

**REPORT OF THE AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES ENGAGEMENT
OF THE
RUSSELL COUNTY SHERIFF**

**For The Period
January 1, 2024 Through December 31, 2024**



**ALLISON BALL
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
auditor.ky.gov**

**209 SAINT CLAIR STREET
FRANKFORT, KY 40601-1817
TELEPHONE (502) 564-5841
FACSIMILE (502) 564-2912**



ALLISON BALL
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

SUMMARY OF PROCEDURES AND FINDINGS

**AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES OF THE
RUSSELL COUNTY SHERIFF**

For The Period January 1, 2024 Through December 31, 2024

The Russell County Sheriff applied for and received approval from the Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) to obtain an Agreed-Upon Procedures (AUP) engagement for calendar year 2024 in accordance with KRS 43.070(1)(c). AUP reports present the procedures performed and the results of those procedures, called findings. The summary below presents those findings for which an exception (an instance of noncompliance with the criteria) was identified during the AUP engagement.

During the AUP engagement of the Russell County Sheriff, the following exceptions were noted:

- When comparing the sheriff's fourth quarter financial statement to the sheriff's receipts ledger and disbursements ledger, a variance of \$760,504 was noted for disbursements.
- Based on the total receipts and disbursements from the sheriff's fourth quarter report, excess fees due to the fiscal court were recalculated and there are \$760,504 excess fees due to the fiscal court.

Findings related to procedures for which there were no exceptions identified, and official responses to exceptions are not included in the summary above, but can be found in the full report. A copy of this report is available on the Auditor of Public Accounts' website at auditor.ky.gov.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Ball
Auditor of Public Accounts
Frankfort, KY

May 28, 2025



THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY



ALLISON BALL
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Independent Accountant's Report
On Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures

The Honorable Randy Marcum, Russell County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Derek Polston, Russell County Sheriff
Members of the Russell County Fiscal Court

We have performed the procedures enumerated below, which were agreed to by the Russell County Sheriff, related to the sheriff's compliance with the Department for Local Government's *County Budget Preparation and State Local Finance Officer Policy Manual* regarding the accountability for receipts and disbursements, excess fees, recordkeeping, and leases, contracts, and liabilities for the period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. An agreed-upon procedures engagement involves the APA performing specific procedures that the sheriff has agreed to and acknowledged to be appropriate for the intended purpose of the engagement and reporting on findings based on the procedures performed. The Russell County Sheriff is responsible for compliance with these requirements. The sufficiency of these procedures is solely the responsibility of those parties specified in this report. Consequently, we make no representations regarding the sufficiency of the procedures enumerated below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose. The Russell County Sheriff has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of determining the sheriff's compliance with the Department for Local Government's *County Budget Preparation and State Local Finance Officer Policy Manual* regarding the accountability for receipts and disbursements, excess fees, recordkeeping, and leases, contracts, and liabilities. The purpose of the engagement is to assist users in determining whether the sheriff complied with the specified requirements. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of this report and may not meet the needs of all users of this report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

Our procedures and findings are as follows:

1. Compliance Procedure -

Determine if the sheriff has a fourth quarter financial statement, a receipts ledger, and a disbursements ledger.

Finding -

No exceptions were found as a result of applying the procedure.

2. Procedure -

Determine that the sheriff's fourth quarter financial statement agrees to the sheriff's receipts ledger and disbursements ledger. Variances in total receipts or total disbursements that exceed 1% of gross receipts or exceed \$20,000 will be reported.

Finding -

When comparing the sheriff's fourth quarter financial statement to the sheriff's receipts ledger and disbursements ledger, a variance of \$760,504 was noted for disbursements.



The Honorable Randy Marcum, Russell County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Derek Polston, Russell County Sheriff
Members of the Russell County Fiscal Court
(Continued)

2. Procedure - (Continued)

Sheriff's Response: We acknowledge the finding regarding the variance of \$760,504 in disbursements when comparing the sheriff's fourth quarter financial statement to the receipts and disbursements ledgers. Upon review, it was determined that this variance was the result of a clerical error in the fourth quarter excel spreadsheet. Specifically, the spreadsheet did not correctly pull down the formulas to the final row, which caused the bottom-line total for disbursements to be understated. We have since corrected the spreadsheet to ensure all totals reflect the complete and accurate data from the disbursement's ledger. Moving forward, we will implement an additional review process prior to finalizing quarterly financial statements to verify that all spreadsheet formulas are properly applied, and totals are accurate.

3. Compliance Procedure -

Compare the sheriff's operating disbursements (fourth quarter or settlement amounts) to the budget approved by the fiscal court to determine if the sheriff overspent the budget. Overages that exceed 1% of gross receipts or exceed \$20,000 will be reported.

Finding -

No exceptions were found as a result of applying the procedure.

4. Compliance Procedure -

Determine if the sheriff provided a settlement of excess fees to fiscal court by March 15, 2025 and determine if excess fees were remitted at that time.

Finding -

No exceptions were found as a result of applying the procedure. The sheriff paid excess fees of \$42,080.

5. Procedure -

Obtain a list of accounts prepared by the sheriff that are applicable to the current calendar year.

Finding -

No exceptions were found as a result of applying the procedure. The sheriff maintains fee, miscellaneous, forfeiture, and grants accounts. During calendar year 2024, the sheriff closed the donations account.

6. Compliance Procedure -

Determine if the sheriff reconciles all bank accounts monthly. Re-perform the bank reconciliations for all accounts as of December 31, 2024, to determine the reconciled ending balances and if bank reconciliations are accurate.

Finding -

No exceptions were found as a result of applying the procedure. The December 31, 2024 bank reconciliations were accurate.

The Honorable Randy Marcum, Russell County Judge/Executive
 The Honorable Derek Polston, Russell County Sheriff
 Members of the Russell County Fiscal Court
 (Continued)

6. Compliance Procedure - (Continued)

The balances of the sheriff's accounts are:

Account Name:	Reconciled Account Balance:
Fee Account	\$ 1
Miscellaneous Account	\$ 3,616
Forfeiture Account	\$ 22,979
Grants Account	\$ 0

7. Compliance Procedure -

Determine if receipts are properly accounted for by comparing batched receipts to daily check-out sheets, deposit tickets, receipts ledger, and bank statements for a randomly selected week.

Finding -

No exceptions were found as a result of applying the procedure.

8. Compliance Procedure -

Determine if the sheriff completed an annual asset forfeiture report. Determine if assets forfeited to the sheriff, are properly accounted for by tracing the asset to a bank deposit, receipts ledger, or asset ledger and determine if amounts due for the prosecuting attorney were remitted in accordance with KRS 218A.420.

Finding -

No exceptions were found as a result of applying the procedure.

9. Procedure -

Determine if tax commissions are properly accounted for by computing the sheriff's current calendar year tax commission. Compare amount recorded on the fourth quarter financial statement to the computation of tax commissions. Variances that exceed 1% of gross receipts or exceed \$20,000 will be reported.

Finding -

No exceptions were found as a result of applying the procedure.

10. Procedure -

Judgmentally select 15 operating disbursements from the sheriff's records and agree amounts paid to invoices or other supporting documentation and cancelled check. Determine if the disbursement is for official business. Inspect all credit card statements (if any) to determine if disbursements are for official business. Verify that any state advancement was repaid.

Finding -

No exceptions were found as a result of applying the procedure.

The Honorable Randy Marcum, Russell County Judge/Executive
 The Honorable Derek Polston, Russell County Sheriff
 Members of the Russell County Fiscal Court
 (Continued)

11. Procedure -

Determine excess fees due to the fiscal court by recalculating the difference between total receipts and total disbursements. Verify amounts paid to determine if additional excess fees are due to the fiscal court.

Finding -

Based on the total receipts and disbursements from the sheriff's fourth quarter report, excess fees due to the fiscal court were recalculated and there are \$760,504 excess fees due to the fiscal court.

Total Receipts	\$ 1,456,563
Total Disbursements	<u>653,980</u>
Excess Fees Due County for 2024	802,584
Payment to Fiscal Court	<u>42,080</u>
Balance Due Fiscal Court	<u><u>\$ 760,504</u></u>

Sheriff's Response: We acknowledge the audit finding indicating \$760,504 in excess fees due to the fiscal court based on the totals reported in the sheriff's fourth quarter financial statement. Upon investigation, we determined that this was the result of a clerical error in the excel spreadsheet used for the fourth quarter report. Specifically, the spreadsheet did not correctly pull down all disbursement totals to the bottom line, resulting in an inaccurate calculation of excess fees. This error has since been corrected, and the recalculated figures accurately reflect total receipts and disbursements. All required excess fees have been properly paid to the fiscal court, and the bank account used for the 2024 fee account currently reflects a \$0.00 balance, confirming that there are no outstanding amounts due. We regret the oversight and have implemented additional review procedures to prevent similar errors in future reports.

12. Compliance Procedure -

Verify the sheriff's maximum salary order for deputies was not overspent.

Finding -

No exceptions were found as a result of applying the procedure.

13. Compliance Procedure -

Determine whether payroll charges are properly supported by verifying that timesheets are completed, maintained, approved, and support hours paid by inspecting one pay period's timesheets for all employees. (Not applicable to fee pooling counties)

Finding -

No exceptions were found as a result of applying the procedure.

The Honorable Randy Marcum, Russell County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Derek Polston, Russell County Sheriff
Members of the Russell County Fiscal Court
(Continued)

14. Compliance Procedure -

Determine that the sheriff was paid the statutory salary as fixed by the Department for Local Government salary schedule.

Finding -

The sheriff was paid \$108,103. The statutorily required salary was \$108,103.

15. Procedure -

Scan lease agreements and service contracts and compare to actual payments. Determine if services received were appropriate, for official business, and properly authorized. Determine if liabilities requiring disclosure were properly disclosed on the fourth quarter financial statement.

Finding -

No exceptions were found as a result of applying the procedure.

16. Compliance Procedure -

Verify the sheriff is properly bonded for the period covered by the agreed upon procedures.

Finding -

No exceptions were found as a result of applying the procedure.

We were engaged by the Russell County Sheriff to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. We were not engaged to, and did not conduct an examination or review, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on compliance with specified requirements. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of the Russell County Sheriff and to meet our ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our agreed-upon procedures engagement.

The purpose of this report is to present the procedures performed and the results of those procedures and is not intended for any other purpose. This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Russell County Sheriff and the Russell County Fiscal Court, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than the specified parties.

Respectfully submitted,



Allison Ball
Auditor of Public Accounts
Frankfort, KY

May 28, 2025