



## Auditor of Public Accounts Allison Ball

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Ball Releases Audit of McCreary County Sheriff's Fee Account**

**FRANKFORT, Ky.** – State Auditor Allison Ball released the audit of the 2023 financial statement of McCreary County Sheriff David Sampson. 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 financial statement presents fairly the receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the McCreary County Sheriff in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The sheriff's financial statement did not follow this format. However, the sheriff's financial statement is fairly presented in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting, which is an acceptable reporting methodology. This reporting methodology is followed for all 120 sheriff audits in Kentucky.

The audit contains the following finding:

**The McCreary County Sheriff's Office does not have adequate segregation of duties:** The sheriff's bookkeeper collects payments from customers, prepares deposits, writes checks, posts transactions to the receipts ledger, posts checks to the disbursements ledger, and prepares monthly and quarterly reports. The sheriff or another employee did not document oversight of any of these activities. This condition is a result of a limited budget, which restricts the number of employees the sheriff can hire or delegate duties to.

We recommend the sheriff separate the duties involved in receiving cash, preparing deposits, writing checks, posting to ledgers, preparing monthly bank reconciliation, and comparing financial reports to ledgers. If this is not feasible due to a limited budget, cross-checking procedures could be implemented and documented by the individual performing the procedure.

*Sheriff's Response: The sheriff did not provide a response.*

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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