

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE  
FORMER TAYLOR COUNTY  
SHERIFF**

**For The Year Ended  
December 31, 2022**



**MIKE HARMON  
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS  
[auditor.ky.gov](http://auditor.ky.gov)**

**209 ST. CLAIR STREET  
FRANKFORT, KY 40601-1817  
TELEPHONE (502) 564-5841  
FACSIMILE (502) 564-2912**



## CONTENTS

PAGE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT .....	1
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS .....	4
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT .....	7
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 <i>GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS</i> .....	17

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY



**MIKE HARMON**  
**AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

**Independent Auditor's Report**

The Honorable Barry T. Smith, Taylor County Judge/Executive  
The Honorable Steve Allen Newton, Former Taylor County Sheriff  
The Honorable R. "Dickie" Benningfield, Taylor County Sheriff  
Members of the Taylor 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 former Sheriff of Taylor County, Kentucky, for the year ended December 31, 2022, 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 former Taylor County Sheriff for the year ended December 31, 2022, 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 financial position of the former Taylor County Sheriff, as of December 31, 2022, 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*, 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 former Taylor 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.



The Honorable Barry T. Smith, Taylor County Judge/Executive  
 The Honorable Steve Allen Newton, Former Taylor County Sheriff  
 The Honorable R. “Dickie” Benningfield, Taylor County Sheriff  
 Members of the Taylor 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 former Taylor 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.

### **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 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, 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 former Taylor 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 former Taylor County Sheriff’s ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

The Honorable Barry T. Smith, Taylor County Judge/Executive  
The Honorable Steve Allen Newton, Former Taylor County Sheriff  
The Honorable R. "Dickie" Benningfield, Taylor County Sheriff  
Members of the Taylor 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 25, 2023, on our consideration of the former Taylor 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 former Taylor County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mike H", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mike Harmon  
Auditor of Public Accounts  
Frankfort, KY

August 25, 2023

TAYLOR COUNTY  
STEVE ALLEN NEWTON, FORMER SHERIFF  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS

For The Year Ended December 31, 2022

Receipts

Federal Fees For Services - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Lake Patrol	\$	35,461
--	----	--------

State - Kentucky Law Enforcement Foundation Program Fund (KLEFPF)		48,341
---	--	--------

State Fees For Services:

Finance and Administration Cabinet	\$ 80,649	
Cabinet for Health and Family Service	171	
Sheriff Security Service	14,398	
Other State Payments	360	
Traffic School Fees	217	95,795

Circuit Court Clerk:

Fines and Fees Collected		7,205
--------------------------	--	-------

Fiscal Court		531,088
--------------	--	---------

County Clerk - Delinquent Taxes		27,583
---------------------------------	--	--------

Commission On Taxes Collected		478,557
-------------------------------	--	---------

Fees Collected For Services:

Auto Inspections	11,605	
Accident/Police Reports	3,195	
Serving Papers	43,020	
Carry Concealed Deadly Weapon Permits	6,520	
Adanta Transports	19,168	
County Summons Fees	7,150	90,658

Other:

Add-On Fees	20,301	
Sheriff Sale	10,374	30,675

Interest Earned		559
-----------------	--	-----

Borrowed Money:

State Advancement		200,000
-------------------	--	---------

Total Receipts		1,545,922
----------------	--	-----------

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



TAYLOR COUNTY  
STEVE ALLEN NEWTON, FORMER SHERIFF  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS  
For The Year Ended December 31, 2022  
(Continued)

Disbursements

Operating Disbursements:

Personnel Services-

Deputies' Gross Salaries	\$ 343,396
Office Gross Salary	91,315
KLEFPF	33,265
Lake Patrol	4,790
Court Security	96,385
Adanta/Transportation	11,111
Overtime	29,437

Employee Benefits-

Employer's Share Social Security	54,420
Employer's Share Retirement	61,089
KLEFPF Retirement to Treasurer	15,281
Employer's Share Hazardous Duty Retirement	234,094
Employer Paid Health Insurance	91,567

Contracted Services-

Vehicle Maintenance and Repairs	46,728
---------------------------------	--------

Materials and Supplies-

Office Materials and Supplies	27,697
Uniforms	5,695

Auto Expense-

Gasoline	39,508
----------	--------

Other Charges-

Postage	43
Miscellaneous	2,440
Summon Fees to County	7,100
Law Enforcement Equipment	15,234
Training	1,191
Prisoner Transport	1,118
Telephone	4,369
	<u>\$ 1,217,273</u>

Debt Service:

State Advancement	<u>200,000</u>
-------------------	----------------

Total Disbursements \$ 1,417,273

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

TAYLOR COUNTY  
STEVE ALLEN NEWTON, FORMER SHERIFF  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS  
For The Year Ended December 31, 2022  
(Continued)

Net Receipts	\$ 128,649
Less: Statutory Maximum	<u>105,273</u>
Excess Fees	23,376
Less: Training Incentive Benefit	<u>4,679</u>
Excess Fees Due County for 2022	18,697
Payment to Fiscal Court - February 1, 2023	<u>18,697</u>
Balance Due Fiscal Court at Completion of Audit	<u>\$ 0</u>

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

TAYLOR COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

December 31, 2022

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, including excess fees, 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 2022 services
- Reimbursements for 2022 activities
- Tax commissions due from December tax collections
- Payments due other governmental entities for payroll
- Payments due vendors for goods or services provided in 2022

The measurement focus of a fee official is upon excess fees. Remittance of excess fees is due to the county treasurer in the subsequent year.

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).

TAYLOR COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
December 31, 2022  
(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.

The sheriff's contribution for calendar year 2020 was \$239,809, calendar year 2021 was \$266,354, and calendar year 2022 was \$310,464.

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 26.95 percent for the first six months and 26.79 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.

TAYLOR COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
December 31, 2022  
(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 44.33 percent for the first six months and 49.59 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:

<b>Years of Service</b>	<b>% Paid by Insurance Fund</b>	<b>% Paid by Member through Payroll Deduction</b>
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.

TAYLOR COUNTY  
 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
 December 31, 2022  
 (Continued)

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.

TAYLOR COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
December 31, 2022  
(Continued)

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 former Taylor 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 former Taylor County Sheriff did not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk, but rather followed the requirements of the DLG *County Budget Preparation and State Local Finance Officer Policy Manual*. As of December 31, 2022, all deposits were covered by FDIC insurance or a properly executed collateral security agreement.

TAYLOR COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
December 31, 2022  
(Continued)

Note 4. Lake Patrol Contract

The former Taylor County Sheriff's office contracted with the United State Army Corps of Engineers to provide patrols around Green River Lake from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. The amount received under the contract during calendar year 2022 was \$35,461.

Note 5. Short-term Debt

A. Direct Borrowings and Direct Placement

Finance Obligation – State Advancement

During calendar year 2022, the former sheriff received \$200,000 under the state advancement program to defray necessary official expenses and to apply to the payment of the salaries of the sheriff or the sheriff's deputies and assistants from County Fees System Branch, Division of Local Government Series, Kentucky Finance and Administration Cabinet (Cabinet) under KRS 64.140(1). Principal was due on or before January 15, 2023, at zero percent interest. In the event of default, the cabinet may obtain payment from the sheriff, his sureties, and the sheriff in his official capacity. The balance of the state advancement was paid in full from the 2022 fee account.

B. Changes in Short-term Debt

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance
Direct Borrowings and Direct Placement	\$	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$
Total Short-term Debt	\$ 0	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 0

Note 6. Leases

The Taylor County Sheriff's office was committed to the following lease agreements as of December 31, 2022:

Item Purchased	Monthly Payment	Term of Agreement	Ending Date	Principal Balance December 31, 2022
2 Vehicles	\$ 1,233	36 months	12/31/2024	\$ 14,791
2 Vehicles	1,389	36 months	11/04/2025	33,338
Total	\$ 2,622			\$ 48,129



TAYLOR COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
December 31, 2022  
(Continued)

Note 7. Drug Account

The former Taylor County Sheriff established a drug account in November 2011, with funds received from the court for restitution money. These funds are to be used for drug enforcement and education. The balance as of January 1, 2022, was \$20,219. There was no financial activity during calendar year 2022. On August 9, 2023, \$20,219 was transferred to the current sheriff's drug account.

Note 8. Drug Forfeiture Account

The former Taylor County Sheriff maintained a drug forfeiture account to be funded by proceeds from the confiscation, surrender, or sale of real and personal property involved in drug related convictions. These funds are to be used for laws enforcement activities. The beginning balance as of January 1, 2022, was \$744. There was no financial activity during calendar year 2022. On August 9, 2023, \$744 was transferred to the current sheriff's drug forfeiture account.

Note 9. Federal Drug Account

The former Taylor County Sheriff established a federal drug account in October 2013. Federal funds are proceeds from the confiscation, surrender, or sale of real and personal property involved in federal drug related convictions. These funds are to be used for laws enforcement activities. As of January 1, 2022, the account balance was \$0.07. During the year there were no receipts or disbursements. On August 9, 2023, \$.07 was transferred to the current sheriff's federal drug account.

Note 10. Donation Account

The former Taylor County Sheriff established a donation account in October 2013. Department for Local Government requires the sheriff to deposit gifts or donations into a separate bank account. At the end of the year, any unexpended funds should carry forward rather than be submitted as excess fees, and any unexpended funds remain the property of the office at the end of the sheriff's term of office. In addition, KRS 61.310 requires the use of gifts or donations to be used for a public purpose, listed on a registry, and subjected to audit. The account balance as of January 1, 2022 was \$21,517. During the year donations received were \$2,575, interest earned of \$23, and there were no disbursements. As of December 31, 2022, the donation account balance was \$24,115. On August 9, 2023, \$24,115 was transferred to the current sheriff's donation account.

Note 11. Subsequent Events

The former sheriff retired on December 31, 2022. The current sheriff, Dickie Benningfield, took office on January 1, 2023.

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

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*

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY



**MIKE HARMON**  
**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 Barry T. Smith, Taylor County Judge/Executive  
The Honorable Steve Allen Newton, Former Taylor County Sheriff  
The Honorable R. "Dickie" Benningfield, Taylor County Sheriff  
Members of the Taylor 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 former Taylor County Sheriff for the year ended December 31, 2022, and the related notes to the financial statement and have issued our report thereon dated August 25, 2023. The former Taylor 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 former Taylor 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 former Taylor County Sheriff's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the former Taylor 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 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. 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.



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 former Taylor 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*.

**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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike H", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mike Harmon  
Auditor of Public Accounts  
Frankfort, KY

August 25, 2023