Common Audit Findings

Office of Local Governments

Valerie Hamilton – Central Branch Audit Manager Shari Scott-Western Branch Manager

Objectives

What Is A Finding?

Common Audit Findings

How to Correct Audit Findings

Questions



What Is An Audit Finding?

 Audit Finding: Result of a deficiency(ies)/weakness(es) in internal controls over financial reporting and/or a noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts or grant agreements

- Types:
 - Verbal
 - Exit
 - Audit Report

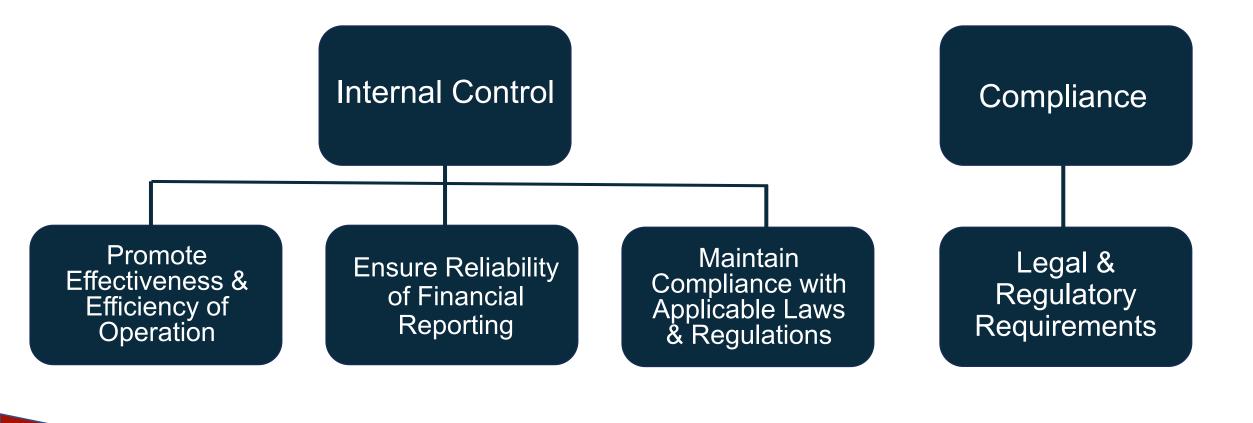


Factors Affecting the Type of Audit Finding

- Whether a misstatement has actually occurred.
- The magnitude of any potential misstatement.
- Whether there is a reasonable possibility that a control will not prevent, detect, or correct a misstatement.
- The risk factors impacting this possibility include the following:
 - The nature of the financial information involved
 - The cause and frequency of the exceptions detected
 - The susceptibility of the related asset or liability to loss
 - The judgment level required to determine the amount involved
 - The interaction of the targeted control with other controls
 - The importance of the controls to the financial reporting process



Common Findings



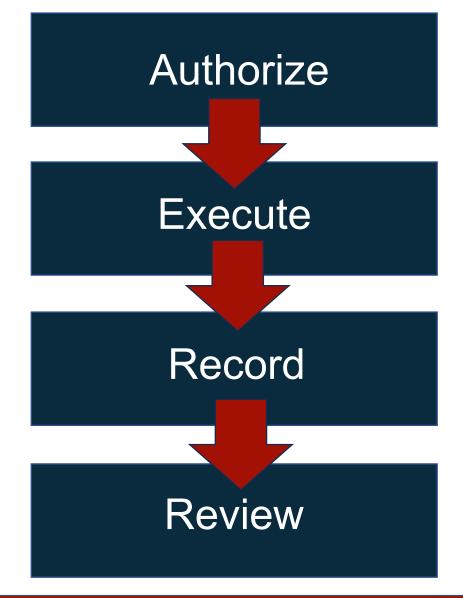
What is the most common finding in audit reports?

Segregation of Duties



Segregation of Duties

One person should not have access to an entire transaction cycle.





Solution: Example of Segregation of Duties

Segregation of Duties Related to the Payroll Cycle

Human Resources:

Authorize hiring & employee paycheck

Payroll (Accounting):

Responsible for calculating analysis payment

Treasurer:

Responsible for issuing employee payment



Small Offices: What is the solution?



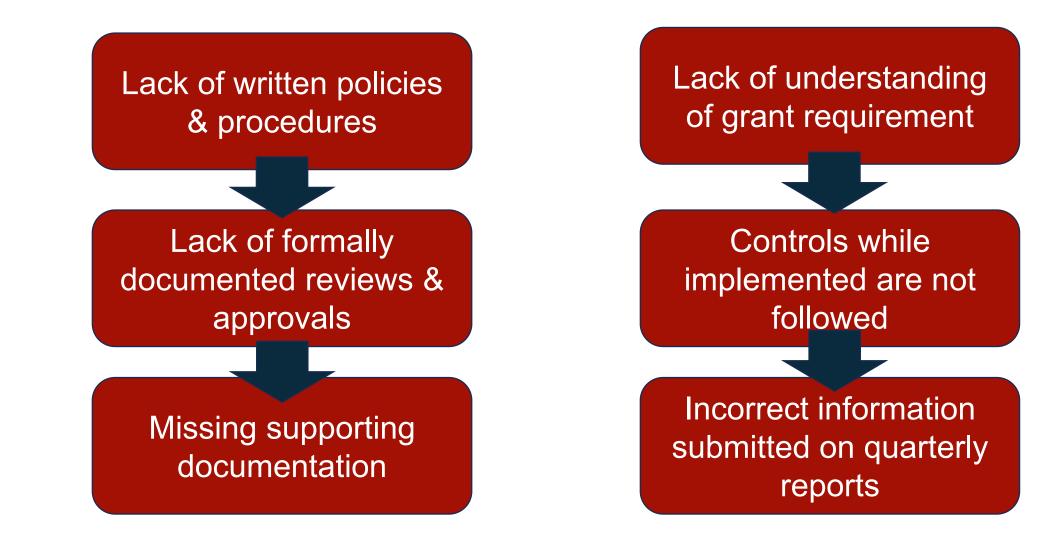
- Not every organization has the manpower and resources to segregate employee duties.
- Incompatible duties performed by a single employee should be reviewed by a supervisor or other knowledgeable employee.

Compensating Controls:

- An internal control that reduces the risk of an existing or potential control weakness resulting in errors or omissions.
- Compensating controls must be documented.



Other Common Internal Control Issues



Solutions?

- Have policies in place and hold departments accountable
- Train staff
- Be familiar with applicable laws, regulations, and federal requirements
- Actively monitor
- Document approval of fiscal court
- Review of all processes
- Document your internal control policies



Common Findings - Receipts



Failing to Make Direct Deposits



- Handling Public Funds Minimum Requirements Pursuant to KRS 68.210 For All Local Government Officials (& Employees)
- Daily deposits intact into a federally insured banking institution. (KRS 68.210)

How to Correct



- Ensure Deposits are made **INTACT**
- Intact: All monies received should be deposited as they were received
- Payments made by Check Check should be deposited
- Payments made by Cash Cash should be deposited
- **Do Not Cash Personal Checks** The make-up of the deposit should mirror the actual funds received for the daily business

Common Findings - Receipts

Failure to batch receipts and prepare daily checkout sheets

Failure to agree to daily records



How to Correct

Batch: Batch Pre-numbered Receipt Forms **Prepare:** Prepare A Daily Checkout Sheet **Agree:** Agree Information Between Daily Records:

- Pre-numbered receipt forms
- Daily Checkout Sheets
- Daily Receipts Ledger Posting
- Daily Deposit





Payroll

Auditor of Public Accounts

Consider:

- What are your major threats over payroll?
- What controls can you put in place to minimize those threats?

Adequate control over the payroll cycle will meet:

- Management Needs
- Employee Needs
- Compliance with Laws and Regulations



Payroll

Payroll Input

- Human Resources
- Employees
- Government Agencies

Payroll Output

- Paychecks
- Direct Deposits
- Checks/ACHs to Other Organization for Withholdings
- Various Payroll Reports



KRS 337.320 Record to be kept by employer:

- (1) Every employer shall keep a record of:
 - (a) The amount paid each pay period to each employee;
 - (b) The hours worked each day and each week by each employee; and
 - (c) Such other information as the commissioner requires.



Solution

- How you keep your employee time records is up to you.
- Time records should be accurate and reflect actual hours worked.
- Good internal controls require the review and approval of timesheets prior to payment.



FINDING

- Lack of payroll/salary authorizations
- Overspending salaries established by fiscal court

SOLUTION

- Ensure employee action forms are maintained (hire forms, deduction changes, salary adjustments, termination forms); All forms should be signed by the employee, HR employee and management.
- KRS 64.530 (3) states in part, "The fiscal court shall fix annually the reasonable maximum amount, including fringe benefits, which the officer may expend for deputies and assistants, and allow the officer to determine the number to be hired and the individual compensation of each deputy and assistant.
 - Salary limits should be submitted to Fiscal Court for approval
 - Payroll expenditures should be monitored during the year to ensure they are within the approved limits, any amendments should be obtained, prior to year end



FINDING

- Violation of employment laws
- Inaccurate processing of payroll

SOLUTION

- Document all actions related to recruiting, hiring and dismissal; provide continued training to keep employees current with employment laws
- Run/reconcile totals before and after processing; Payroll journals should be reviewed and reconciled to control totals and approved by management or their designee



FINDING

- Not properly/timely reconciling the payroll account
- Giving Bonuses
- Office practice not in agreement with written policies and procedures

SOLUTION

- Reconcile the payroll account monthly; ensure amount transferred to the payroll account are supported by payroll totals (payroll registers, etc.). Any balance in the account should be identified.
- Do Not Give Bonuses- They are prohibited by KY Const. Sec. 3
- Review written policies and procedures to ensure that what you are actually doing lines up; Actual everyday practice should be in compliance with written policies





Overall Considerations - Payroll

Are all transactions valid and properly supported?

Are all transactions properly authorized?

Are we in compliance with laws and regulations?

Are all valid, properly authorized transactions recorded and recorded accurately?

Common Findings - Disbursements



No support or insufficient support for disbursement

Most Common Issues:



Unallowable items

Procurement policies not followed (Not bidding when required)



Avoid Procurement Findings: Know Your Administrative Code

KRS 424.260 Bids for materials, supplies, equipment, or services.

(1) Except where a statute specifically fixes a larger sum as the minimum for a requirement of advertisement for bids, no city, county, or district, or board or commission of a city or county, or sheriff or county clerk, may make a contract, lease, or other agreement for:

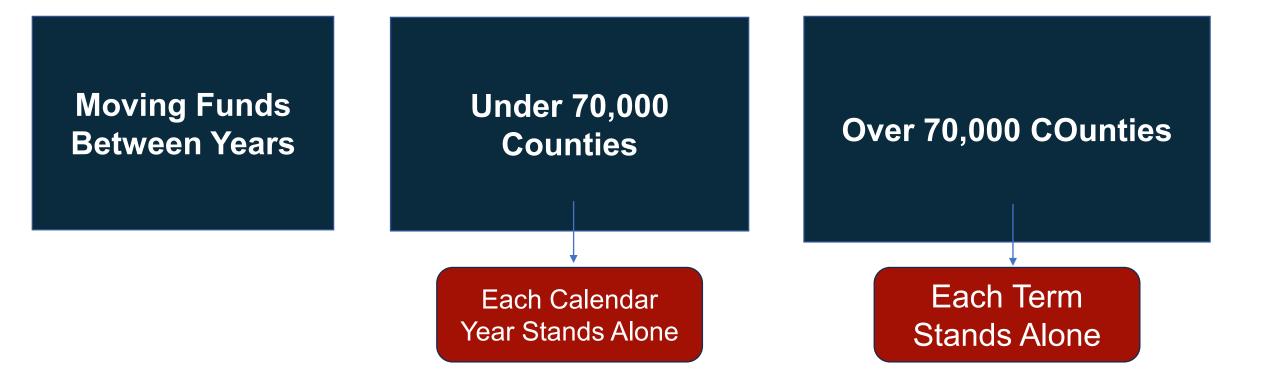
- a) Materials;
- b) Supplies, except perishable foods such as meat, poultry, fish, egg products, fresh vegetables, and fresh fruits;
- c) Equipment; or
- d) Contractual services other than professional; involving an expenditure of more than thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) without first making newspaper advertisement for bids. This subsection shall not apply to the transfer of property between governmental agencies as authorized in KRS 82.083(4)(a).

(2) If the fiscal court requires that the sheriff or county clerk advertise for bids on expenditures of less than thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000), the fiscal court requirement shall prevail.

Or follow KRS Chapter 45A if your county has adopted the model procurement code.



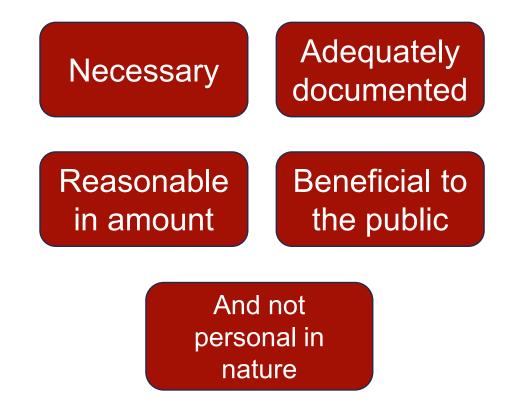
Fee Official Account Issues





Fee Officials: Unallowable expenses may be disallowed

In Funk vs. Milliken, 317 S.W.2d 499 (KY. 1958), Kentucky's highest court reaffirmed the rule that county fee officials' expenditures of public funds will be allowable only if they are:





How to Avoid Findings:



You guessed it...MAINTAIN SUPPORT!

Acceptable Supporting Documentation:

- Original bill, invoice, or receipt
- Needs to be itemized

Original contract or agreement

Credit Cards:

- Credit card statement not enough
- Need the supporting documentation for the purchase (Original bill, invoice, or itemized receipt)

Common Findings - Reporting



The Fourth Quarter Financial Statement is Materially Misstated

What is wrong?

Cash Balances

- Cash balance
 incorrect
- Reconciliation
 incorrect
- Not all accounts included

Receipts & Disbursements

- Material errors
- Not cumulative
- Not supported by ledgers

Significant Items Omitted

- Omission of debt
- Omission of receipts
- Omission of
 disbursements



How to Correct:

Follow The County Budget Preparation and State Local Finance Officer Policy Manual Directions

The Department For Local Government sets the accounting standards for local officials.

The County Budget Preparation and State Local Finance Officer Policy Manual states:

All county money is to be reported on the financial statement whether it is included in the budget or not. The statement is a cumulative report and is prepared, signed and dated by the county judge/executive and the county treasurer pursuant to KRS 68.210.

The report is comprised of six sections:

Section I

- Summary & Reconciliation

Section II

- Receipts Section

Section III

- Contingent Liabilities Section

Section IV

- Appropriation Condition Report

Section V

- Fiscal Asset Section – 4^{th} quarter reporting only

Section VI

- Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards – 4th quarter reporting only



Finding: Summary Page of 4th Quarter Financial Report Not Balanced



Financial Statement

County

		st	JMMARY				
FUND	General	Road	Jail	LGEA	Federal Grant		Totals
Total Receipts To Date	\$5,300,000.00	\$3,700,000.00	\$3,800,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$6,000,000.00		\$19,000,000.00
Total Claims	\$4,002,000.00	\$2,952,000.00	\$2,700,000.00	\$150,250.00	\$2,300,500.00		\$12,104,750.00
Cash Balance	\$1,298,000.00	\$748,000.00	\$1,100,000.00	\$49,750.00	\$3,699,500.00	<	\$6,895,250.00
Encumbrances	\$2,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$546,000.00	\$1,520.00	\$0.00		\$551,020.00
Unencumbered Cash Balance	\$1,296,000.00	\$746,500.00	\$554,000.00	\$48,230.00	\$3,699,500.00		\$6,344,230.00
		RECO	NCILIATION				
Bank Balance	\$1,725,000.00	\$847,000.00	\$650,000.00	\$49,750.00	\$5,590,000.00		\$8,861,750.00
Plus Deposits in Transit	\$128,000.00	\$53,000.00	\$550,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$731,000.00
Less Outstanding Checks	\$555,000.00	\$152,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,890,500.00		\$2,697,500.00
Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Reconciled Bank Balance	\$1,298,000.00	\$748,000.00	\$1,100,000.00	\$49,750.00	\$3,699,500.00		\$6,895,250.00

To the best of my knowledge the information reported herein is accurate and complete.

Cash balance and reconciled bank balance should agree!

Finding: Summary Page of 4th Quarter **Financial Report Not Balanced**



Form For Budget, Cumulative Quarterly Report and Annual Settlement For Calendar Year 20

			County Sheriff		
	Part One - Su	mmary and Reconc	iliation of All Acco	ounts	
Show & Describe All Accounts	Column 1 20 Fee Account Budget Estimate	Cohmo 2 20 Fee Account Cumulative Actual	Column 3 Account (NOT FEE ACCOUNT)	Colum 4 Account (NOT FEE ACCOUNT)	Column 5
1. Receipts YTD					
2. Total Distancements YTD					
3. Book Balance/Excess Fees					
4. Bank Statement Balance					
5. Plus Deposits in Transit					
6. Less Outstanding Checks					
7. Other					
S. Reconciled Bank Balance					
9. Accounts Receivable as of 12/31					
10 Unpaid Obligations as of 12731					
11. Excess Fees					
Instructions: the investigation measured form at for the	indext and the secondary percent. B	UDGET: After completing the budget	estimate columns of Farts One, Two	and Three, submit to the fiscal court	t for approval lev January 15th and

Introduced: the increase of the set to do to be bad out of the set of the set

			To the best of my knowledge the information repor	ted herein for the
Approved by the fiscal court on the	_ day of	, 20	budget/quarter ended	is accurate and
			complete.	
County Judge/Executive	Date	-	Signature of County Sheriff	Date

Receipts and disbursements should agree to totals on following pages

Excess Fee amounts should agree

Form For Budget, Cumulative Quarterly Report and Annual Settlement For Calendar Year 20_

County Clerk

Part One - Summary and Reconciliation of All Accounts

		,			
Show & Describe All Accounts	Cokes 1 20 Fee Account Budget Estimate	Colume 2 20 Fee Account Cumulative Actual	Column 3 Account (NOT FEE ACCOUNT)	Column 4	Column 5
1. Receipts YTD					
2. Total Disbursements YTD					
3. Book Balance/Excess Fees					
4. Bank Statement Balance					
5. Plus Deposits in Transit					
6. Less Outstanding Checks					
7. Other					
S. Reconciled Bank Balance					
9. Accounts Receivable as of 12/31					
10. Unpaid Obligations as of 12/31					
11. Excess Fees					
Instructions: This form is the required format for the lo approval submit to the inits local finance officer. QUA the years to deal multicling any logarizing balance for does of quarter that are not reflection to local instance of the second in the reflection of the local instance ending 17/31. There is a flavored for lines 9 and 10. B02-227-6671 / Ph # 202-692-5467.	RTERF REPORT. The quartery report is account. Bow cannot year for a Part Thrase of report. How 3 How 7 (1). Lime 3 How to that ancount of the optime for quarter ending 12/31. But All deirt to be shown in Part Tour. 8	ert is commissive. They we transmost consent in COUMNY J as calculated is littlements between lines 1 and 2 for exist instant given to close of quarter 1 ww calculation in Part Two of report. Agont due to: Sain Local Finance Of	all funds in the official's change durit PartTroor direct. Line 2 Show cl. accounts. Line 3 How bank tuber and are not reflected in bank takenen Line 10 Complete for quarter endin form, 100 Airport Rood, Third Hoor 1	ng calendar year to date in Fart Ott world discurrents on a cash basis ment balance(b) at close of quarter, nil). Line 7 Hore immutenen. Lin gg 12/31. Show calculation in Fart T functions, KY 40601 by the 50th da	Lime J How word receipt on a cash basis for the year to der for all account. Remy Lime B How that deputit made price to an B How that A dolumid for limes 6, 6, and 7 have of report. Lime 11 Complete for quarter following the close of each quarter. Each following the close of each quarter. Each
Approved by the fiscal court on the	day of	.200	To the best of my knowled	see the information report	ed herein for the

Date

is accurate and complete. ended

Date

County Judge/Executive

What to watch for... Fee official 4th quarter financial report

Part Two Receipts	Budget Estimate	1/1 thru 3/31	4/1 thru 6/30	7/1 thru 9/30	10/1 thru 12/31	Total YTD	Accounts Receivable 12/31	Settlement Total	
Federal Grants/Reimbursements									
State Grants									
State Fees For Services									
Fiscal Court									
Revenue Supplement (< 20,000 pop)									
Licenses and Taxes									
Motor Vehicle:									
								th	e unpaid
								th ob	ligations
Part Three	Budget	1/1 thru		7/1 thru			12/31 Unpai	th ob settlemer	e unpaid ligations
Part Three Disbursements		1/1 thru 3/31	4/1 thru 6/30			Tota YTT	12/31 Unpai Obligation	th ob settlemer	e unpaid ligations
	Budget			7/1 thru	10/1 thru		-	th ob settlemer	e unpaid ligations
Disbursements	Budget			7/1 thru	10/1 thru		-	th ob settlemer	e unpaid ligations
Disbursements Required Payments	Budget			7/1 thru	10/1 thru		-	th ob settlemer	e unpaid ligations
Disbursements Required Payments 1. Payments to State (describe)	Budget			7/1 thru	10/1 thru		-	th ob settlemer	e unpaid ligations
Disbursements Required Payments 1. Payments to State (describe) 2. Motor Vehicle:	Budget			7/1 thru	10/1 thru		-	th ob settlemer	e unpaid ligations

Use The Department For Local Government Check Sheets

Quarterly Report Check Sheet Sheriff

Yes

 Part One – Summary & Reconciliation
 Yes
 No

 Figures are recorded in Budget Estimate column
 Yes
 No

 Figures are recorded in Summary for all accounts
 Yes
 No

 Receipts YTD equal line 27, Total YTD
 Yes
 No

 Total Disbursements YTD equal Line 53, Total YTD
 Yes
 No

 Figures are recorded in Reconciliation for all accounts
 Yes
 No

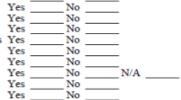
 Accounts are labeled across the top
 Yes
 No

 Book Balance and Reconciled Bank Balance equal
 Yes
 No

 Quarters are combined
 Yes
 No

 Calculations are correct
 Yes
 No

 County Sheriff's signature is present
 Yes
 No



Part Two - Receipts

Figures are recorded in Budget Estimate column Figures are recorded in 1/1 thru 3/31 column Figures are recorded in 4/1 thru 6/30 column Figures are recorded in 7/1 thru 9/30 column Totals entered in 10/1 thru 12/31 column Totals entered in Total YTD column Accounts Receivables listed Settlement Totals entered Receipts are broken down into categories Total Receipts entered in Line 27 Calculations are correct

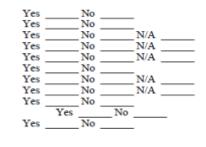
Yes No Yes No N/A No _____ N/A Yes _____ Yes No N/A No Yes No N/A Yes _____ Yes No N/A Yes No Yes No No Yes

No

Part Three - Disbursements

Figures are recorded in Budget Estimate column Figures are recorded in 1/1 thru 3/31 column Figures are recorded in 4/1 thru 6/30 column Figures are recorded in 7/1 thru 9/30 column Figures are recorded in 10/1 thru 12/31 column Totals entered in Total YTD column Unpaid Obligations listed Settlement Totals entered Disbursements are broken down into categories Total Disbursements entered in Line 53 Calculations are correct

Part Four - Liabilities Outstanding Liabilities page included



(initials)

Yes No

Checked by:

Quarterly Report Check Sheet Clerk

Part One – Summary & Reconciliation

 Figures are recorded in Budget Estimate column
 Yes

 Figures are recorded in Summary for all accounts
 Yes

 Receipts YTD equal line 39, Total YTD
 Yes

 Total Disbursements YTD equal Line 70, Total YTD
 Yes

 Figures are recorded in Reconciliation for all accounts
 Yes

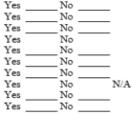
 Accounts are labeled across the top
 Yes

 Book Balance and Reconciled Bank Balance equal
 Yes

 Quarters are combined
 Yes

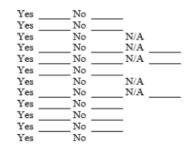
 Calculations are correct
 Yes

 County Clerk's signature is present
 Yes



Part Two – Receipts

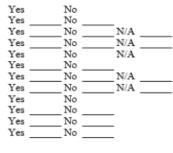
Figures are recorded in Budget Estimate column Figures are recorded in 1/1 thru 3/31 column Figures are recorded in 4/1 thru 6/30 column Figures are recorded in 7/1 thru 9/30 column Figures are recorded in 10/1 thru 12/31 column Totals entered in Total YTD column Accounts Receivables listed Settlement Totals entered Receipts are broken down into categories Totals entered in Line 37 Total Receipts entered in Line 40 Calculations are correct



Part Three – Disbursements

Figures are recorded in Budget Estimate column Figures are recorded in 1/1 thru 3/31 column Figures are recorded in 4/1 thru 6/30 column Figures are recorded in 7/1 thru 9/30 column Figures are recorded in 10/1 thru 12/31 column Totals entered in Total YTD column Unpaid Obligations listed Settlement Totals entered Disbursements are broken down into categories Totals entered in Line 67 Total Receipts entered in Line 70 Calculations are correct

Part Four – Liabilities Outstanding Liabilities page included



(initials)

Yes _____No ____

Checked by:

Other Findings



Failing to Keep Adequate Records for Sheriff Donation Accounts

Sheriffs may accept donations for public purpose if the office is in accordance with KRS 61.310, however, this is not an option for County Clerks.

A sheriff may accept a donation of money or goods to be used for the public purposes of his or her office if the sheriff establishes a register for recording all donations that includes, at a minimum:

1. The name and address of the donor;

- 2. A general description of the donation;
- 3. The date of acceptance of the donation;
- 4. The monetary amount of the donation, or its estimated worth; and

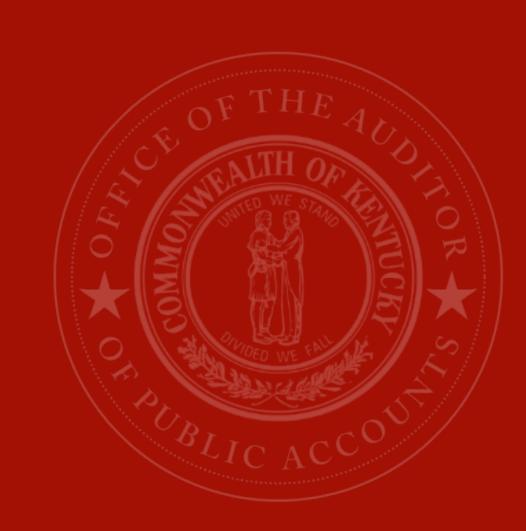
5. Any purpose for which the donation is given.

The register shall constitute a public record, be subject to the provisions of KRS 61.870 to 61.884, and be made available to the public for inspection in the sheriff's office during regular business hours.



How to Correct:

- Maintain ledgers with all information required by KRS 61.310
- Maintain separate bank
 account for donation
- Use funds in accordance with donor specifications
- Keep adequate documentation for funds spent



Failing to File Statement of Seized Property

KRS 218A.440 Statement filed listing property seized -- Investigation of utilization of proceeds.

- (1) Each law enforcement agency seizing money or property pursuant to KRS 218A.415 shall, at the close of each fiscal year, file a statement with the Auditor of Public Accounts, and with the secretary of justice and public safety containing, a detailed listing of all money and property seized in that fiscal year and the disposition thereof. The listing shall identify all property so seized.
- (2) Any agency failing to report as required by this section shall be liable to the state for the full value of all property and money so seized. The Attorney General shall institute civil actions for recovery of money or property obtained or retained in violation of KRS 218A.405 to 218A.460.
- (3) The Auditor of Public Accounts, the secretary of justice and public safety or the Attorney General may at any time initiate an inquiry to determine that property is being forfeited as required by KRS 218A.405 to 218A.460.



How To Correct:

- File statement in accordance with KRS 218A.440 with APA and KY DOJ.
- Maintain separate bank account for seized funds unless needed for evidence.
- Keep adequate documentation for disposition of all items seized.



Questions?

