



Auditor of Public Accounts Allison Ball

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ball Releases Audit of Rockcastle County Sheriff's Fee Account

FRANKFORT, Ky. – State Auditor Allison Ball released the audit of the 2023 financial statement of Rockcastle County Sheriff Shannon Franklin. 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 Rockcastle 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 findings:

The Rockcastle County Sheriff's Office does not have adequate segregation of duties over receipts, disbursements, and reconciliations: Two employees are responsible for all financial aspects of the sheriff's office. Both employees collect payments, issue receipts, prepare daily checkout sheets, prepare the bank deposit, and prepare and co-sign checks. One employee prepares the receipts and disbursements ledgers, monthly bank reconciliations, and financial reports.

We recommend the sheriff's office segregate the receipt, disbursement, and reconciliation processes. If this is not feasible because of the limited number of staff and budget restrictions, we recommend the sheriff implement compensating controls to offset this weakness.

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

The Rockcastle County Sheriff's Office overspent his approved budget set by the fiscal court: The Rockcastle County Fiscal Court approved the sheriff's budget for official expenses at \$641,095; however, the sheriff expended \$719,836. The sheriff did not properly monitor his budget to actual amounts throughout the year and overspent his approved budget by \$78,741.

We recommend the Rockcastle County Sheriff monitor his budget throughout the year and request budget amendments as necessary from the fiscal court before year-end.

Sheriff's Response: The 2023 Rockcastle County Sheriff's budget did not include extra unplanned payments/commissions from November and December property tax and franchise tax receipt accounts. The sheriff office attempted to amend the 2023 budget at a called fiscal court meeting in December 2023, however the meeting was rescheduled for Jan 2024. The budget was amended at the Jan 2024 fiscal court meeting. All excess funds were turned over to the fiscal court.

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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