

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE  
ROWAN 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 Harry Clark, Rowan County Judge/Executive  
The Honorable Matt Sparks, Rowan County Sheriff  
Members of the Rowan 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 Rowan County, Kentucky, for the year ended December 31, 2024, 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 Rowan County Sheriff 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 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 Rowan 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 Rowan 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 Harry Clark, Rowan County Judge/Executive  
The Honorable Matt Sparks, Rowan County Sheriff  
Members of the Rowan 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 Rowan 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 Rowan 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 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 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 Rowan 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 Rowan County Sheriff's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

The Honorable Harry Clark, Rowan County Judge/Executive  
The Honorable Matt Sparks, Rowan County Sheriff  
Members of the Rowan 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 18, 2026, on our consideration of the Rowan 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 Rowan 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 finding:

2024-001 The Sheriff Did Not Repay The State Advancement Timely

Respectfully submitted,



Allison Ball  
Auditor of Public Accounts  
Frankfort, KY

February 18, 2026

ROWAN COUNTY  
MATT SPARKS, SHERIFF  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS

For The Year Ended December 31, 2024

Receipts

State - Kentucky Law Enforcement Foundation Program Fund (KLEFPF)	\$	57,951
State Fees For Services:		
Finance and Administration Cabinet	\$	210,413
Transporting Prisoners		18,415
Sheriff Security Service		14,927
		243,755
Circuit Court Clerk:		
Fines and Fees Collected		1,573
Fiscal Court		177,262
County Clerk - Delinquent Taxes		25,225
Commission On Taxes Collected		579,731
Fees Collected For Services:		
Auto Inspections		31,997
Accident and Police Reports		1,255
Serving Papers		50,467
Carry Concealed Deadly Weapon Permits		3,740
		87,459
Other:		
Add-On Fees		32,350
Miscellaneous		566
Telecommunication Tax		5,349
School Resource Officer		83,005
Food & Drink- Jurors		54
		121,324
Interest Earned		1,076
Borrowed Money:		
State Advancement		275,000
		275,000
Total Receipts		1,570,356

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

ROWAN COUNTY  
MATT SPARKS, SHERIFF  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS  
For The Year Ended December 31, 2024  
(Continued)

Disbursements

Operating Disbursements and Capital Outlay:

Personnel Services-		
Deputies' Salaries	\$	514,572
Part-Time Salaries		208,627
Other Salaries		89,780
Overtime		4,252
Employee Benefits-		
Employer's Share Social Security		72,887
Contracted Services-		
Contracted Services		12,524
Advertising		173
Vehicle Maintenance and Repairs		94,836
Deputy Testing/ Training		970
Materials and Supplies-		
Office Materials and Supplies		9,478
Uniforms		10,663
Other Charges-		
Conventions and Travel		4,989
Dues		980
Postage		6,544
Bond		1,684
Paper Service to Fiscal Court		7,200
Miscellaneous		192
Computer Software		7,168
Food/ Drink for Jurors		54
Cell Phone/ Radio/ Pager		8,694
Deputy Expense Prisoner Transport		1,159
Equipment		35,712
Tow/ Impound		916
K-9 Unit (Drug Dog)		496
		\$1,094,550

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

ROWAN COUNTY  
MATT SPARKS, SHERIFF  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS  
For The Year Ended December 31, 2024  
(Continued)

Disbursements (Continued)

Debt Service:		
State Advancement	\$	275,000
Vehicles		27,565
		<u>\$ 302,565</u>
Total Disbursements		<u>\$ 1,397,115</u>
Net Receipts		173,241
Less: Statutory Maximum		<u>115,825</u>
Excess Fees		57,416
Less: Training Incentive Benefit		<u>5,153</u>
Excess Fees Due County for 2024		52,263
Payment to Fiscal Court - February 7, 2025		<u>48,793</u>
Balance Due Fiscal Court at Completion of Audit		<u><u>\$ 3,470</u></u>

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

ROWAN COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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. The Manual includes the standardized format 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) as of December 31 that may be included in the excess fees calculation:

- 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 and payroll
- Payments due to vendors for goods or services provided in 2024

C. Measurement Focus and Excess Fees

The measurement focus of a fee official’s financial statement is upon current financial resources. A sheriff must remit to the fiscal court any income of his or her office, including the income from investments, that exceeds the sum of his or her maximum salary as permitted by the Constitution and other reasonable expenses, including compensation of deputies and assistants, when making his or her annual settlement. (KRS 134.192(12)). This settlement is due to the fiscal court by March 15 of each year. (KRS 134.192(11)). An outgoing sheriff shall 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). The fiscal court shall collect any amount due from the sheriff as determined by the audit. (KRS 64.820).

D. 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.

ROWAN COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
December 31, 2024  
(Continued)

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

E. 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

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 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.

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>.

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.

ROWAN COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
December 31, 2024  
(Continued)

Note 3. Deposits

The Rowan 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 Rowan 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. Short-term Debt

The Rowan County Sheriff's Office was committed to the following short-term debt as of December 31, 2024. The Rowan County Sheriff repaid the state advancement on January 27, 2025.

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance
State Advancement	\$	\$ 275,000	\$	\$ 275,000
Total Short-term Debt	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0

Note 5. Long-Term Debt

A. Direct Borrowings

1. Vehicles

On September 7, 2022, a loan in the amount of \$51,316 was issued for the purpose of purchasing three vehicles for the sheriff's office. Principal and interest, which was calculated at a fixed rate of 4.75 percent was due on the 7th of each month, beginning October 7, 2022. The loan was secured by a first security interest in the vehicles being purchased. In the event of default, the vehicles will be repossessed by the financial institution. During the year, the sheriff paid \$9,877 in principal on the note. As of December 31, 2024, the balance of this note was \$29,741. Future principal and interest payments are as follows:

Calendar Year Ended December 31	Principal	Interest
2025	\$ 10,363	\$ 1,205
2026	10,873	695
2027	8,505	171
Totals	\$ 29,741	\$ 2,071

ROWAN COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
December 31, 2024  
(Continued)

Note 5. Long-Term Debt (Continued)

A. Direct Borrowings (Continued)

2. Vehicle

On November 14, 2023, a loan in the amount of \$33,134 was issued for the purpose of purchasing a vehicle for the sheriff's office. Principal and interest, which was calculated at a fixed rate of 6.25 percent was due on the 2nd of each month, beginning December 2, 2023. The loan was secured by a first security interest in the vehicle being purchased. In the event of default, the vehicle will be repossessed by the financial institution. During the year, the sheriff paid \$5,847 in principal on the note. As of December 31, 2024, the balance of this note was \$26,815. Future principal and interest payments are as follows:

Calendar Year Ended December 31	Principal	Interest
2025	\$ 6,229	\$ 1,520
2026	6,635	1,114
2027	7,068	681
2028	6,883	220
Totals	<u>\$ 26,815</u>	<u>\$ 3,535</u>

3. Vehicle

On November 14, 2023, a loan in the amount of \$35,275 was issued for the purpose of purchasing a vehicle for the sheriff's office. Principal and interest, which was calculated at a fixed rate of 6.25 percent was due on the 14th of each month, beginning December 14, 2023. The loan was secured by a first security interest in the vehicle being purchased. In the event of default, the vehicle will be repossessed by the financial institution. During the year, the sheriff paid \$6,224 in principal on the note. As of December 31, 2024, the balance of this note was \$28,544. Future principal and interest payments are as follows:

Calendar Year Ended December 31	Principal	Interest
2025	\$ 6,630	\$ 1,618
2026	7,063	1,186
2027	7,524	725
2028	7,327	234
Totals	<u>\$ 28,544</u>	<u>\$ 3,763</u>

ROWAN COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
December 31, 2024  
(Continued)

Note 5. Long-Term Debt (Continued)

B. Changes In Long-term Debt

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance	Due Within One Year
Direct Borrowings	\$ 107,048	\$	\$ 21,948	\$ 85,100	\$ 23,222
Total Long-term Debt	<u>\$ 107,048</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 21,948</u>	<u>\$ 85,100</u>	<u>\$ 23,222</u>

C. Aggregate Debt Schedules

The amounts of required principal and interest payments on long-term obligations as of December 31, 2024:

Calendar Year Ended December 31	Direct Borrowings	
	Principal	Interest
2025	\$ 23,222	\$ 4,343
2026	24,571	2,995
2027	23,097	1,577
2028	<u>14,210</u>	<u>454</u>
Totals	<u>\$ 85,100</u>	<u>\$ 9,369</u>

Note 6. Commitments: - Lease Agreement

The Rowan 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
Postage Meter	4/24/23	60 months	Quarterly	6/30/2028	\$ 189	\$ 2,649

Note 7. Kentucky Agency For Substance Abuse Policy (KY-ASAP) Local Funds

The Rowan County Sheriff's Office maintains an account for the purpose of receiving funds awarded from the Rowan County Local KY-ASAP Board. The funds are to be used for specific drug enforcement activities. On January 1, 2024, the balance was \$3,040. There were no receipts or disbursements in the account during the year, leaving the balance at \$3,040 as of December 31, 2024.

Note 8. Donation Account

The Rowan County Sheriff's Office maintains an account for donations made to help with office operations. On January 1, 2024, the balance was \$467. During the calendar year 2024, there were no receipts. There were \$202 in disbursements in the account during the year. The balance was \$265 as of December 31, 2024.

ROWAN COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
December 31, 2024  
(Continued)

Note 9. Asset Seizure Account

The Rowan County Sheriff's Office maintains an account for the purpose of retaining assets seized during the course of criminal investigations. On January 1, 2024, the balance was \$19,060. During calendar year 2024, the account received seizures of \$746 and interest of \$13 and expended \$247. The balance was \$19,572 as of December 31, 2024.

Note 10. Asset Forfeiture Account

The Rowan County Sheriff's Office maintains an account for the purpose of receiving assets forfeited as a result of drug related legal proceedings. On January 1, 2024, the balance was \$64,375. During calendar year 2024, the account received forfeitures of \$976 and interest of \$38. Per court orders, the account remitted \$60 to proper authorities, and expended \$14,500 for direct law enforcement purposes. The balance was \$50,829 as of December 31, 2024.

Note 11. Sheriff's Project Fund

The Rowan County Sheriff's Office maintains an account funded by the fiscal court to be used to combat the opioid and med epidemic and other drug abuse problems. On January 1, 2024, the balance was \$26,419. There were no receipts during the year. Funds totaling \$3,689 were expended for drug enforcement purposes. The balance was \$22,730 as of December 31, 2024.

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 Harry Clark, Rowan County Judge/Executive  
The Honorable Matt Sparks, Rowan County Sheriff  
Members of the Rowan 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 Rowan County Sheriff for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statement and have issued our report thereon dated February 18, 2026. The Rowan 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 Rowan 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 Rowan County Sheriff's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Rowan 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 a certain deficiency in internal control that we consider to be a material weakness.

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 deficiency described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses as item 2024-001 to be a material weakness.



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 Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Rowan 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 an instance of noncompliance or other matter that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which is described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses as item 2024-001.

**Views of Responsible Official and Planned Corrective Action**

*Government Auditing Standards* require the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Rowan County Sheriff's response to the finding identified in our audit and described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses. The Rowan 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 18, 2026

## SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

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ROWAN COUNTY  
MATT SPARKS, SHERIFF  
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

For The Year Ended December 31, 2024

2024-001 The Sheriff Did Not Repay The State Advancement Timely

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The \$275,000 state advancement borrowed by the sheriff during the calendar year was not repaid by January 15 of the year following the year in which the advancement was made as required by 200 KAR 38:050.

The sheriff did not implement proper internal controls to ensure that the state advancement was repaid timely. Failure to repay the state advancement timely resulted in a noncompliance and could affect the sheriff's ability to receive future state advancements.

200 KAR 38:050 states, "the sheriff shall, on or before January 15 of the year following the year in which the advancements are made, forward a check made payable to the Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Kentucky in the amount of the unpaid balance."

To comply with 200 KAR 38:050, we recommend the sheriff implement controls to ensure state advances are repaid by January 15 of the year following the year in which the advancement was made.

*Sheriff's Response: We believed we had to re-pay it prior to the state advancement and didn't realize it had to be paid by 1/15. We will make this correction in the future.*