their annual creditable compensation and 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 member's account is credited with a four percent (nonhazardous) 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.

CERS also 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%

LAUREL COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
December 31, 2015
(Continued)

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

Historical trend information showing the CERS' progress in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due is presented in the Kentucky Retirement Systems' annual financial report. 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.

Note 3. Deposits

The Laurel County Clerk 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 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.

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 Laurel County Clerk 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, 2015, all deposits were covered by FDIC insurance or a properly executed collateral security agreement. However, as of August 03, 2015, public funds were exposed to custodial credit risk because the bank did not adequately collateralize the county clerk's deposits in accordance with the security agreement.

- Uncollateralized and Uninsured \$28,706

Note 4. Grant

As of January 1, 2015, the county clerk had a balance of \$26,143 in the Local Records Grant Account from the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives to be used to microfilm selected records. The account earned interest of \$11 during calendar year 2015. The county clerk had \$25,990 in disbursements for microfilming, leaving a balance of \$164 from interest accrued, that was transferred to the county clerk's fee account. The ending balance was \$0 as of December 31, 2015.

LAUREL COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
December 31, 2015
(Continued)

Note 5. Escrow Account

The county clerk maintains an escrow account for deposits required by Kentucky Revised Statutes. As of January 1, 2015, the county clerk's escrow account balance totaled \$3,642. The county clerk had a total of \$1,519 in disbursements during the year, leaving an ending balance of \$2,123 on December 31, 2015. The ending balance is comprised of the following:

- On May 22, 2013, an individual provided a \$1,000 bond to the county clerk in accordance with KRS 365.410 to 365.480 and 365.992 (going out of business sale). KRS 365.440 states that every bond given in connection with any sale under KRS 365.410 to 365.480 and 365.992 shall be kept by the county clerk of the county in which the sale is conducted until the expiration of three years from the final date of the sale as filed, and shall then be surrendered to the principle if he has so requested, otherwise to one of the sureties.
- On February 24, 2014, an individual provided a \$1,000 bond to the county clerk in accordance with KRS 365.410 to 365.480 and 365.992 (going out of business sale). KRS 365.440 states that every bond given in connection with any sale under KRS 365.410 to 365.480 and 365.992 shall be kept by the county clerk of the county in which the sale is conducted until the expiration of three years from the final date of the sale as filed, and shall then be surrendered to the principle if he has so requested, otherwise to one of the sureties.
- On May 5, 2014, an individual provided \$123 to the Clerk in accordance with a Notice of Allowance of Claims filed pursuant to Chapter 13 bankruptcy filed in United States Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of Kentucky, London Division.

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

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



MIKE HARMON
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable David Westerfield, Laurel County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Dean Johnson, Laurel County Clerk
Members of the Laurel 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 Laurel County Clerk for the year ended December 31, 2015, and the related notes to the financial statement and have issued our report thereon dated July 20, 2016. The Laurel 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 Laurel County Clerk'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 statement, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Laurel County Clerk's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Laurel 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 combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statement will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.



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 Laurel 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 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

July 20, 2016

