

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE
CALLOWAY COUNTY
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2022 TAXES**

**For The Period
September 1, 2022 Through August 31, 2023**



**ALLISON BALL
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
auditor.ky.gov**

**209 ST. CLAIR STREET
FRANKFORT, KY 40601-1817
TELEPHONE 502.564.5841
FACSIMILE 502.564.2912**

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ALLISON BALL
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Independent Auditor's Report

To the People of Kentucky
The Honorable Andy Beshear, Governor
Holly M. Johnson, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
The Honorable Kenny Imes, Calloway County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Nicky Knight, Calloway County Sheriff
Members of the Calloway County Fiscal Court

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statement

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying Calloway County Sheriff's Settlement - 2022 Taxes for the period September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023 - Regulatory Basis, and the related notes to the financial statement.

Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the taxes charged, credited, and paid for the period September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023 of the Calloway County Sheriff, in accordance with the basis of accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Commonwealth of Kentucky as described in Note 1.

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 section of our report, the financial statement 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 Calloway County Sheriff, for the period September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the *Audit Program for Sheriffs' Tax Settlements*. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Calloway County Sheriff and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.



To the People of Kentucky
The Honorable Andy Beshear, Governor
Holly M. Johnson, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
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The Honorable Nicky Knight, Calloway County Sheriff
Members of the Calloway County Fiscal Court

Basis for Opinions (Continued)

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 Calloway 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 and budget laws, 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 and pervasive.

Responsibilities of Management 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 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 Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not an absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgement made by a reasonable user based on the financial statement.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Calloway County Sheriff's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statement.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Calloway County Sheriff's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

To the People of Kentucky
The Honorable Andy Beshear, Governor
Holly M. Johnson, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
The Honorable Kenny Imes, Calloway County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Nicky Knight, Calloway County Sheriff
Members of the Calloway County Fiscal Court

Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement (Continued)

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated July 11, 2024, on our consideration of the Calloway 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 effectiveness of 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 Calloway 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 finding:

2022-001 The Calloway County Sheriff’s Office Did Not Distribute Tax Collections In Accordance With Statute

Respectfully submitted,



Allison Ball
Auditor of Public Accounts
Frankfort, Ky

July 11, 2024

CALLOWAY COUNTY
NICKY KNIGHT,
SHERIFF
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2022 TAXES

For The Period September 1, 2022 Through August 31, 2023

	Special Taxing			
	County	Districts	School	State
<u>Charges</u>				
Real Estate	\$ 3,299,737	\$ 4,248,501	\$ 8,578,231	\$ 2,710,539
Tangible	240,825	253,908	531,127	631,091
Fire Protection	1,292			
Total Per Sheriff's Official Receipt	<u>3,541,854</u>	<u>4,502,409</u>	<u>9,109,358</u>	<u>3,341,630</u>
<u>Other Taxes & Charges</u>				
Court Ordered Increases	5,949	4,599	19,727	9,758
Franchise Taxes	370,226	100,828	236,891	
Additional Billings	11,438	12,156	14,026	34,406
Limestone, Sand, and Gravel Reserves	388	552	1,318	381
Penalties	11,677	9,799	23,552	7,676
Gross Chargeable to Sheriff	3,941,532	4,630,343	9,404,872	3,393,851
<u>Credits</u>				
Exonerations	19,947	22,000	58,490	13,772
Discounts	66,423	68,519	159,259	56,344
Delinquent Real Estate	46,724	72,300	120,604	38,364
Delinquent Tangible	837	604	1,454	2,119
Franchise Taxes - Delinquent	26,788	517	74	
Total Credits	160,719	163,940	339,881	110,599
Taxes Collected	3,780,813	4,466,403	9,064,991	3,283,252
Less: Sheriff's Commissions*	<u>160,685</u>	<u>149,583</u>	<u>271,950</u>	<u>139,538</u>
Taxes Due Districts	3,620,128	4,316,820	8,793,041	3,143,714
Taxes Paid	3,606,965	4,312,698	8,754,909	3,069,883
Supplemental Tax Payments or (Refunds from Taxing Districts)		(4,697)		54,755
Refunds (Current and Prior Year)	<u>13,454</u>	<u>9,810</u>	<u>38,966</u>	<u>20,049</u>
Taxes Due Districts (Refund Due Sheriff)	<u>\$ (291)</u>	<u>\$ (991)</u>	<u>\$ (834)</u>	<u>\$ (973)</u>

**

* and ** See next page.

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

CALLOWAY COUNTY
 NICKY KNIGHT,
 SHERIFF
 SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2022 TAXES
 For The Period September 1, 2022 Through August 31, 2023
 (Continued)

* Commissions:

4.25% on	\$	10,292,349
3% on	\$	9,064,991
1% on	\$	1,238,119

** Special Taxing Districts:

Library District	\$	(164)
Health District		(79)
Extension District		(30)
Soil Conservation District		(5)
Fire District		(716)
911 District		<u>3</u>

Due District or (Refunds Due Sheriff)	\$	<u>(991)</u>
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CALLOWAY COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

August 31, 2023

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 Calloway 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.

CALLOWAY COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
August 31, 2023
(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 Calloway 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 August 31, 2023, 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, 2022. Property taxes were billed to finance governmental services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was September 14, 2022 through April 17, 2023.

B. Limestone, Sand, and Gravel Reserves

The limestone, sand, and gravel property tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 2022. Property taxes are billed to finance governmental services. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was April 19, 2022 through April 17, 2023.

C. 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 19, 2022 through April 17, 2023.

Note 4. Interest Income

The Calloway County Sheriff earned \$15,690 as interest income on 2022 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 July 11, 2024, the sheriff owed \$824 in interest to his fee account.

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

The Calloway County Sheriff collected \$44,817 of 10% add-on fees allowed by KRS 134.119(7). As of July 11, 2024, the sheriff owed \$3,186 in 10% add-on fees to his fee account.

CALLOWAY COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
August 31, 2023
(Continued)

Note 6. Escrow Account

The sheriff deposited nonrefundable payments in an interest-bearing account. The sheriff's escrowed beginning balance was \$1,227. The sheriff received \$1,333 and disbursed \$463 resulting in a total ending balance as of August 31, 2023, of \$2,097. The ending balance consists of escrowed of:

2017	\$21
2018	\$388
2019	\$793
2020	\$561
2021	\$300
Interest	\$34

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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ALLISON BALL
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

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

The Honorable Kenneth Imes, Calloway County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Nicky Knight, Calloway County Sheriff
Members of the Calloway County Fiscal Court

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 Calloway County Sheriff's Settlement - 2022 Taxes for the period September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023 - Regulatory Basis and the related notes to the financial statement and have issued our report thereon dated July 11, 2024. The Calloway 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.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statement, we considered the Calloway County Sheriff'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 Calloway County Sheriff's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Calloway County Sheriff'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 did identify a certain deficiency in internal control, which are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses as item 2022-001 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)

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Calloway 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 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*.

Views of Responsible Official and Planned Corrective Action

The Calloway 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 Calloway 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,



Allison Ball
Auditor of Public Accounts
Frankfort, Ky

July 11, 2024

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

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CALLOWAY COUNTY
NICKY KNIGHT,
SHERIFF
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

For The Period September 1, 2022 Through August 31, 2023

INTERNAL CONTROL - SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCY:

2022-001 The Calloway County Sheriff's Office Did Not Distribute Tax Collections In Accordance With Statute

This is a repeat finding and was included in the prior year audit report as finding 2021-001. The Calloway County Sheriff's Office did not distribute tax collections to all the districts by the tenth day of the month as required by statute. Property tax and franchise tax distributions totaling \$802,306 for January 2023, were made on February 14, 2023.

According to office staff, the delay in tax distributions was because of a software error that had previously affected the calculation of discounts. Additionally, there was turnover in the bookkeeping position, and January's taxes were the first taxes to be distributed by the new bookkeeper. Because of some of the issues noted with the tax software, the new bookkeeper closely scrutinized the monthly reports to ensure the proper amount of taxes were distributed.

Because tax collections were not properly distributed to the districts by the tenth day of each month, tax collections were vulnerable to misappropriation and loss. Furthermore, the taxing districts did not receive funds that they rely on to provide services to Calloway County in a timely manner. Additionally, the sheriff was not in compliance with KRS 134.191.

The Calloway County Sheriff's Office lacks the necessary controls needed to ensure tax distributions are made timely. Likewise, KRS 134.191(1) states, "[t]he sheriff shall provide monthly reports by the tenth day of each month to the chief executive of the county, the department, and any other district for which the sheriff collects taxes." KRS 134.191(3) states, "[a]t the time of making the report, the sheriff shall pay to the county treasurer or other office designated by the governing body of a county, to the department, and to any other district for which the sheriff collects taxes, all funds belonging to the county, the state, or the district that were collected during the period covered by the report."

KRS 134.191(4) states, "[a]ny sheriff failing to pay over taxes collected as required by law shall be subject to a penalty of one percent (1%) for each thirty (30) day period or fraction thereof that the payment is not made, plus interest at the tax interest rate provided in KRS 131.183 on such amounts. The governing body of a county, the department, or the other district for which the sheriff collects taxes, in its settlement with the sheriff, shall charge him or her with such penalties and interest."

We recommend the Calloway County Sheriff strengthen internal controls over tax distributions to ensure all tax collections are properly distributed to the taxing districts by the tenth day of each month.

Sheriff's Response: Taxes were not disbursed by the tenth day due to a software error as well as a change in bookkeeper. To ensure correct disbursements extra time was needed resulting a late disbursement. We have changed software and monitor reports closely to eliminate future errors that would cause the same problem. (With catching the errors, the changes were made for the remainder of the 2022 Tax year and will stay in effect for proceeding tax years.)