Auditor of Public Accounts
Allison Ball

Green County Sheriff's
Tax Settlement Audit

FRANKFORT, Ky. – State Auditor Allison Ball today released the audit of the sheriff's settlement – 2024 taxes for Green County Sheriff Robby Beard. 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 sheriff's settlement presents fairly the taxes charged, credited, and paid in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The sheriff's settlement is prepared on the regulatory basis, which is described in the auditor's opinion letter. Regulatory basis reporting for the sheriff's settlement is an acceptable reporting methodology, and this reporting methodology is followed for all 120 sheriff settlements in Kentucky.

The sheriff's financial statement fairly presents the taxes charged, credited, and paid for the period September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025 in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting.

Finding: The Green County Sheriff's Office Lacks Segregation Of Duties Over Receipts And Disbursements

Incompatible duties create a lack of segregation of duties over receipts and disbursements. The bookkeeper collects payments from customers, prepares deposits, prepares daily collection printouts, and posts to the receipts ledger. In addition, the bookkeeper prepares the monthly tax reports, reconciles monthly tax reports to receipts and disbursements, and prepares and signs checks. Some documented compensating controls were noted to offset some risk created by lack of segregation of duties over receipts and disbursements. The sheriff and county clerk both sign monthly reports. The sheriff reviews the bank reconciliations prepared by the bookkeeper and initials the bank statements. The sheriff's tax settlement is prepared by a third party that does not work for the sheriff's office. The sheriff signs the sheriff's tax settlement prepared by the third party.

Recommendations

We recommend the sheriff's office separate duties over receipts and disbursements. If these duties cannot be separated due to limited staff or limited budget, then strong oversight over those areas should occur and involve the sheriff or an employee not currently performing any of those functions. The individual providing this oversight should initial source documents as evidence of review. Recommendations for strengthening compensating controls include having the sheriff initial daily work and daily deposits and implementing dual signatures on checks to document that he performs daily review.

County Officials Response

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

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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