



Auditor of Public Accounts
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Harmon Releases Audit of Former Menifee County Sheriff's Tax Settlement

FRANKFORT, Ky. – State Auditor Mike Harmon today released the audit of the sheriff's settlement-2014 taxes for former Menifee County Sheriff Rodney Coffey. 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 sheriff's settlement presents fairly the taxes charged, credited and paid in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The sheriff's settlement is prepared on the regulatory basis, which is described in the auditor's opinion letter. Regulatory basis reporting for the sheriff's settlement is an acceptable reporting methodology, and this reporting methodology is followed for all 120 sheriff settlements in Kentucky.

The sheriff's financial statement fairly presents the taxes charged, credited and paid, for the period, April 16, 2014 through December 31, 2014 in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting.

As part of the audit process, the auditor must comment on non-compliance with laws, regulations, contracts and grants. The auditor must also comment on material weaknesses involving the internal control over financial operations and reporting.

The audit contains the following comments:

The former sheriff did not make interest payments to the school and the fee account. The former sheriff did not distribute interest earned on tax collections to either the school or the fee account. The former sheriff earned \$85 of interest in his 2014 tax account. KRS 134.140(2) requires the sheriff to pay monthly "that part of the investment earnings for the month which are attributable to the investment of school taxes." According to KRS 134.140(4), the balance of

investment income should be paid to the sheriff's operating account. The sheriff should distribute the investment earnings at the same time as monthly tax collections. Based on the amount of interest earned, the former sheriff owes \$32 to the school district and \$53 to the fee account. We recommend the former sheriff pay the amount of interest due to the school and fee account.

Former Sheriff's response: No response.

The former sheriff's office lacked adequate segregation of duties. The former sheriff's office lacked adequate segregation of duties. The bookkeeper collected and deposited tax receipts, recorded all transactions, prepared the monthly report, and reconciled the bank account. By not segregating these duties, there was an increased risk of misappropriation of assets either by error or fraud. Good internal controls dictate the same employee should not handle, record, and reconcile receipts. If these duties could not be segregated, the former sheriff should have performed the following compensating controls to help offset this weakness:

- Recounted and made the daily deposits.
- Agreed daily tax collection total to the receipts ledger and deposit slip.
- Agreed monthly tax reports to the receipts ledger and disbursements ledger.
- Reviewed the monthly bank reconciliation.

Former Sheriff's response: No 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](#).

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