

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE
POWELL COUNTY
SHERIFF**

**For The Year Ended
December 31, 2023**



**ALLISON BALL
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ALLISON BALL AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Independent Auditor's Report

The Honorable Eddie Barnes, Powell County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Danny Rogers, Powell County Sheriff
Members of the Powell County Fiscal Court

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statement

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Excess Fees - Regulatory Basis of the Sheriff of Powell County, Kentucky, for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statement.

Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the Powell County Sheriff for the year ended December 31, 2023, 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 Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles section of our report, the financial statement does not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Powell County Sheriff, as of December 31, 2023, 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 Powell 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 Eddie Barnes, Powell County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Danny Rogers, Powell County Sheriff
Members of the Powell 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 statement, the financial statement is prepared by the Powell 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 statement 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 Statement

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

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Powell 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 statement as a whole is 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 and GAS 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 control. 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 statement.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and GAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, 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 statement.
- 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 Powell 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 statement.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Powell County Sheriff's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

The Honorable Eddie Barnes, Powell County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Danny Rogers, Powell County Sheriff
Members of the Powell 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 February 10, 2025, on our consideration of the Powell 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. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Powell County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Based on the results of our audit, we have presented the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses, included herein, which discusses the following report findings:

- 2023-001 The Sheriff's Office Does Not Have Adequate Segregation Of Duties
- 2023-002 The Sheriff Has Not Settled Prior Year Accounts
- 2023-003 The Sheriff's Fourth Quarter Report Was Materially Misstated
- 2023-004 The Sheriff Does Not Have Adequate Controls In Place Over Fuel Purchases
- 2023-005 The Sheriff Has Not Resolved A Possible Conflict Of Interest

Respectfully submitted,



Allison Ball
Auditor of Public Accounts
Frankfort, KY

February 10, 2025

POWELL COUNTY
DANNY ROGERS, SHERIFF
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS

For The Year Ended December 31, 2023

Receipts

Federal - United States Forest Service Agreement	\$	4,000
State - Kentucky Law Enforcement Foundation Program Fund (KLEFPF)		12,313
State Fees For Services:		
Finance and Administration Cabinet	\$	103,120
Sheriff Security Service		4,571
Transport Prisoner		38
		107,729
Circuit Court Clerk:		
Fines and Fees Collected		3,879
Fiscal Court		1,000
County Clerk - Delinquent Taxes		16,873
Commission On Taxes Collected		257,047
Fees Collected For Services:		
Accident/Police Reports		275
Auto Inspections		2,258
Carry Concealed Deadly Weapon Permits		3,060
Copies		1,147
Serving Papers		21,380
		28,120
Other:		
Add-On Fees		23,522
Executions		60
Franchise Auto Deposits		892
IVDs		400
Traffic Fees		252
Miscellaneous		14,611
		39,737
Interest Earned		150
Borrowed Money:		
State Advancement		21,115
		491,963
Total Receipts		491,963

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

POWELL COUNTY
DANNY ROGERS, SHERIFF
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS
For The Year Ended December 31, 2023
(Continued)

Disbursements

Operating Disbursements and Capital Outlay:

Personnel Services-

Deputies' Salaries	\$ 167,101
KLEFPF	15,951
Overtime Gross Salaries	35,853

Contracted Services-

Advertising	181
Vehicle Maintenance and Repairs	15,550

Materials and Supplies-

Office Materials and Supplies	7,285
Uniforms	5,085

Auto Expense-

Gasoline	28,520
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Other Charges-

Blood Draws	505
Bond	1,539
CCDW	55
Dry Cleaning	129
Equipment	782
K-9	796
Postage	924
Training	2,036
Miscellaneous	1,003

Capital Outlay-

Office Equipment	<u>1,475</u>	\$ 284,770
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Debt Service:

State Advancement	<u>21,115</u>
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Total Disbursements		<u>\$ 305,885</u>
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

POWELL COUNTY
DANNY ROGERS, SHERIFF
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS
For The Year Ended December 31, 2023
(Continued)

Net Receipts	\$ 186,078
Less: Statutory Maximum	<u>104,597</u>
Excess Fees	81,481
Less: Training Incentive Benefit	<u>9,662</u>
Excess Fees Due County for 2023	71,819
Payment to Fiscal Court - February 15, 2024	<u>70,000</u>
Balance Due Fiscal Court at Completion of Audit	<u>\$ 1,819</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

POWELL COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

December 31, 2023

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. 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.

B. Basis of Accounting

KRS 64.820 directs the fiscal court to collect any amount due from the sheriff as determined by the audit. KRS 134.192 requires the sheriff to pay to the governing body of the county any fees, commissions, and other income of his or her office, including income from investments, which exceed the sum of his or her maximum salary as permitted by the Constitution and other reasonable expenses, including compensation of deputies and assistants by March 15 of each year. KRS 64.830 requires an outgoing sheriff to make a final settlement with the fiscal court of his county by March 15 immediately following the expiration of his term of office.

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. This basis demonstrates compliance with the laws of Kentucky and is a special purpose framework. 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) as of December 31 that may be included in the excess fees calculation:

- Interest receivable
- Collection on accounts due from others for 2023 services
- Reimbursements for 2023 activities
- Tax commissions due from December tax collections
- Payments due other governmental entities for payroll
- Payments due vendors for goods or services provided in 2023

The measurement focus of a fee official's financial statement is upon current financial resources. Per KRS 134.192(12), remittance of excess fees is due to the fiscal court when the sheriff makes their final settlement.

C. 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).

POWELL COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
December 31, 2023
(Continued)

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 is administered by the Kentucky Public Pensions Authority (KPPA). This 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 and provisions are established by statute.

Nonhazardous

Nonhazardous covered employees are required to contribute five percent of their salary to the plan. Nonhazardous covered employees who begin participation on or after September 1, 2008, are required to contribute six percent of their salary to be allocated as follows: five percent will go to the member's account and one percent will go to the CERS insurance fund.

In accordance with Senate Bill 2, signed by the Governor on April 4, 2013, plan members who began participating on or after January 1, 2014, were required to contribute to the Cash Balance Plan. The Cash Balance Plan is known as a hybrid plan because it has characteristics of both a defined benefit plan and a defined contribution plan. Members in the plan contribute a set percentage of their salary each month to their own accounts. Nonhazardous covered employees contribute five percent of their annual creditable compensation. Nonhazardous members also contribute one percent to the health insurance fund which is not credited to the member's account and is not refundable. The employer contribution rate is set annually by the CERS Board of Directors based on an actuarial valuation. The employer contributes a set percentage of the member's salary. Each month, when employer contributions are received, an employer pay credit is deposited to the member's account. A member's account is credited with a four percent employer pay credit. The employer pay credit represents a portion of the employer contribution.

Benefits fully vest on reaching five years of service for nonhazardous employees. Aspects of benefits for nonhazardous employees include retirement after 27 years of service or age 65. Nonhazardous employees who begin participation on or after September 1, 2008, must meet the rule of 87 (member's age plus years of service credit must equal 87, and the member must be a minimum of 57 years of age) or the member is age 65, with a minimum of 60 months service credit.

The county's contribution rate for nonhazardous employees was 26.79 percent for the first six months and 23.34 percent for the last six months.

Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)

A. Health Insurance Coverage - Tier 1

CERS provides post-retirement health care coverage as follows:

For members participating prior to July 1, 2003, years of service and respective percentages of the maximum contribution are as follows:

Years of Service	% Paid by Insurance Fund	% Paid by Member through Payroll Deduction
20 or more	100%	0%
15-19	75%	25%
10-14	50%	50%
4-9	25%	75%
Less than 4	0%	100%

POWELL COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
December 31, 2023
(Continued)

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

Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)

A. Health Insurance Coverage - Tier 1 (Continued)

As a result of House Bill 290 (2004 General Assembly), medical insurance benefits are calculated differently for members who began participation on or after July 1, 2003. Once members reach a minimum vesting period of ten years, non-hazardous employees whose participation began on or after July 1, 2003, earn ten dollars per month for insurance benefits at retirement for every year of earned service without regard to a maximum dollar amount. This dollar amount is subject to adjustment annually based on the retiree cost of living adjustment, which is updated annually due to changes in the Consumer Price Index.

Benefits are covered under KRS 78.5536.

B. Health Insurance Coverage - Tier 2 and Tier 3 - Nonhazardous

Once members reach a minimum vesting period of 15 years, they earn ten dollars per month for insurance benefits at retirement for every year of earned service without regard to a maximum dollar amount. This dollar amount is subject to adjustment annually by 1.5 percent. This was established for Tier 2 members during the 2008 Special Legislative Session by House Bill 1. During the 2013 Legislative Session, Senate Bill 2 was enacted, creating Tier 3 benefits for members.

The monthly insurance benefit has been increased annually as a 1.5 percent cost of living adjustment (COLA) since July 2003 when the law changed. The annual increase is cumulative and continues to accrue after the member's retirement.

Tier 2 member benefits are covered by KRS 78.5536. Tier 3 members are not covered by the same provisions.

C. Cost of Living Adjustments - Tier 1

The 1996 General Assembly enacted an automatic cost of living adjustment (COLA) provision for all recipients of Kentucky Retirement Systems benefits. During the 2008 Special Session, the General Assembly determined that each July beginning in 2009, retirees who have been receiving a retirement allowance for at least 12 months will receive an automatic COLA of 1.5 percent. The COLA is not a guaranteed benefit. If a retiree has been receiving a benefit for less than 12 months, and a COLA is provided, it will be prorated based on the number of months the recipient has been receiving a benefit.

D. Cost of Living Adjustments - Tier 2 and Tier 3

No COLA is given unless authorized by the legislature with specific criteria. To this point, no COLA has been authorized by the legislature for Tier 2 or Tier 3 members.

E. Death Benefit

If a retired member is receiving a monthly benefit based on at least 48 months of service credit, KRS will pay a \$5,000 death benefit payment to the beneficiary designated by the member specifically for this benefit. Members with multiple accounts are entitled to only one death benefit.

POWELL COUNTY
 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
 December 31, 2023
 (Continued)

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

Kentucky Retirement System Annual Financial Report and Proportionate Share Audit Report

Kentucky Retirement System issues a publicly available annual financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information on CERS. This report may be obtained by writing the Kentucky Retirement Systems, 1260 Louisville Road, Frankfort, KY 40601-6124, or by telephone at (502) 564-4646.

Kentucky Retirement System 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 Powell County Sheriff maintained deposits of public funds with federally insured banking institutions as required by the Department for Local Government's (DLG's) *County Budget Preparation and State Local Finance Officer Policy Manual*. The DLG 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 Powell County Sheriff does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk, but rather follows the requirements of the DLG's *County Budget Preparation and State Local Finance Officer Policy Manual*. As of December 31, 2023, all deposits were covered by FDIC insurance or a properly executed collateral security agreement.

Note 4. United States Forest Service Agreement

The Powell County Sheriff's Office received \$4,000 from the United States Forest Service for patrolling. This was a reimbursement for payroll of officers patrolling the Daniel Boone National Forest.

Note 5. Short-term Debt

A. Direct Borrowing - State Advancement

The Powell County Sheriff borrowed a state advancement of funds in the amount of \$21,115 to defray the expenses of the office for the calendar year 2023, in accordance with KRS 64.140. State advancements must be paid in full from the fee account in which they are received. The loan was repaid on December 28, 2023.

POWELL COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
December 31, 2023
(Continued)

Note 5. Short-term Debt (Continued)

B. Changes in Short-term Debt

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance
State Advancement	\$	\$ 21,115	\$ 21,115	\$
Total Short-term Debt	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0

Note 6. Crime Stoppers In Schools Account

Crime Stoppers in Schools is a school-supported program to decrease crime and increase pride within the school and local community by rewarding valid sharing of information regarding criminal activity. The Powell County Sheriff's Department, Powell County Schools, and Whitaker Bank of Powell County sponsor the program. The beginning balance was \$195. There were no receipts or disbursements for calendar year 2023. The balance as of December 31, 2023, was \$195.

Note 7. Asset Forfeiture Accounts

A. Federal Asset Forfeiture

The office of the sheriff received monies from federal agencies for funds recovered in drug related cases. The account had a beginning balance of \$186. There were no receipts or disbursements for calendar year 2023. The balance as of December 31, 2023, was \$186.

B. Non-Federal Asset Forfeiture

The office of the sheriff received monies from the local and state agencies for funds recovered in drug related cases. The account had a beginning balance of \$1,779, receipts of \$7,537, and disbursements of \$1,330. The balance as of December 31, 2023, was \$7,986.

Note 8. Related Party Transaction

The sheriff's office does business with a local garage and repair shop. The owner of this repair shop works as a special deputy for the sheriff's office. The total amount paid to this repair shop during 2023 was \$3,997.

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REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND
ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL
STATEMENT 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
Statement Performed In Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards*

Independent Auditor's Report

The Honorable Eddie Barnes, Powell County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Danny Rogers, Powell County Sheriff
Members of the Powell 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, Disbursements, and Excess Fees - Regulatory Basis of the Powell County Sheriff for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statement and have issued our report thereon dated February 10, 2025. The Powell County Sheriff's financial statement is 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 statement, we considered the Powell County Sheriff's internal 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 statement, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Powell County Sheriff's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Powell County Sheriff's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses and another deficiency that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

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 a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statement will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. We consider the deficiencies described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses as items 2023-001, 2023-002, and 2023-003 to be material weaknesses.



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

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting (Continued)

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. We consider the deficiency described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses as item 2023-004 to be a significant deficiency.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Powell County Sheriff's financial statement is 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 instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses as items 2023-002, 2023-003, 2023-004, and 2023-005.

Views of Responsible Official and Planned Corrective Action

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Powell County Sheriff's response to the findings identified in our audit and described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses. The Powell County Sheriff's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statement and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

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

February 10, 2025

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

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POWELL COUNTY
DANNY ROGERS, SHERIFF
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

For The Year Ended December 31, 2023

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS:

2023-001 The 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 2022-001. The sheriff's office does not have adequate segregation of duties. The sheriff's bookkeeper collects payments from customers, prepares deposits, writes checks, posts transactions to the receipt's ledger, posts checks to the disbursement's ledger, and prepares monthly and quarterly reports. The sheriff or another employee did not document oversight of any of these activities.

The sheriff indicated this was caused by a limited budget, which restricts the number of employees the sheriff can hire or delegate duties to. A lack of oversight could result in the undetected misappropriation of assets and inaccurate financial reporting to external agencies, such as the Department for Local Government.

KRS 46.010(2) requires, "each county treasurer, and each county officer who receives or disburses state funds, to keep an accurate account of receipts and disbursements, showing a daily balance of receipts and disbursements." KRS 46.010(3) requires, "all county officers handling state funds, other than taxes, to make an annual report to the Department for Local Government showing receipts and disbursements, and to make other financial statements as the Department for Local Government requires." The segregation of duties is a basic internal control necessary to ensure the accuracy and reliability of financial reports.

We recommend the sheriff separate the duties involved in receiving cash, preparing deposits, posting to ledgers, preparing monthly bank reconciliations, and comparing financial reports to ledgers. If this is not feasible, due to a limited budget, cross-checking procedures could be implemented and documented by the individual performing the procedure.

Sheriff's Response: I disagree that myself, the sheriff was not involved in the daily financial activities of his office. Someone could not make that assumption only by being here a couple of times a year. I do discuss daily activities with my staff however it may not be documented by handwriting but I am involved in my office and the activities. I not only work the road but I do help in the office taking payments and preparing receipts for fees and property taxes.

At what point would auditors consider me involved in my office daily?

**We are a small office and the daily duties are shared.*

**We will try to present final settlements to the fiscal court in a more timely manner.*

**All quarterly reports have been forwarded to DLG.*

**Some of the accounts now have been closed out and any remaining balances have been paid over to the fiscal court.*

We would love to hire more employees however they do not stay here due to not being able to compete with other counties salaries and their benefits.

**I go over the bank statements along with both clerks each month when accounts are reconciled dated and initialed by myself and both clerks if able.*

Auditor's Reply: As noted, the oversight and checks and balances the sheriff performs are not documented; therefore, auditors were unable to verify that oversight had occurred.

POWELL COUNTY
DANNY ROGERS, SHERIFF
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES
For The Year Ended December 31, 2023
(Continued)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS: (Continued)

2023-002 The Sheriff Has Not Settled Prior Year Accounts

This is a repeat finding and was included in the prior year audit report as finding 2022-002. Per prior year audits 2012 through 2018 and 2021, \$14,574 is owed to the fiscal court as additional excess fees due to disallowed disbursements in the prior periods as noted in the following table:

<u>Amount Due Personally From Sheriff:</u>		
2021 Fee Audit	\$ 441	Disallowed Disbursements
2021 Fee Audit	3,535	Salary Overpayment
2018 Fee Audit	660	Disallowed Disbursements
2017 Fee Audit	1,708	Disallowed Disbursements
2016 Fee Audit	1,154	Disallowed Disbursements
2015 Fee Audit	885	Disallowed Disbursements
2014 Fee Audit	4,075	Disallowed Disbursements
2013 Fee Audit	419	Disallowed Disbursements
2013 Fee Audit	750	Salary Overpayment
2012 Fee Audit	947	Disallowed Disbursements
Total	<u>\$ 14,574</u>	

The sheriff did not have adequate controls in place to ensure receivables and liabilities for old accounts were settled correctly and timely. Funds totaling \$14,574 are due from the sheriff to the fiscal court as additional excess fees. In addition to being a violation of statute, failure to settle and close accounts for extended periods of time increases the risk of theft, loss, or misappropriation of funds.

KRS 134.192(1) states, “[e]ach sheriff shall annually settle his or her accounts with the department, the county, and any district for which the sheriff collects taxes on or before September 1 of each year.”

We recommend the sheriff consult with the fiscal court and the county attorney to determine how to settle the \$14,574 in additional excess fees due for prior periods resulting from disallowed disbursements in those periods. This finding is being referred to the Powell County Attorney for further review and collection under KRS 64.820.

Sheriff's Response: Some accounts have been closed and remaining balances were paid over to fiscal court. We are continuing to work on closing the remaining accounts.

Disallowed disbursements have been addressed and my comments remain the same.

**Candy-as addressed many times in prior audits candy was used throughout the year for incentives for school resource, other public services/activities that it was used for and all not used for personal use it was all used for things involving public/community. I know sometimes we used peppermint in the courtroom if needed or if left over it was on the counter.*

**Greeting cards-I don't remember the actual receipts it's been several years, however, that was a rare instance due to the fact that [office employee names redacted] always personally provide those and not sure of the reason it was on that particular receipt. Once again any and all cards sent from entire sheriff's department not for personal use and were used for mostly sympathy for people of our community or other local government agencies during their loss.*

POWELL COUNTY
 DANNY ROGERS, SHERIFF
 SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2023
 (Continued)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS: (Continued)

2023-002 The Sheriff Has Not Settled Prior Year Accounts (Continued)

**Knives are equipment and a useful tool. These are good to cut seat belts. These were purchased as equipment and deputy use them on person and are part of their uniform.*

Please explain why a knife purchase used on person and on equipment is a disallowed item?

So I do not agree with these items being disallowed.

We are working on resolving these issues.

Auditor's Reply: Regarding disallowed disbursements, as noted in Funk v. Milliken, 317 S. W. 2d 499 (Ky. 1958), Kentucky's highest court ruled that county fee officials' expenditures of public funds will be allowed only if they are necessary, adequately documented, reasonable in nature, beneficial to the public, and not primarily personal in nature. The items noted did not meet the criteria that has been detailed in audit reports for the periods in which disallowed disbursements were noted.

2023-003 The Sheriff's Fourth Quarter Report Was Materially Misstated

This is a repeat finding and was included in the prior year audit report as finding 2022-003. The sheriff's fourth quarter financial report submitted to the Department for Local Government (DLG) was materially inaccurate reflecting posting discrepancies that required multiple audit adjustments. Adjustments of \$69,729 were made to the receipts and \$126,921 to the disbursements.

The sheriff did not have procedures in place to ensure accurate posting on the fourth quarter financial report. Failure to submit required reports prevents proper oversight by DLG. Inaccurate posting increases the risk of uncorrected errors, theft, loss, or misappropriated assets. Material audit reclassifications and adjustments were necessary to accurately reflect the activity of the sheriff's office. As a result, the sheriff's quarterly report submitted to DLG was inaccurate and required material adjustments to be made to the sheriff's fourth quarter report.

KRS 68.210 gives the State Local Finance Officer the authority to prescribe a uniform system of accounts. Pursuant to KRS 68.210, the State Local Finance Officer has prescribed minimum accounting and reporting standards in DLG's *County Budget Preparation and State Local Finance Officer Policy Manual*. The manual requires the sheriff to prepare a quarterly report which includes total receipts and total disbursements on a cash basis per line-item category, and to submit that report to the State Local Finance Officer by the 30th day following the close of each quarter. In addition, good internal control procedures would detect errors in daily posting to ledgers, reducing the risk of misappropriation and inaccurate financial reporting.

We recommend the sheriff ensure that he is complying with applicable statutes and DLG's manual. We also recommend the sheriff ensure that underlying accounting records, such as his receipts and disbursements ledgers, reconcile with his financial reports.

Sheriff's Response: This office has resolved this issue and continues to work on resolving these issues.

POWELL COUNTY
 DANNY ROGERS, SHERIFF
 SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2023
 (Continued)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS: (Continued)

2023-004 The Sheriff Does Not Have Adequate Controls In Place Over Fuel Purchases

This is a repeat finding and was included in the prior year audit report as finding 2022-004. The sheriff's office does not have adequate controls over fuel purchases. The sheriff utilizes a third-party fuel purchasing system but does not follow the procedures for fuel purchases the system is designed to monitor. The sheriff receives a monthly invoice from its fuel vendor. These invoices list each person purchasing fuel along with the vehicle mileage, quantity, and price. We noted the following issues regarding fuel purchases:

- Fuel card users routinely did not list the correct vehicle mileage when purchasing fuel.
- Periodic use of fuel cards by a special deputy (special deputies are sworn officers of the sheriff's office but are not employees and do not receive wages from the sheriff's office). The sheriff's office does not have a policy regarding fuel and vehicle use by special deputies.

The sheriff did not have controls in place to adequately monitor fuel purchases. Besides payroll expenses, fuel purchases are the largest single expense for the sheriff's office. Without proper documentation of these fuel purchases by vehicle unit number and by the assigned deputy, the risk of fuel being purchased for personal use or by unauthorized users greatly increases.

KRS 46.010(2) requires, "each county treasurer, and each county officer who receives or disburses state funds, to keep an accurate account of receipts and disbursements, showing a daily balance of receipts and disbursements." KRS 46.010(3) requires, "all county officers handling state funds, other than taxes, to make an annual report to the Department for Local Government showing receipts and disbursements, and to make other financial statements as the Department for Local Government requires." Having adequate internal controls in place, over fuel purchases, are necessary to ensure the accuracy and reliability of financial reports.

Internal controls over fuel purchases require the sheriff to ensure that adequate documentation is maintained to support the disbursement, which includes the odometer readings for all vehicles and the person purchasing the fuel. In addition, the sheriff should have a policy regarding fuel purchases by special deputies or other non-employees. In very rare instances, this might be acceptable, but the sheriff should outline the specific situations in which this would be necessary.

We recommend the sheriff properly use this third-party fuel purchasing system and ensure that all fuel purchases are properly supported by proper documentation, which includes accurate odometer readings and designation of proper vehicle unit numbers. We also recommend the sheriff review and reconcile the third-party fuel reports monthly to note any employees not following proper fuel purchase procedures. Furthermore, we recommend the sheriff establish policies and procedures to address fuel card use by special deputies.

Sheriff's Response: Fuel purchases are reviewed by sheriff. Fuel is one of the largest expenses of the sheriff's office. Dispatch logs verify the activity of officers on daily basis. Special deputies do have fuel cards and these officers are necessary in small counties to help with daily operations, such as serving papers, leading funerals and transports. There are daily circumstances that arise where officers may use another vehicle and they use their card and the mileage of the vehicle they are using at the time.

Everyone should be using correct mileage and card when purchasing fuel.

POWELL COUNTY
DANNY ROGERS, SHERIFF
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES
For The Year Ended December 31, 2023
(Continued)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS: (Continued)

2023-005 The Sheriff Has Not Resolved A Possible Conflict Of Interest

This is a repeat finding and was included in the prior year's audit report as finding 2022-005. An employee of the sheriff's office is also serving as a magistrate of the fiscal court, which may constitute a conflict of interest.

On June 5, 2012, the sheriff hired an individual to serve as a deputy sheriff for the sheriff's office. On January 1, 2015, this person was elected to serve as a magistrate of the fiscal court, an incompatible office. The deputy sheriff did not vacate the first office of employment upon being elected to serve on the fiscal court. The employee chose to accept both positions and did not consult with the county attorney or attorney general regarding the potential conflict of interest in doing so. When this person accepted an appointment as a deputy sheriff and then accepted the office of magistrate, his position of deputy sheriff could be vacated as a matter of law.

Per the Attorney General's *Conflicts of Interest and Incompatible Offices Manual*, a county officer may not serve as a county employee. KRS 61.080(2) makes the positions of magistrate (justice of the peace) and deputy sheriff incompatible. Also, KRS 61.090 states, "[t]he acceptance by one (1) in office of another office or employment incompatible with the one (1) he holds shall operate to vacate the first." In addition, this may constitute a common law incompatibility of office because the office of deputy sheriff as an employee of the county is subordinate to the position of magistrate. OAG 83-252; *Hermann v. Lampe*, 194 S.W. 122 (Ky. 1917).

Pursuant to KRS 15.025, the attorney general of Kentucky provides legal opinions to public officials to assist them in the performance of their duties. These opinions do not have the force of law but are persuasive and public officials are expected to follow them. On December 30, 2020, Attorney General Daniel Cameron issued OAG 20-19 as requested by Powell County Attorney regarding this specific issue. The opinion states "Because the offices of certified court security officer and county magistrate are functionally incompatible, an individual may not simultaneously hold both positions."

We recommend the sheriff follow the guidance provided in OAG 20-19 and remedy this conflict of interest immediately.

Sheriff's Response: This comment needs to be removed due to the fact that our judge executive and county attorney received a telephone call regarding this issue from the attorney general's office several months ago and stated this was not a conflict of interest and case was closed. I have asked the county attorney and judge executive for a copy of any documentation to support this comment.

Auditor's Reply: As noted, the Powell County Attorney did request an opinion from the Attorney General and this opinion was issued on December 20, 2020. The opinion stated the two offices are "functionally incompatible, an individual may not simultaneously hold both positions." No further communication with the OAG or County Attorney was provided expressing an opposing opinion.