



**Auditor of
Public Accounts
Allison Ball**

Agreed-Upon Procedures Engagement Barren County Sheriff's Office

FRANKFORT, Ky. – State Auditor Allison Ball today released the 2024 agreed-upon procedures engagement of Barren County Sheriff Kent Keen. 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.

In 2018 the Kentucky General Assembly, following a recommendation by the State Auditor, passed legislation that allows county sheriffs and clerks that met certain criteria to apply for an Agreed-Upon Procedures (AUP) engagement in lieu of an audit of their fee account. The intent of the change, which became effective in July 2018, was to reduce audit costs for sheriffs and clerks that have a history of clean audits, while still maintaining an appropriate level of accountability.

The Barren County Sheriff applied for and received approval from the Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) to obtain an AUP engagement for calendar year 2024 in accordance with KRS 43.070(1)(c). AUP reports present the procedures performed and the results of those procedures, called findings. Auditors performed the procedures, which were agreed to by the Barren County Sheriff, on receipts and disbursements, excess fees, recordkeeping, and leases, contracts, and liabilities for the period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

Finding: The sheriff was paid \$122,878. The statutorily required salary was \$123,546.

County Sheriff's Response

Payroll for the Sheriff's office is the responsibility of the County Treasurer, who is employed by the Barren County Judge Executive's office and the Barren Fiscal Court. The County Treasurer failed to pay the statutory rate to the Sheriff in January and February 2024, resulting in underpayment of salary for the year.

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](#).

