Auditor of Public Accounts
Allison Ball

Martin County Sheriff's
Fee Account Audit

FRANKFORT, Ky. – State Auditor Allison Ball released the audit of the 2024 financial statement of Martin County Sheriff John Kirk. 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 Martin 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 Martin County Sheriff's Office Does Not Have Adequate Segregation Of Duties

This is a repeat finding and was included in the prior year audit report as finding 2023-001. The sheriff's office does not have adequate segregation of duties over receipts and disbursements. These deficiencies are present because one employee's duties include the preparing and reviewing of receipts and disbursements ledger, monthly reconciliations, and quarterly reports.

Recommendations

We recommend the same person not perform multiple accounting functions, and if the duties cannot be segregated, then the sheriff should provide and document strong oversight over the employee's work.

County Officials Response

Sheriff's Response: Due to an ongoing limited budget, we are unable to employ enough people to adequately segregate duties. However, we will continue to use compensating controls as possible.

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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