



Auditor of Public Accounts Allison Ball

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Contact: Joy Pidgorodetska Markland
Joy.Markland@ky.gov
502.352.5216
502.209.2867

Ball Releases Agreed-Upon Procedures Engagement of Barren County Sheriff's Office

FRANKFORT, Ky. – State Auditor Allison Ball released the 2022 agreed-upon procedures engagement of Barren County Sheriff Kent Keen. State law requires the auditor to annually audit the accounts of each county sheriff. In compliance with this law, the auditor issues two sheriff's reports each year: one reporting on the audit of the sheriff's tax account, and the other reporting on the audit of the fee account used to operate the office.

In 2018 the Kentucky General Assembly, following a recommendation by the State Auditor, passed legislation that allows county sheriffs and clerks that met certain criteria to apply for an Agreed-Upon Procedures (AUP) engagement in lieu of an audit of their fee account. The intent of the change, which became effective in July 2018, was to reduce audit costs for sheriffs and clerks that have a history of clean audits, while still maintaining an appropriate level of accountability.

The Barren County Sheriff applied for and received approval from the Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) to obtain an AUP engagement for calendar year 2022 in accordance with KRS 43.070(1)(c). AUP reports present the procedures performed and the results of those procedures, called findings. Auditors performed the procedures, which were agreed to by the Barren County Sheriff, on receipts and disbursements, excess fees, recordkeeping, and leases, contracts, and liabilities for the period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

The following exception was identified during the AUP engagement:

- **The sheriff's maximum salary order for deputies was overspent by \$107,957**

Sheriff's Response: The Barren Fiscal Court voted to pay each county employee premium pay during Covid. The pay would occur in 3 separate allotments to employees, with two of these being made during the year 2022. The Barren Fiscal Court failed to amend the Sheriff's maximum salary order to reflect these two premium payments in 2022, thus causing an overage of \$107,957.

The sheriff's responsibilities include collecting property taxes, providing law enforcement, and performing services for the county fiscal court and courts of justice. The sheriff's office is funded through statutory commissions and fees collected in conjunction with these duties.

The agreed-upon procedures report can be found on the [auditor's website](#).

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