



Auditor of Public Accounts Allison Ball

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Ball Releases Audit of Livingston County Sheriff's Tax Settlement

FRANKFORT, Ky. – State Auditor Allison Ball today released the audit of the sheriff's settlement – 2022 taxes for Livingston County Sheriff Bobby Davidson. 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.

Auditing standards require the auditor's letter to communicate whether the sheriff's settlement presents fairly the taxes charged, credited, and paid in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The sheriff's settlement is prepared on the regulatory basis, which is described in the auditor's opinion letter. Regulatory basis reporting for the sheriff's settlement is an acceptable reporting methodology, and this reporting methodology is followed for all 120 sheriff settlements in Kentucky.

The sheriff's financial statement fairly presents the taxes charged, credited, and paid for the period September 1, 2022, through August 31, 2023, in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting.

The audit contains the following findings:

The Livingston County Sheriff's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties: The Livingston County Sheriff's Office lacks adequate segregation of duties over various accounting functions. The segregation of duties involving the collection and reporting of receipts, the preparation and recording of disbursements, and bank reconciliations is a basic internal control necessary to ensure the accuracy and reliability of financial reports. This deficiency increases the risk of misappropriation of assets, errors, and inaccurate financial reporting.

We recommend the county sheriff segregate duties involving the collection and reporting of receipts, the preparation and recording of disbursements, and bank reconciliations. If segregation of duties is not feasible due to a lack of staff, we recommend the county sheriff implement and document compensating controls to offset this control deficiency in the form of strong oversight from an employee not performing any of those functions.

Sheriff's Response: We do not generate enough revenue to have more employees, however we do various things to make sure paperwork is viewed by different individuals.

The Livingston County Sheriff Did Not Perform Daily Checkout Procedures Or Make Daily Deposits: The Livingston County Sheriff's Office did not make daily deposits regularly throughout the tax collection period. Staff noted this was due to low volume and the fact that the office's bank is located out of town.

We recommend the county sheriff ensure that checkout procedures are performed daily and that receipts are kept intact and deposited daily as required by the State Local Finance Officer.

Sheriff's Response: We make daily deposits, but since bank is out of town it is hard to get to bank each day. We are working on this daily.

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 audit report can be found on the [auditor's website](#).

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