

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE  
HARDIN COUNTY  
SHERIFF**

**For The Year Ended  
December 31, 2024**



**ALLISON BALL  
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS  
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**ALLISON BALL**  
**AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

Independent Auditor's Report

The Honorable Keith Taul, Hardin County Judge/Executive  
The Honorable John Ward, Hardin County Sheriff  
Members of the Hardin County Fiscal Court

**Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

**Opinions**

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Receipts and Disbursements - Regulatory Basis of the Sheriff of Hardin County, Kentucky, and the Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Fund Balances of the Sheriff's Operating Fund and County Fund with the State Treasurer - Regulatory Basis for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements.

*Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting*

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the receipts and disbursements of the Hardin County Sheriff and the receipts, disbursements, and fund balances of the Hardin County Sheriff's operating fund and county fund with the state treasurer for the year ended December 31, 2024, in accordance with the basis of accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Commonwealth of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws 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 Opinions on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles section of our report, the financial statements referred to above do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Hardin County Sheriff, as of December 31, 2024, 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* (GAS), 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 Hardin 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 Keith Taul, Hardin County Judge/Executive  
The Honorable John Ward, Hardin County Sheriff  
Members of the Hardin 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 statements, the financial statements are prepared by the Hardin 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 statements 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 Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements 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 financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statement, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Hardin County Sheriff's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are 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 controls. 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 statements.

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 statements, 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 statements.
- 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 Hardin 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 statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Hardin County Sheriff's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

The Honorable Keith Taul, Hardin County Judge/Executive  
The Honorable John Ward, Hardin County Sheriff  
Members of the Hardin 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 March 3, 2026, on our consideration of the Hardin 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. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Hardin County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Respectfully submitted,



Allison Ball  
Auditor of Public Accounts  
Frankfort, KY

March 3, 2026

HARDIN COUNTY  
JOHN WARD, SHERIFF  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS - REGULATORY BASIS

For The Year Ended December 31, 2024

Receipts

Federal Grant		\$ 62,511
State Grants		75,955
State - Kentucky Law Enforcement Foundation Program Fund (KLEFPF)		269,064
State Fees for Services		543,657
Circuit Court Clerk		61
Fiscal Court:		
Law Enforcement Supplement	\$ 2,880,000	
25% Fees Reimbursement	520,039	
Drug Court - County Attorney	36,223	
Security Officers - County Attorney	32,000	
Election Commission	<u>2,000</u>	3,470,262
County Clerk - Delinquent Taxes		57,543
Commission on Taxes		2,236,837
Fees Collected for Services:		
Auto Inspections	88,085	
Accident /Police Reports	5,260	
Serving Papers	373,052	
Carry Concealed Deadly Weapon Permits	25,735	
Transports/Conveying Prisoners	6,576	
Inquiries	16,888	
Fingerprints	<u>1,160</u>	516,756
Security Service Contracts:		
Elizabethtown Community College (ECTC)	49,866	
City of Elizabethtown	11,000	
City of West Point	183,350	
Hardin County Schools - SRO	<u>1,370,800</u>	1,615,016
Other:		
Add-On Fees	201,824	
Miscellaneous	<u>158,562</u>	<u>360,386</u>
Total Receipts		9,208,048

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

HARDIN COUNTY  
 JOHN WARD, SHERIFF  
 STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS - REGULATORY BASIS  
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2024  
 (Continued)

Disbursements

Other Disbursements:

Extradition - Transporting Prisoners	\$ 79,736
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Total Disbursements	\$ 79,736
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Net Receipts	9,128,312
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Payments to State Treasurer:

75% Operating Fund *	8,625,999	
25% County Fund	502,313	9,128,312

Balance Due at Completion of Audit	\$ 0
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\* Includes reimbursed expenses in the amount of \$7,119,059 for the audit period.  
 See Note 1 of Notes to Financial Statements.

HARDIN COUNTY  
JOHN WARD, SHERIFF  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND  
FUND BALANCES OF THE SHERIFF'S OPERATING FUND  
AND COUNTY FUND WITH THE STATE TREASURER - REGULATORY BASIS

For The Year Ended December 31, 2024

	75% Operating Fund	25% County Fund	Totals
Fund Balance - January 1, 2024	\$ 93,539	\$	\$ 93,539
<u>Receipts</u>			
Fees Paid to State - Operating Funds (75%)	8,625,999		8,625,999
Fees Paid to State - County Funds (25%)		502,313	502,313
Total Funds Available	8,719,538	502,313	9,221,851
<u>Disbursements</u>			
Hardin County Fiscal Court		502,313	502,313
Personal Services-			
Official's Statutory Maximum	146,513		146,513
Official's Training Incentive	5,153		5,153
Deputies' Salaries	3,876,760		3,876,760
Part Time Salaries	14,819		14,819
Overtime Gross	181,798		181,798
Employee Benefits-			
Employer's Share Social Security	314,094		314,094
Employer's Share Retirement	1,144,761		1,144,761
Employer's Share Health Insurance	567,167		567,167
Employer's Share Life Insurance	815		815
Workers' Compensation	10,289		10,289
Contracted Services-			
Advertising	1,275		1,275
Computer Services	21,996		21,996
Software	3,200		3,200

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

HARDIN COUNTY  
 JOHN WARD, SHERIFF  
 STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND  
 FUND BALANCES OF THE SHERIFF'S OPERATING FUND  
 AND COUNTY FUND WITH THE STATE TREASURER - REGULATORY BASIS  
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2024  
 (Continued)

	75% Operating Fund	25% County Fund	Totals
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<u>Disbursements (Continued)</u>			
Supplies and Materials-			
Office Supplies	\$ 60,780	\$	\$ 60,780
Uniforms/Equipment	109,597		109,597
Ammo/Range Supplies	1,093		1,093
MDT	39,507		39,507
Other Charges-			
Dues	244,520		244,520
Miscellaneous	228,806		228,806
Postage	21,320		21,320
Telephone/Fax/Cellular	6,817		6,817
Training	42,928		42,928
Radio Maintenance	82,587		82,587
Law Enforcement	479,012		479,012
Auto Expenses-			
Gasoline	202,162		202,162
Maintenance and Repairs	97,077		97,077
Capital Outlay-			
Vehicles	<u>393,262</u>		<u>393,262</u>
 Total Disbursements	 <u>8,298,108</u>	 <u>502,313</u>	 <u>8,800,421</u>
 Fund Balance - December 31, 2024	 <u>\$ 421,430</u>	 <u>\$ 0</u>	 <u>\$ 421,430</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

HARDIN COUNTY  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2024

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Basis of Accounting

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. Authority for the regulatory basis is found in Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS).

The Department for Local Government (DLG) is the regulatory agency responsible for establishing minimum accounting requirements for local government entities. The commissioner of the DLG is designated as the state local finance officer. (KRS 68.001). The DLG must prescribe and maintain “a uniform system of accounting and reporting on the receipt, use and handling of all public funds, other than taxes, due and payable to the state” from local government entities. (KRS 46.010(1)). The state local finance officer supervises the administration of the county uniform budget system and accounts and financial operations and must prescribe a “uniform system of accounts for all counties and county officials.” (KRS 68.210). Under this authority, the DLG requires local governments to follow guidelines set forth in its *County Budget Preparation and State Local Finance Officer Policy Manual* (Manual) to meet the minimum required reporting for financial statement purposes.

The regulatory basis is outlined in the Manual and defines the measurement, presentation, disclosure, and recognition requirements for financial transactions when preparing regulatory basis financial statements. This regulatory basis Manual includes the standardized format to follow for quarterly reporting to DLG.

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), at December 31:

- Interest receivable
- Collection on accounts due from others for 2024 services
- Reimbursements for 2024 activities
- Payments due to other governmental entities for December tax and fee collections
- Payroll expenditures incurred but not paid
- Payments due to vendors for goods or services provided in 2024

B. Measurement Focus and Excess Fees

A fee official in a county with a population over 70,000 has two funds with the state treasurer for the deposit of fees collected. (KRS 64.350). Seventy-five percent (75%) of the fees collected are deposited in the sheriff’s operating fund and used for his or her office expenses. (KRS 64.350.) The remaining twenty-five percent (25%) of fees collected are deposited to the county fiscal court fund and paid to the fiscal courts, urban-county governments, or consolidated local governments of the respective counties quarterly, no later than April 15, July 15, October 15, and January 15. (KRS 64.350). These funds are closed at the end of each official term by paying the balances to the respective county government. (KRS 64.350).

Also, fee official office revenues could be considered reimbursed expenses. All reimbursed expenses are treated as revenue in the 75 percent fund.

The fiscal court shall collect any amount due from the sheriff as determined by the audit. (KRS 64.820).

An outgoing sheriff is to make a final settlement with the fiscal court by March 15 immediately following the expiration of his or her term of office. (KRS 64.830).

HARDIN COUNTY  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
December 31, 2024  
(Continued)

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

C. 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.

D. 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).

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 has been governed by the CERS nine-member board of trustees since April 1, 2021. The Kentucky Public Pensions Authority (KPPA) was created by KRS 61.505, effective April 1, 2021, to provide staffing and daily administrative needs for CERS and Kentucky Retirement Systems. CERS 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, vesting requirements, and provisions are established by statute and are determined by participation date and hazardous or non-hazardous participation.

The sheriff's contribution for calendar year 2022 was \$909,155, calendar year 2023 was \$1,061,388, and calendar year 2024 was \$1,144,761.

The county's contribution rate for nonhazardous employees for calendar year 2024 was 23.34% for the first six months and 19.71% for the last six months. The county's contribution rate for hazardous employees was 43.69 percent for the first six months and 38.61 percent for the last six months.

Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)

CERS provides post-retirement health care, cost of living adjustments for all recipients of retirement benefits, and a retired member's death benefit, all determined by participation date and hazardous or non-hazardous participation.

Specific details about retiree pension and OPEB benefits can be found online at: <https://www.kyret.ky.gov/Publications>.

HARDIN COUNTY  
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 December 31, 2024  
 (Continued)

Note 2. Employee Retirement System and Other Post-Employment Benefits (Continued)

Kentucky Public Pension Authority's Annual Financial Report and Proportionate Share Audit Report

KPPA issues a publicly available annual financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information on CERS. Many of these annual reports are available online at <https://kyret.ky.gov>. Reports may also be obtained by writing the KPPA, 1260 Louisville Road, Frankfort, KY 40601-6124, or by telephone at (502) 564-4646.

KPPA 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 Hardin County Sheriff maintained deposits of public funds with federally insured banking institutions as required by the Manual. The 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 Hardin County Sheriff does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk, but rather follows the requirements of the Manual. As of December 31, 2024, all deposits were covered by a properly executed collateral security agreement.

Note 4. Commitments - Lease Agreement

The Hardin County Sheriff's Office was committed to the following lease agreement as of December 31, 2024:

Description	Effective Date	Length of Term	Frequency of Payments	Ending Date	Amount of Payments	Balance December 31, 2024
Body Cameras	1/10/2023	5 Years	Yearly	1/10/2027	23,056	\$ 0

Note 5. Federal Grant

The Hardin County Sheriff's Office was awarded a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant from the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet for the period of October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025. During calendar year 2025, grant funds in the amount of \$62,511 were received and spent.

HARDIN COUNTY  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
December 31, 2024  
(Continued)

Note 6. State Grants

The Hardin County Sheriff received three grants from the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security for the purchase of tasers and body armor. The Hardin County Fiscal Court passed these grants through to the sheriff's office in the amount of \$75,955. The sheriff expended \$69,520 on purchasing tasers and \$6,435 on purchasing body armor. All funds from the grants were expended.

Note 7. Discretionary Fund Account

The Hardin County Sheriff has established a discretionary account as provided by KRS 64.345. This fund is used to cover additional expenses including extraordinary office expenses in amounts authorized by the approving authority. The account had a beginning balance of \$2,075, with no receipts, and \$1,342 of disbursements for calendar year 2024. The ending balance as of December 31, 2024, was \$733.

Note 8. Drug Forfeiture Account

The sheriff has a drug forfeiture account which is used for receiving forfeited drug money. This money is used to purchase law enforcement equipment, fund drug investigations, and engage in other drug enforcement related activities. This account had a beginning balance of \$32,725 with receipts and disbursements totaling \$31,897 and \$39,549, respectively. The ending balance as of December 31, 2024, was \$25,073.

Note 9. DARE Account

The sheriff maintains a Drug Awareness Resistance Education (DARE) account. This account had a beginning balance of \$873, with receipts and disbursements totaling \$34 and \$877, respectively. The ending balance as of December 31, 2024, was \$30.

Note 10. Special Account

The sheriff maintains a special account that is used for donations. All required documentation and ledgers were maintained. The fund had a beginning balance of \$20,941 with receipts of \$136,184 and disbursements of \$7,946, respectively. The ending balance was \$149,179 as of December 31, 2024.

Note 11. Extradition Account

The sheriff has an extradition account to account for transport of prisoners. Funds received from the state are deposited to the extradition account and then disbursed to the provider of the transport service and the fee account. Receipts totaled \$85,713, which \$5,977 was paid to the fee account and \$79,736 to transport service providers.

Note 12. Imprest Account

The Finance & Administration – County Fee Systems Branch authorized the Hardin County Sheriff to administer an Imprest Cash Fund in the amount of \$7,500. This fund is to be used for expenses, such as postage and other necessary expenses \$1,000 or less that need to be paid in less than 10 days, except travel and payroll expenses. This fund had a beginning balance of \$7,061 with receipts of \$30,418, and disbursements of \$30,343. The ending balance was \$7,136 as of December 31, 2024.

HARDIN COUNTY  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
December 31, 2024  
(Continued)

Note 13. Related Party Transactions

The sheriff's office conducted business with a business owned by the son of the chief deputy for vehicle repair and maintenance for the insurance deductible amount totaling \$7,817 for 2024.

Note 14. Commitments and Contingencies

The sheriff is involved in a lawsuit, which could negatively impact the financial position of the sheriff's office. Due to the uncertainty of the litigation, a reasonable estimate of the financial impact on the sheriff's office cannot be made at this time.

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND  
ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

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ALLISON BALL  
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And  
On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial  
Statements Performed In Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards*

Independent Auditor's Report

The Honorable Keith Taul, Hardin County Judge/Executive  
The Honorable John Ward, Hardin County Sheriff  
Members of the Hardin 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 and Disbursements - Regulatory Basis of the Sheriff of Hardin County, Kentucky, the Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Fund Balances of the Sheriff's Operating Fund and County Fund with the State Treasurer - Regulatory Basis for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated March 3, 2026. The Hardin County Sheriff's financial statements are 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 statements, we considered the Hardin County Sheriff's 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 statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Hardin County Sheriff's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Hardin 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 statements 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  
Statements Performed In Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards*  
(Continued)

**Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Hardin County Sheriff's financial statements are 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,



Allison Ball  
Auditor of Public Accounts  
Frankfort, KY

March 3, 2026