



**Auditor of
Public Accounts
Allison Ball**

Boyd County Sheriff's Fee Account Audit

FRANKFORT, Ky. – State Auditor Allison Ball released the audit of the 2023 financial statement of Boyd County Sheriff Jamie Reihs. 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 Boyd 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.

Finding: The sheriff's fourth quarter report was materially misstated and required numerous adjustments

At year-end, the sheriff's office failed to properly account for receivables, which were omitted from the quarterly report. As a result, \$314,729 in adjustments were made to the receipts ledger to correct errors.

Recommendations

We recommend the sheriff's office implement comprehensive procedures for accurate posting and reconciliation of all financial data. Specifically, the office should establish clear protocols for recording receipts, managing receivables, and ensuring proper year-end cutoffs. Furthermore, the sheriff's office should conduct a thorough review of all quarterly reports before submission to the Department for Local Government to ensure accuracy and compliance with applicable regulations.

County Officials Response

Sheriff's Response: We are working on implementing and taking corrective measures.

Finding: The sheriff's office lacks adequate segregation of duties

Currently, the same bookkeeper is responsible for a range of critical tasks, including collecting payments, recording transactions in the ledgers, preparing deposits, and reconciling the bank account.

County Officials Response

We recommend the sheriff's office implement segregation of duties across all key financial functions. No one individual should be responsible for multiple conflicting tasks. If full segregation of duties is not feasible due to staffing limitations, the sheriff's office should implement strong oversight procedures.

Recommendations

Sheriff's Response: We are working on implementing and taking corrective measures.

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](https://www.auditor.ky.gov).

