



**Auditor of
Public Accounts
Allison Ball**

LaRue County Fiscal Court

Audit

FRANKFORT, Ky. – State Auditor Allison Ball has released the audit of the financial statements of the LaRue County Fiscal Court for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. State law requires annual audits of county fiscal courts.

Auditing standards require the auditor's letter to communicate whether the financial statements present fairly the receipts, disbursements, and changes in fund balances of the LaRue County Fiscal Court in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The fiscal court's financial statement did not follow this format. However, the fiscal court'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 116 of 120 fiscal court audits in Kentucky.

Finding: The LaRue County Fiscal Court And Jailer Did Not Follow Bidding Procedures Required By The Model Procurement Code

This is a repeat finding and was included in the prior year audit report as finding 2024-001. The fiscal court and jailer are not in compliance with the model procurement code adopted by the county related to bidding and contracts. The jailer did not advertise for bid disbursements of \$167,518 for the detention center's commissary vendor. In addition, the jailer advertised in the newspaper for bids on food service on April 10, 2024, however the approval of the bid was not documented in the fiscal court minutes.

Recommendations

We recommend the fiscal court follow the model procurement code adopted by the county.

County Officials Response

Jailer's Response: We disagree regarding the failure to bid food service. A purchase order for the purchase of advertising was submitted. The notice was advertised in the local paper for 2 weeks 10 April 24 and again on 17 April 24. Bids awarded were reported in the May 1st 2024 edition of the News Paper. The proof of the bid notice in the paper was provided to the Auditor. Also, the newspaper article which reported the bid being awarded is attached to this response. Regardless of it not being found in the Fiscal Court minutes, I have no control of what is entered into the minutes by the clerk. The newspaper ads and article reporting the fiscal court awarding the bids should suffice as proof the notice of bid acceptance were completed.

Corrective Action Plan: No action is needed as bids were taken and awarded by fiscal court. Upon maturation of current contracts in 2027 Food Services and medical services will be due for bid. Notice of Bid Acceptance will be advertised in the first quarter of 2027.

Auditor Reply: As stated above, the jailer failed to advertise for bids for a jail commissary vendor contract. Additionally, there was no documented fiscal court approval for the acceptance of the jail's food service contract bid. All contract approvals should be properly documented in the minutes of the fiscal court meetings. Newspaper articles are prepared by a third party and do not constitute documentation of the fiscal court's actions.

The audit report can be found on the [auditor's website](https://www.auditor.ky.gov).

