# REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF

**For The Year Ended**
**December 31, 2023**

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

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ALLISON BALL
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Independent Auditor's Report

The Honorable Michael Mueller, Franklin County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Chris Quire, Franklin County Sheriff
Members of the Franklin County Fiscal Court

**Report on the Audit of the Financial Statement**

**Opinions**

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Excess Fees - Regulatory Basis of the Sheriff of Franklin County, Kentucky, for the year ended December 31, 2023, 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 receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the Franklin County Sheriff for the year ended December 31, 2023, in accordance with the basis of accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Commonwealth of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws 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 financial position of the Franklin County Sheriff, as of December 31, 2023, or changes in financial position or cash flows thereof for the year then ended.

**Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS), the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* (GAS), issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the *Audit Program for County Fee Officials* issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. 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 Franklin County Sheriff and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

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The Honorable Michael Mueller, Franklin County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Chris Quire, Franklin County Sheriff
Members of the Franklin County Fiscal Court

**Basis for Opinion (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 Franklin 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 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 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.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Franklin County Sheriff's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

**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 absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and GAS 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 judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statement.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and GAS, 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 Franklin 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 Franklin County Sheriff's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

The Honorable Michael Mueller, Franklin County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Chris Quire, Franklin County Sheriff
Members of the Franklin 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 audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we have identified during the audit.

**Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated August 15, 2024, on our consideration of the Franklin 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 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 Franklin 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:

2023-001 The Franklin County Sheriff's Fourth Quarter Report Was Materially Misstated

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Ball
Auditor of Public Accounts
Frankfort, KY

August 15, 2024

FRANKLIN COUNTY
CHRIS QUIRE, SHERIFF
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS

For The Year Ended December 31, 2023

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Receipts** | | |
| Federal: | | |
| Grants | $ 102,207 | |
| Fees For Services | 17,250 | $ 119,457 |
| State - Kentucky Law Enforcement Foundation Program Fund (KLEFPF) | | 175,318 |
| State Fees For Services: | | |
| Finance and Administration Cabinet | 262,219 | |
| Sheriff Security Service | 61,072 | |
| Cabinet For Health And Family Services | 7,769 | |
| Traffic Court Fees | 9,662 | 340,722 |
| County School Board - SRO | | 510,096 |
| Fiscal Court | | 131,994 |
| Insurance Claims | | 24,285 |
| County Clerk - Delinquent Taxes | | 127,276 |
| Commission On Taxes Collected | | 1,626,300 |
| Fees Collected For Services: | | |
| Auto Inspections | 18,625 | |
| Accident/Police Reports | 10,482 | |
| Serving Papers | 136,430 | |
| Carry Concealed Deadly Weapon Permits | 13,925 | |
| Telecommunications Holding Harmless | 5,398 | 184,860 |
| Other: | | |
| Add-On Fees | 96,616 | |
| Miscellaneous | 18,390 | |
| Surplus Sale | 29,623 | 144,629 |
| Interest Earned | | 24,256 |
| Interest Earned - Tax Account | | 77,188 |

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

FRANKLIN COUNTY
CHRIS QUIRE, SHERIFF
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS
For The Year Ended December 31, 2023
(Continued)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Receipts (Continued) | | |
| Borrowed Money: | | |
| State Advancement | | $ 400,000 |
| Total Receipts | | 3,886,381 |
| Disbursements | | |
| Operating Disbursements and Capital Outlay: | | |
| Personnel Services- | | |
| Deputies' Gross Salaries | $ 1,041,095 | |
| Other Gross Salaries | 1,061,654 | |
| Overtime Gross Salaries | 169,838 | |
| KLEFPF | 146,668 | |
| DEA Overtime | 3,818 | |
| Employee Benefits- | | |
| Employer's Share Hazardous Duty Retirement | 2,296 | |
| Law Enforcement Insurance | 14,207 | |
| Benefits (Insurance, Soc Sec/Med Match) | 41,936 | |
| Workers Compensation | 17,106 | |
| Federal/State Grants Benefits | 119,700 | |
| KLEFPF Benefits | 41,384 | |
| Contracted Services- | | |
| Pre-Employment Testing | 3,414 | |
| Advertising | 462 | |
| Computer Maintenance & Services | 15,661 | |
| Office Equipment Lease | 7,582 | |
| Materials and Supplies- | | |
| Office Materials and Supplies | 14,612 | |
| Uniforms | 41,874 | |
| Law Enforcement Equipment | 112,233 | |
| Auto Expense- | | |
| Gasoline | 140,082 | |
| Maintenance and Repairs | 44,513 | |

FRANKLIN COUNTY
CHRIS QUIRE, SHERIFF
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS
For The Year Ended December 31, 2023
(Continued)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Disbursements (Continued) | | | |
| Operating Disbursements and Capital Outlay: (Continued) | | | |
| Other Charges- | | | |
| Dues | $ 13,717 | | |
| Postage | 488 | | |
| Bond | 102 | | |
| Tax Bill Processing Materials & Postage | 15,857 | | |
| Waiting on Court/Jurors | 274 | | |
| Transporting Prisoners | 7,268 | | |
| Telephone | 17,988 | | |
| Training | 21,081 | | |
| Law Enforcement Equipment | 8,126 | | |
| Capital Outlay- | | | |
| Building Improvements | 62,360 | | |
| Vehicles & Equipment | 162,363 | | |
| Miscellaneous | 4,483 | $ 3,354,242 | |
| Debt Service: | | | |
| State Advancement | | 400,000 | |
| Total Disbursements | | | $ 3,754,242 |
| Net Receipts | | | 132,139 |
| Less: Statutory Maximum | | | 127,010 |
| Excess Fees | | | 5,129 |
| Less: Training Incentive Benefit | | | 4,983 |
| Excess Fees Due Fiscal Court at Completion of Audit | | | $ 146 |

FRANKLIN COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

December 31, 2023

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 due from the sheriff as determined by the audit. KRS 134.192 requires the sheriff to pay to the governing body of the county any fees, commissions, and other income of his or her office, including income from investments, which exceed the sum of his or her maximum salary as permitted by the Constitution and other reasonable expenses, including compensation of deputies and assistants by March 15 of each year. KRS 64.830 requires an outgoing sheriff to make a final settlement 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) as of December 31 that may be included in the excess fees calculation:

- Interest receivable
- Collection on accounts due from others for 2023 services
- Reimbursements for 2023 activities
- Tax commissions due from December tax collections
- Payments due other governmental entities for payroll
- Payments due vendors for goods or services provided in 2023

The measurement focus of a fee official's financial statement is upon current financial resources. Per KRS 134.192(12), remittance of excess fees is due to the fiscal court when the sheriff makes their final settlement.

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).

FRANKLIN COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
December 31, 2023
(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 Kentucky Public Pensions Authority (KPPA). 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

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 CERS 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 CERS 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 26.79 percent for the first six months and 23.34 percent for the last six months.

Hazardous

Hazardous covered employees are required to contribute eight percent of their salary to the plan. Hazardous covered employees who begin participation on or after September 1, 2008, are required to contribute nine percent of their salary to be allocated as follows: eight percent will go to the member's account and one percent will go to the Kentucky Retirement System insurance fund.

FRANKLIN COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
December 31, 2023
(Continued)

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

Hazardous (Continued)

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. Hazardous members contribute eight percent 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 hazardous member's account is credited with a seven and one-half percent employer pay credit. The employer pay credit represents a portion of the employer contribution.

Aspects of benefits for hazardous employees include retirement after 20 years of service or age 55. For hazardous employees who begin participation on or after September 1, 2008, aspects of benefits include retirement after 25 years of service or the member is age 60, with a minimum of 60 months of service credit.

The county's contribution rate for hazardous employees was 49.59 percent for the first six months and 43.69 percent for the last six months.

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% |

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.

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

Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) (Continued)

A. Health Insurance Coverage - Tier 1 (Continued)

Hazardous employees whose participation began on or after July 1, 2003, earn 15 dollars per month for insurance benefits at retirement for every year of earned service without regard to a maximum dollar amount. Upon the death of a hazardous employee, the employee's spouse receives ten dollars per month for insurance benefits for each year of the deceased employee's hazardous service. 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 78.5536.

B. Health Insurance Coverage - Tier 2 and Tier 3 - Nonhazardous

Once members reach a minimum vesting period of 15 years, they 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 78.5536. Tier 3 members are not covered by the same provisions.

C. Health Insurance Coverage - Tier 2 and Tier 3 - Hazardous

Once members reach a minimum vesting period of 15 years, earn fifteen 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. Upon the death of a hazardous employee, the employee's spouse receives ten dollars per month for insurance benefits for each year of the deceased employee's hazardous service. 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 COLA since July 2003 when the law changed. The annual increase is cumulative and continues to accrue after the member's retirement.

D. Cost of Living Adjustments - Tier 1

The 1996 General Assembly enacted an automatic cost of living adjustment (COLA) provision for all recipients of Kentucky Retirement Systems 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.

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

Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) (Continued)

E. 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.

F. 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.

Kentucky Retirement System Annual Financial Report and Proportionate Share Audit Report

Kentucky Retirement System 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.

Kentucky Retirement System 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 Franklin 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.

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 Franklin 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 December 31, 2023, all deposits were covered by FDIC insurance or a properly executed collateral security agreement.

FRANKLIN COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
December 31, 2023
(Continued)

Note 4. Federal Grants

The Franklin County Sheriff's office received a federal grant from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Office of Highway Safety for the purpose of reducing fatalities on Kentucky roadways, minimizing injuries to individuals and property, and to educate the public in ways to do this in the amount of $162,000. Funds totaling $102,207 were expended during the year. The unexpended grant balance was $59,793 as of December 31, 2023.

Note 5. Short-term Debt

A. Direct Borrowings

1. The Finance and Administration Cabinet issued an advancement in the amount of $400,000 to the Franklin County Sheriff's office, per KRS 64.140. The sum of this advancement was due on or before, December 31, 2023. The balance of these advancements was repaid in full as of December 20, 2023.

B. Changes in Short-term Debt

| | Beginning Balance | Additions | Reductions | Ending Balance |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Direct Borrowings | $ | $ 400,000 | $ 400,000 | $ |
| Total Short-term Debt | $ 0 | $ 400,000 | $ 400,000 | $ 0 |

Note 6. Lease Agreement

The Franklin County Sheriff's office was committed to a lease agreement for the acquisition and use of a copier. The lease agreement requires a monthly payment of $560 for 63 months to be completed on November 1, 2026. The total lease liability balance of the agreement was $19,600 as of December 31, 2023.

Note 7. Other Accounts

A. Federal Forfeiture Account

The Franklin County Sheriff's office maintains an account for proceeds from confiscation, surrender, or sale of real and personal property involved in drug related convictions from the federal government for participating in investigations or prosecutions that resulted in forfeited federal drug money. Federal forfeiture funds are to be used for law enforcement activities, including training, equipment, operations, facilities, and drug education awareness, etc. These funds are not available for excess fees purposes. The beginning balance was $38,943 as of January 1, 2023. Funds totaling $427,037 were received and $274,068 was expended during the year. The ending balance was $191,912 as of December 31, 2023.

B. State Forfeiture Account

The Franklin County Sheriff's office maintains an account for proceeds from the confiscation, surrender, or sale of real and personal property involved in state related convictions. State forfeiture funds are to be used for law enforcement activities and are not available for excess fees purposes. The beginning balance was 4,297 as of January 1, 2023. Funds totaling $24,854 were received and $26,389 was expended during the year. The ending balance was $2,762 as on December 31, 2023.

FRANKLIN COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
December 31, 2023
(Continued)

Note 7. Other Accounts (Continued)

C. Donation Account

The Franklin County Sheriff's office maintains an account for donations. The beginning balance was $290 as of January 1, 2023. Funds totaling $9,372 were received and $5,548 was expended during the year. The ending balance was $4,114 as of December 31, 2023.

D. DARE Account

The Franklin County Sheriff maintains an account for operating drug abuse resistance education program in the local school district. The beginning balance was $1,549 as of January 1, 2023. Funds totaling $5,004 were received and $1,937 was expended during the year. The ending balance was $4,616 as of December 31, 2023.

Note 8. Fiduciary Account

A. Sheriff's Evidence Holding Account

The Franklin County Sheriff deposited cash evidence into a custodial bank account. These funds are held until a resolution in the form of a court order is received. The funds are then remitted in accordance with the court order. The account had a beginning balance of $163,180 with receipts of $29,362 and $28,413 of disbursements for calendar year 2023. The account balance was $164,129 as of December 31, 2023.

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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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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 Michael Mueller, Franklin County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Chris Quire, Franklin County Sheriff
Members of the Franklin County Fiscal Court

We have audited, 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 Program for County Fee Officials* issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Excess Fees - Regulatory Basis of the Franklin County Sheriff for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statement and have issued our report thereon dated August 15, 2024. The Franklin 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 Franklin 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 Franklin County Sheriff's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Franklin 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 2023-001 to be a material weakness.

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**Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Franklin 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 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**

*Government Auditing Standards* requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Franklin County Sheriff's response to the finding identified in our audit and described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses. The Franklin County Sheriff's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statement and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

**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

Allison Ball
Auditor of Public Accounts
Frankfort, KY

August 15, 2024

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

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FRANKLIN COUNTY
CHRIS QUIRE, SHERIFF
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

For The Year Ended December 31, 2023

INTERNAL CONTROL - MATERIAL WEAKNESS:

2023-001 The Franklin County Sheriff's Fourth Quarter Report Was Materially Misstated

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office's Fourth Quarter Report was materially misstated. The fourth quarter report had the following misstatements:

- $49,891 of Highway Safety Grant receipts were used to offset an expense category.
- KLEFPF receipts were overstated by $44,026.
- State Fees for Service receipts of $2,435 was coded to an expense account.
- Commission on taxes collected was understated by $14,957.
- Additional receipts were understated by $14,300 when compared to bank account receipts.
- An expense of $13,201 was not included on the fourth quarter report.
- $6,126 of expenses were included on the fourth quarter report, even though the checks had been voided.

The Franklin County Sheriff's controls over the fourth quarter report did not detect the errors. Due to the fourth quarter report being misstated, net adjustments of $52,852 were required for receipts and net adjustments of $59,561 were required for disbursements.

KRS 46.010(2) requires, "each county treasurer, and each county officer who receives or disburses state funds, to keep an accurate account of receipts and disbursements, showing a daily balance of receipts and disbursements." KRS 46.010(3) requires, "all county officers handling state funds, other than taxes, to make an annual report to the Department for Local Government showing receipts and disbursements, and to make other financial statements as the Department for Local Government requires." Implementing effective review procedures to ensure that fourth quarter report amounts agree to supporting receipts and disbursement ledger amounts are a basic internal control necessary to ensure the accuracy and reliability of financial reports. The review should be documented by the reviewer's initials on the ledgers and fourth quarter report.

We recommend the sheriff implement procedures to ensure the correct line items and amounts are reported on the fourth quarter report for all receipts and disbursements per the ledgers before he signs off on the report for approval and submission to the Department for Local Government and the fiscal court.

*Sheriff's Response: Our office takes all comments and recommendations seriously and values the suggestions made by the auditors. We continue to implement procedures to ensure all funds are recorded and accounted for properly. As it relates to this audit, we learned that a few of our entries were recorded in the wrong columns which created totals to be off from what they should reflect. Every penny was accounted for and no fraud, misappropriation of funds or misconduct was found by the auditors.*

*My bookkeeper and I are creating new procedures to ensure that recording and reconciliation of accounts are done in a manner to produce correct reports.*