



**Auditor of
Public Accounts
Allison Ball**

Whitley County Sheriff's Fee Account Audit

FRANKFORT, Ky. – State Auditor Allison Ball released the audit of the 2024 financial statement of Whitley County Sheriff William Elliotte. State law requires the auditor to annually audit the accounts of each county sheriff. In compliance with this law, the auditor issues two sheriff's reports each year: one reporting on the audit of the sheriff's tax account, and the other reporting on the audit of the fee account used to operate the office.

Auditing standards require the auditor's letter to communicate whether the financial statement presents fairly the receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the Whitley County Sheriff in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The sheriff's financial statement did not follow this format. However, the sheriff's financial statement is fairly presented in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting, which is an acceptable reporting methodology. This reporting methodology is followed for all 120 sheriff audits in Kentucky.

Finding: Lacks segregation of duties.

The Whitley County Sheriff's office did not have adequate segregation of duties. The Whitley County Sheriff's bookkeeper collected payments from customers, posted transactions to the receipt's ledger, wrote checks, posted checks to the disbursement's ledger, and prepared monthly and quarterly reports. According to the sheriff, the office had a limited number of employees that prevented an adequate segregation of duties over most accounting functions of the office. A lack of oversight could result in undetected misappropriation of assets and inaccurate financial reporting to external agencies such as the Department for Local Government.

Recommendations

We recommend the Whitley County Sheriff's Office separate the duties involved in receiving cash, preparing deposits, writing checks, posting to ledgers, and preparing monthly bank reconciliations. If this is not feasible due to a limited budget, cross checking procedures should be implemented and documented by the individual performing the procedures.

County Officials Response

Sheriff's Response: The official did not provide a response.

The sheriff's responsibilities include collecting property taxes, providing law enforcement, and performing services for the county fiscal court and courts of justice. The sheriff's office is funded through statutory commissions and fees collected in conjunction with these duties.

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

