

**CHEROKEE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
AND INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005**

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STATE OF OKLAHOMA  
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR AND INSPECTOR

JEFF A. McMAHAN  
State Auditor and Inspector

July 20, 2006

TO THE CITIZENS OF  
CHEROKEE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

Transmitted herewith is the audit of Cherokee County, Oklahoma, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2005. A report of this type is critical in nature; however, we do not intend to imply that our audit failed to disclose commendable features in the present accounting and operating procedures of the County.

We wish to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the assistance and cooperation extended to our office during the course of our audit.

The Office of the State Auditor and Inspector is committed to serving the public interest by providing independent oversight and by issuing reports that serve as a management tool to the state to ensure a government which is accountable to the people of the State of Oklahoma.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeff A. McMahan".

JEFF A. McMAHAN  
State Auditor and Inspector

**CHEROKEE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005**

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**CHEROKEE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005**

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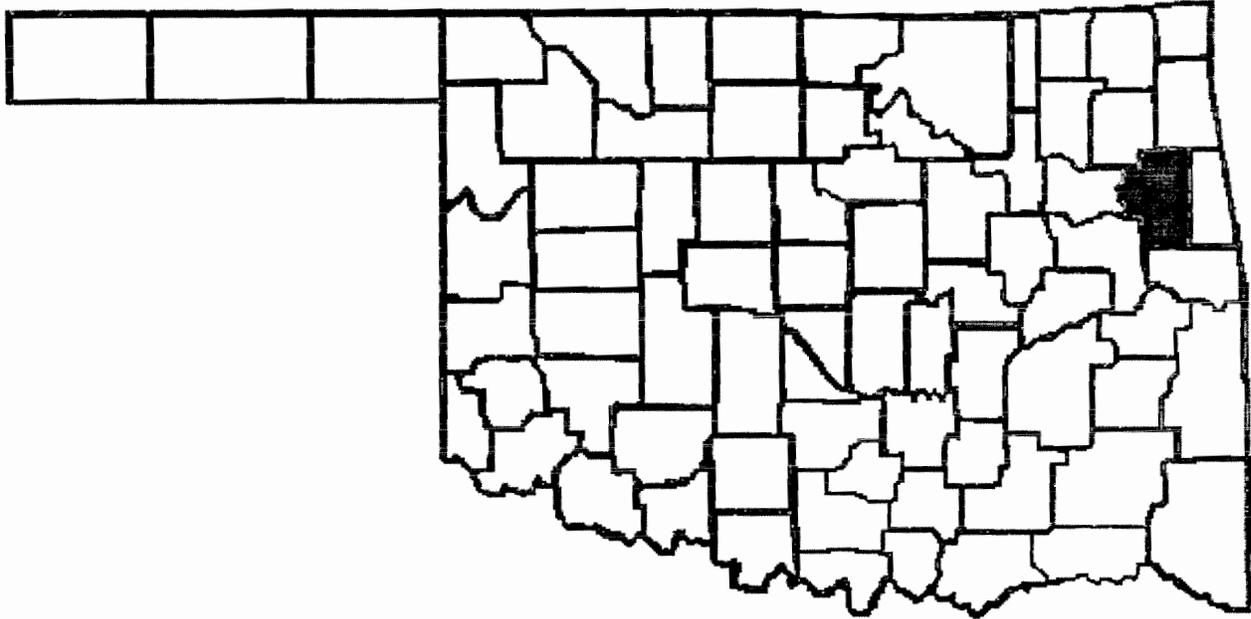
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REPORT TO THE CITIZENS  
OF  
CHEROKEE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

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Cherokee County, created at statehood and named for the Cherokee Nation, is part of the area settled by the Cherokee Indians after the Trail of Tears.

Tahlequah, the county seat, is the site of the Cherokee Heritage Center; Tsa-La-Gi Ancient Cherokee Village; and the Cherokee National Museum. Lake Tenkiller and Tenkiller Wildlife Management Area, as well as the Illinois River, provide additional recreational opportunities in Cherokee County.

Cherokee County's economy is based primarily on agriculture, but the oil industry and recreation have also been part of the building of this county's economies. The City of Tahlequah itself is within 30 minutes of five major lakes.

County Seat – Tahlequah

Area- 776.40 Square Miles

County Population – 44,106 (2004 est.)

Farms – 1,221

Land in Farms – 220,739 Acres

Primary Source: Oklahoma Almanac 2005-2006

See independent auditor's report.

**CHEROKEE COUNTY OFFICIALS  
AND RESPONSIBILITIES  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005**

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**COUNTY ASSESSOR**

Judy Rousey 7/1/04-12/31/04

(D) Hulbert

Erlene Luper 1/1/05-6/30/05

(D) Hulbert

The County Assessor has the responsibility to appraise and assess the real and personal property within the county for the purpose of ad valorem taxation. Also, the County Assessor is required to compute the ad valorem taxes due on all taxable property. The County Assessor appraises all the taxable real and personal property according to its fair cash value for which the property is actually being used as of January 1 of the taxable year at the percentages provided for in Article 10, § 8 of the Oklahoma Constitution.

The County Assessor is required to build and maintain permanent records of the taxable real property and tax exempt real property within the county. Information entered on each record includes the property's legal description, owner's name and address, and the homestead exemption status of the owner.

**COUNTY CLERK**

Marshel Bennett

(D) Tahlequah

The County Clerk serves as the register of deeds and custodian of records for the county. The County Clerk also serves as the secretary to several boards, including the Board of County Commissioners, the County Excise Board, the County Board of Equalization, and the Board of Tax Roll Corrections.

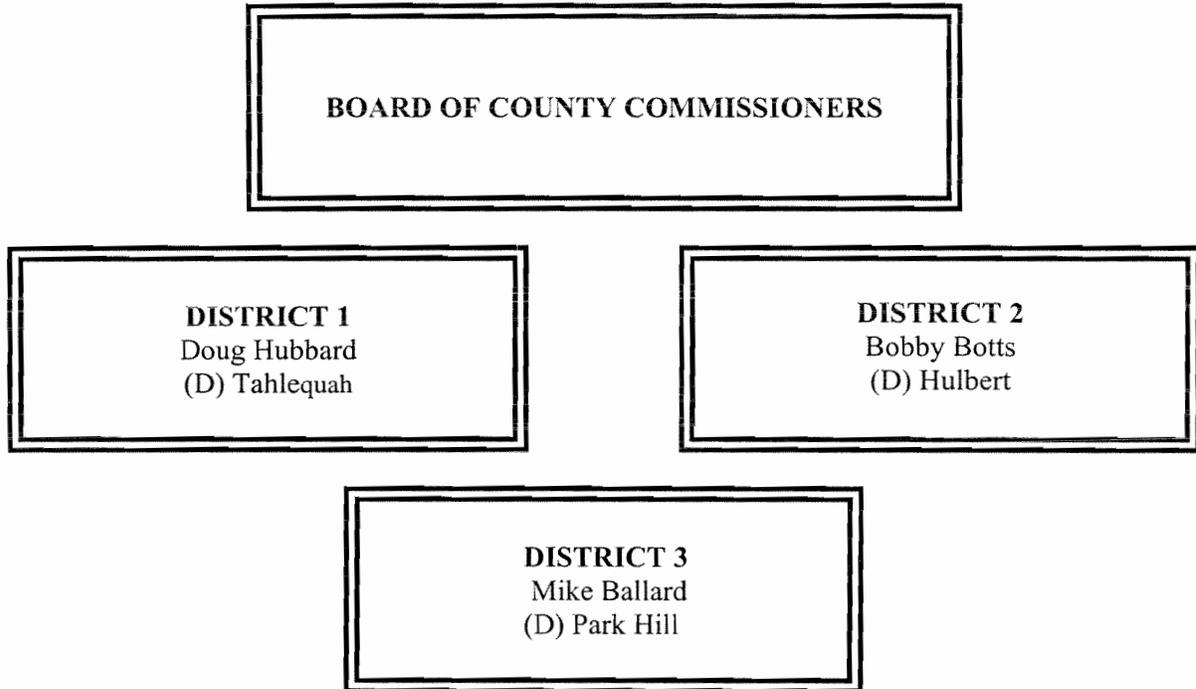
The County Clerk reviews all the claims for payment of goods and services purchased or contracted by the county, and prepares the proper warrants for payment of those goods and services and the county payroll. The County Clerk, or his or her designated deputy, serves as the purchasing agent for the county. This system is a means to ensure the public that tax dollars are being spent appropriately.

Various records within the different county offices are classified as "open records." As such, they can be reviewed and mechanically copied by the public.

See independent auditor's report.

**CHEROKEE COUNTY OFFICIALS  
AND RESPONSIBILITIES  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005**

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The Board of County Commissioners is the chief administrative body for the county. County Commissioners are also responsible for maintaining and constructing the county roads and bridges.

The Commissioners must act as a Board when entering into contracts or other agreements affecting the county's welfare. Thus, actions taken by the Board are voted on and approved by a majority of the Commissioners. The Board of County Commissioners' business meetings are open to the public.

As the county's chief administrative body, the three County Commissioners must make major financial decisions and transactions. The Board has the official duty to ensure the fiscal responsibility of the other county officers who handle county funds. The review and approval procedures empowered to the Board of County Commissioners are a means to provide the public with a fiscally efficient system of county government.

See independent auditor's report.

**CHEROKEE COUNTY OFFICIALS  
AND RESPONSIBILITIES  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005**

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**COUNTY SHERIFF**

Delena Goss 7/1/04-12/31/04

(D) Tahlequah

Norman Fisher 1/1/05-6/30/05

(D) Tahlequah

The County Sheriff is responsible for preserving the peace and protecting life and property within the county's jurisdiction. As the county's chief law enforcement officer, the Sheriff has the power and authority to suppress all unlawful disturbances, to apprehend and secure persons charged with felony or breach of peace, and to operate the county jail.

The County Sheriff has the responsibility of serving warrants and processing papers ordered by the District Court.

**COUNTY TREASURER**

Inez Peace

(D) Tahlequah

All collections by county government from ad valorem taxes and other sources are deposited with the County Treasurer. The County Treasurer collects ad valorem taxes for the county and its political subdivisions. The County Treasurer is authorized to issue delinquent personal property tax warrants and to impose tax liens on real property for delinquent taxes.

To account for county collections and disbursements, the County Treasurer is required to maintain an accurate record of all the monies received and disbursed. The State Auditor and Inspector's Office prescribes all the forms used by the County Treasurer, and at least twice a year inspects the County Treasurer's accounts.

See independent auditor's report.

**CHEROKEE COUNTY OFFICIALS  
AND RESPONSIBILITIES  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005**

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**COURT CLERK**  
Shirley Glory  
(D) Tahlequah

The Court Clerk has the primary responsibility to record, file, and maintain as permanent records the proceedings of the District Court.

Court proceedings are recorded in the appropriate journal or record docket. All the court proceedings are public information except those related to juvenile, guardianship, adoption, and mental health cases.

The Court Clerk issues marriage licenses, passports, notary certificates, beer and pool hall licenses, and private process server licenses.

Monies from the court fund are identified for distribution by the Court Clerk to the appropriate units of county and state government. Court Clerks use forms and follow procedures prescribed by the Court Administrator's Office, the Oklahoma Supreme Court, and the State Auditor and Inspector.

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
Richard Gray  
(D) Wagoner

As the chief attorney for county government, the District Attorney acts as the legal advisor to the county officers on matters related to their duties. The District Attorney represents the county in civil litigation. County officials may call upon the District Attorney to clarify a law or request an official interpretation from the Attorney General.

See independent auditor's report.

**CHEROKEE COUNTY OFFICIALS  
AND RESPONSIBILITIES  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005**

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**ELECTION BOARD SECRETARY**

Connie Parnell  
(D) Tahlequah

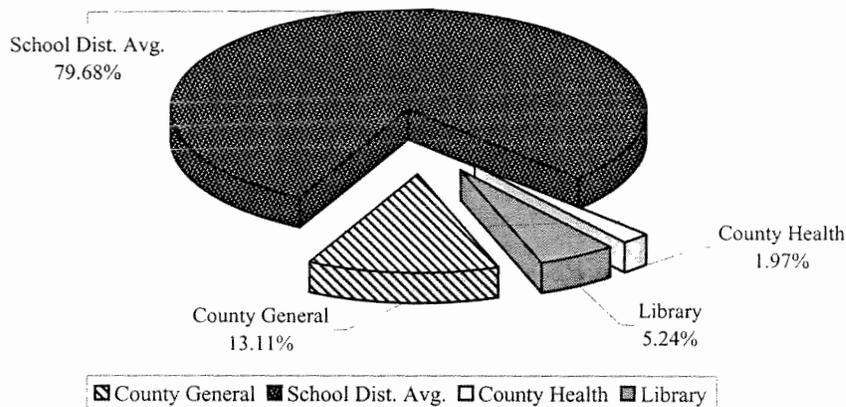
The Election Board Secretary is appointed by the State Election Board and is the chief administrative officer of the County Election Board. The County Election Board has direct responsibility for all the ballots used in all elections within the county. The Board also conducts all elections held within the county.

To finance the operation of the County Election Board, the County Excise Board must appropriate sufficient funds annually. The state and counties split the election costs, but counties must pay for any county elections not held concurrently with state elections.

See independent auditor's report.

**CHEROKEE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
AD VALOREM TAX DISTRIBUTION  
SHARE OF THE AVERAGE MILLAGE  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005**

Property taxes are calculated by applying a millage rate to the assessed valuation of property. Millage rates are established by the Oklahoma Constitution. One mill equals one-thousandth of a dollar. For example, if the assessed value of a property is \$1,000.00 and the millage rate is 1.00, then the tax on that property is \$1.00. This chart shows the different entities of the County and their share of the various millages as authorized by the Constitution.



County-Wide Millages		School District Millages							
			Gen.	Bldg.	Skg.	Career Tech	Common	Total	
County General	10.00	Keys	6	35.00	5.00	16.06	10.00	4.00	70.06
County Health	1.50	Lowrey	10	35.00	5.00	7.21	10.00	4.00	61.21
County Library	4.00	Norwood	14	35.00	5.00		10.00	4.00	54.00
		Hulbert	16	35.00	5.00		10.00	4.00	54.00
		Lost City	17	35.00	5.00		10.00	4.00	54.00
		Woodall	21	35.00	5.00		10.00	4.00	54.00
		Shady Grove	26	35.00	5.00		10.00	4.00	54.00
		Peggs	31	35.00	5.00		10.00	4.00	54.00
		Grandview	34	35.00	5.00	8.56	10.00	4.00	62.56
		Briggs	44	35.00	5.00		10.00	4.00	54.00
		Tenkiller	66	35.00	5.00		10.00	4.00	54.00
		Tahlequah	1-35	35.00	5.00	16.10	10.00	4.00	70.10
		Kansas	1-3	35.00	5.00	24.99	11.00	4.00	79.99
		Oaks	J-5	35.00	5.00		11.00	4.00	55.00
		Ft. Gibson	3M	35.00	5.00	12.85	10.00	4.00	66.85
		Skelly	1	35.00	5.00		10.00	4.00	54.00
		Locust Grove	1-17	35.00	5.00	22.96	11.00	4.00	77.96
		Norwood	1-14	35.00	5.00	10.50	10.00	4.00	64.50

See independent auditor's report.

**CHEROKEE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
COMPUTATION OF LEGAL DEBT MARGIN  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005  
(UNAUDITED)**

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Total net assessed value as of January 1, 2004		<u>\$ 120,623,704</u>
Debt limit - 5% of total assessed value		6,031,185
Total bonds outstanding	-	
Total judgments outstanding	-	
Less cash in sinking fund	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Legal debt margin		<u>\$ 6,031,185</u>

See independent auditor's report.

**CHEROKEE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
 RATIO OF NET GENERAL BONDED DEBT TO ASSESSED  
 VALUE AND NET BONDED DEBT PER CAPITA  
 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005  
 (UNAUDITED)**

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	2004
Estimated population	44,106
Net assessed value as of January 1, 2004	\$ 120,623,704
Gross bonded debt	-
Less available sinking fund cash balance	-
Net bonded debt	\$ -
Ratio of net bonded debt to assessed value	0.00%
Net bonded debt per capita	\$ -

See independent auditor's report.

**CHEROKEE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
ASSESSED VALUE OF PROPERTY  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005  
(UNAUDITED)**

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Valuation Date	Personal	Public Service	Real Estate	Homestead Exemption	Net Value	Estimated Fair Market Value
1/1/2004	\$14,388,801	\$11,014,984	\$103,040,253	\$7,820,334	\$120,623,704	\$1,005,197,533

See independent auditor's report.

**FINANCIAL SECTION**



STATE OF OKLAHOMA  
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR AND INSPECTOR

JEFF A. McMAHAN  
State Auditor and Inspector

**Independent Auditor's Report**

TO THE OFFICERS OF  
CHEROKEE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

We have audited the combined totals—all funds of the accompanying Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Cash Balances of Cherokee County, Oklahoma, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2005, listed in the table of contents as the basic financial statement. This financial statement is the responsibility of Cherokee County's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion. Oklahoma Statutes, in addition to audit responsibilities, assign other responsibilities to the State Auditor and Inspector's Office. Those responsibilities include providing various information technology (IT) support for county government.

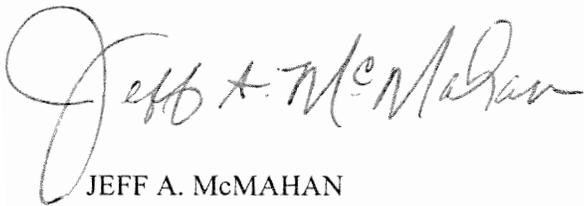
As described in Note 1, this financial statement was prepared using accounting practices prescribed or permitted by Oklahoma state law, which practices differ from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The effects on the financial statement of the variances between these regulatory accounting practices and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material.

In our opinion, because of the matter discussed in the preceding paragraph, the financial statement referred to above does not present fairly, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of Cherokee County as of June 30, 2005, or changes in its financial position for the year then ended.

In our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the combined total of receipts, disbursements, and changes in cash of Cherokee County, for the year ended June 30, 2005, on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 15, 2006, on our consideration of Cherokee County's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is 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 internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the combined total of all funds within the basic financial statement taken as a whole. The combining information is presented for purposes of additional analysis rather than to present the receipts, disbursements, and cash balances of the individual funds. Also, the other supplementary information, as listed in the table of contents, is presented for purposes of additional analysis, and is not a required part of the basic financial statement. Such supplementary information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statement and, in our opinion, is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statement taken as a whole. The information listed in the table of contents under Introductory Section has not been audited by us, and accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeff A. McMahán". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

JEFF A. McMAHAN  
State Auditor and Inspector

June 15, 2006

**Basic Financial Statement**

**CHEROKEE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND  
CHANGES IN CASH BALANCES  
(WITH COMBINING INFORMATION)  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005**

	Beginning Cash Balances July 1, 2004	Receipts Apportioned	Disbursements	Ending Cash Balances June 30, 2005
Combining Information:				
General Fund	\$ 399,462	\$ 3,081,245	\$ 2,969,959	\$ 510,748
Highway Cash	1,415,223	2,940,434	2,933,724	1,421,933
County Health	160,462	202,168	253,603	109,027
Resale Property	110,140	151,977	183,390	78,727
Sales Tax	783,823	2,347,357	1,994,995	1,136,185
Sheriff Service Fee	92,008	231,090	211,821	111,277
County Clerk's Records Preservation	52,198	53,470	54,279	51,389
County Clerk Lien Fee	32,251	10,073	12,527	29,797
Assessor's Visual Inspection	126			126
Mortgage Cert Fee	21,880	12,610	913	33,577
Corps of Engineers	21,268	20,064	21,072	20,260
Assessor Revolving	886	4,303		5,189
Court Clerk Revolving	58	85,349	35,234	50,173
Court Clerk Trust Fund	55,932	312	56,244	
Dept. of Corrections	59,671	79,180	65,656	73,195
Fairgrounds	5,888	3,965	8,102	1,751
Juvenile Detention	642			642
Sheriff Drug Enforcement	3,820	5,695	5,337	4,178
Sheriff Training Fund	27			27
Trash Cop	1,345			1,345
Truancy Officer	540		210	330
CSSP	83			83
CDBG	63,955	182,295	246,250	
<b>Combined Total--All County Funds</b>	<b>\$3,281,688</b>	<b>\$9,411,587</b>	<b>\$9,053,316</b>	<b>\$3,639,959</b>

The notes to the financial statement are an integral part of this statement.

**CHEROKEE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005**

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**1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**A. Reporting Entity**

Counties were created by the Constitution of Oklahoma. One county officer is appointed; however, most county officers are locally elected by their constituents. All county powers are delegated by the state.

The accompanying basic financial statement presents the receipts, disbursements, and changes in cash balances of the total of all funds of Cherokee County, Oklahoma. The funds presented as line items are not a part of the basic financial statement, but have been included as supplementary information within the basic financial statement. These separate funds are established by statute, and their operations are under the control of the County officials. The general fund is the County's general operating fund, accounting for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund. The other funds presented account for financial resources whose use is restricted for specified purposes.

**B. Fund Accounting**

The County uses funds to report on receipts, disbursements, and changes in cash balances. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

Following are descriptions of the funds included as supplementary information within the financial statement:

General Fund – revenues are from ad valorem taxes, officers' fees, interest earnings and miscellaneous collections of the County.

Highway Cash – revenues are from state imposed fuel taxes and disbursements are for the maintenance and construction of county roads and bridges.

County Health – revenues are from ad valorem taxes, state and federal funds, and miscellaneous collections of the health department. Disbursements are to operate the County health department.

Resale Property – revenues are from interest and penalties collected on delinquent ad valorem taxes. Disbursements are to defray the expense of collecting delinquent ad valorem taxes.

Sales Tax – revenues are from county sales taxes. Disbursements are as described in footnote 9.

Sheriff Service Fee – revenues are from fees charged for serving summons and notices. Disbursements are for any lawful expense of the Sheriff's office.

**CHEROKEE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005**

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County Clerk's Records Preservation – revenues are from a fee charged by the County Clerk for recording instruments. Disbursements are for the maintenance and preservation of public records.

County Clerk Lien Fee – revenues are from a fee charged by the County Clerk for filing liens. Disbursements are for any lawful expense of the County Clerk's office.

Assessor's Visual Inspection – revenues are from fees charged to all entities receiving ad valorem taxes. Disbursements are for the re-valuation of all county property for ad valorem purposes.

Mortgage Certification Fee – revenues are from a fee for certifying mortgages. Disbursements are for any lawful expense of the Treasurer's office.

Corps of Engineers – revenues are from the Corps of Engineers. Disbursements are for the expense of a sheriff's patrol on Corps land.

Assessor Revolving – revenues are from fees charged by the County Assessor (copies, etc.) Disbursements are for any legal expenditure of the Assessor's office.

Court Clerk Revolving – accounts for the charge of \$5 for each warrant. Money is disbursed in the same manner as the Court Fund.

Court Clerk Trust Fund – revenues are from the state court system to be used to purchase equipment.

Department of Corrections – receipts are from State Department of Corrections for having state inmates. Disbursements are for feeding and housing state inmates.

Fairgrounds – revenues are from rental of the fairgrounds for various events. Disbursements are for maintaining the fairgrounds.

Juvenile Detention – revenues are from the State Office of Juvenile Affairs. Disbursements are for expenses relating to transporting juveniles.

Sheriff Drug Enforcement – revenues are from the sale of seized and forfeited property sold at auction. Disbursements are for the enforcement of controlled dangerous substance laws.

Sheriff Training Fund – revenues are from the sale of property forfeited in drug cases. Disbursements are for officer training, equipment, and crime prevention.

Trash Cop – accounts for grant funds received from the State of Oklahoma for the enforcement of trash and litter laws.

**CHEROKEE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005**

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Truancy Officer – revenues are from local schools. Disbursements are for one Sheriff's deputy to assist in reducing school truancy.

CSSP – revenues are from the State Department of Corrections to reimburse the County for the expense of administering the Community Service Sentencing Program.

CDBG – revenues are from a federal Community Development Block Grant. Disbursements are for water district improvements.

The County Treasurer collects and remits material amounts of intergovernmental revenues and ad valorem tax revenue for other budgetary entities, including the County library, school districts and cities and towns. The cash receipts and disbursements attributable to those other entities do not appear in funds on the County's financial statement; those funds play no part in the County's operations.

**C. Basis of Accounting**

The basic financial statement is prepared on a basis of accounting wherein amounts are recognized when received or disbursed. This basis of accounting differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, which require revenues to be recognized when they become available and measurable or when they are earned, and expenditures or expenses to be recognized when the related liabilities are incurred. This cash basis financial presentation is not a comprehensive measure of economic condition or changes therein.

**D. Budget**

Under current Oklahoma Statutes, the general fund and the county health department fund are the only funds required to adopt a formal budget. On or before the first Monday in July of each year, each officer or department head submits an estimate of needs to the governing body. The budget is approved by fund, office, or department and object. The County Board of Commissioners may approve changes of appropriations within the fund by office or department and object. To increase or decrease the budget by fund requires approval by the County Excise Board.

For the highway funds and other funds, which are not required to adopt a formal budget, appropriations are made on a monthly basis, according to the funds then available.

**E. Cash**

The County pools the cash of its various funds in maintaining its bank accounts. However, cash applicable to a particular fund is readily identifiable on the County's books. The balance in the pooled cash accounts is available to meet current operating requirements.

**CHEROKEE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005**

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State statutes require financial institutions with which the County maintains funds to deposit collateral securities to secure the County's deposits. The amount of collateral securities to be pledged is established by the County Treasurer; this amount must be at least the amount of the deposit to be secured, less the amount insured (by, for example, the FDIC).

**F. Investments**

The County Treasurer has been authorized by the County's governing board to make investments. By statute (62 O.S. § 348.1 and § 348.3), the following types of investments are allowed:

- U.S. Government obligations
- Certificates of deposit
- Savings accounts
- G.O. bonds issued by counties, municipalities or school districts
- Money judgments against counties, municipalities or school districts
- Bonds and revenue notes issued by a public trust when the beneficiary of the trust is a county, municipality or school district
- Negotiable certificates of deposit
- Prime bankers acceptance which are eligible for purchase by the Federal Reserve System
- Prime commercial paper with a maturity of 180 days or less
- Repurchase agreements
- Money market funds regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission and which investments consist of the above-mentioned types of investments

All investments must be backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government, the Oklahoma State Government, fully collateralized, or fully insured.

**G. Compensated Absences**

All full-time Cherokee County employees shall be entitled to annual leave that is accrued on an annual basis in accordance with the schedule outlined below:

**Accrual Rates**

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Annual Leave</u>
After 1 full year	5 days
After Year 2	10 days
After Year 5	15 days
After year 10	20 days

**CHEROKEE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005**

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Employees must work one full year prior to accruing annual leave. Vacation must be earned before it is taken. No vacation will be longer than ten consecutive working days without permission of the appropriate elected official. Vacation schedules are subject to the elected official approval. Employees may not carry-over annual leave from one year to the next.

All full-time Cherokee County employees shall be entitled to sick leave with pay that is accrued on a monthly basis. Sick leave shall accumulate at the rate of one (1) day for each full calendar month of service to the County. Sick leave may be accrued up to a maximum of 130 days.

**2. Ad Valorem Tax**

The County's property tax is levied each October 1 on the assessed value listed as of January 1 of the same year for all real and personal property located in the County, except certain exempt property. Assessed values are established by the County Assessor within the prescribed guidelines established by the Oklahoma Tax Commission and the State Equalization Board. Title 68 O.S. § 2820.A. states, ". . . Each assessor shall thereafter maintain an active and systematic program of visual inspection on a continuous basis and shall establish an inspection schedule which will result in the individual visual inspection of all taxable property within the county at least once each four (4) years."

The assessed property value as of January 1, 2004, was approximately \$120,623,704

The County levied 10.00 mills (the legal maximum) for general fund operations, 1.5 mills for county health department, and 4 mills for county library. In addition, the County collects the ad valorem taxes assessed by cities and towns and school districts and remits the ad valorem taxes collected to the appropriate taxing units.

Taxes are due on November 1 following the levy date, although they may be paid in two equal installments. If the first half is paid prior to January 1, the second half is not delinquent until April 1. Unpaid real property taxes become a lien upon said property on October 1 of each year.

Unpaid delinquent personal property taxes are published usually in May. If the taxes are not paid within 30 days from publication, they shall be placed on the personal tax lien docket.

Current year tax collections for the year ended June 30, 2005, were approximately 94.85 percent of the tax levy.

**3. Fuel Tax**

The County receives major funding for roads and highways from a state imposed fuel tax. Taxes are collected by the Oklahoma Tax Commission. Taxes are imposed on all gasoline, diesel, and special fuel sales statewide. The County's share is determined on formulas based on the County

**CHEROKEE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005**

population, road miles, and land area and is remitted to the County monthly. These funds are earmarked for roads and highways only and are accounted for in the county highway fund.

**4. Risk Management**

The County is exposed to the various risks of loss shown in the following table:

<b>Types of Loss</b>	<b>Method of Management</b>	<b>Risk of Loss Retained</b>
General Liability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Torts</li> <li>• Errors and Omissions</li> <li>• Law Enforcement Officers Liability</li> <li>• Vehicle</li> </ul>	The County participates in a public entity risk pool: Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma-Self-Insurance Group. (See ACCO-SIG.)	If claims exceed the authorized deductibles, the County could have to pay its share of any pool deficit. A judgment could be assessed for claims in excess of the pool's limits.
Physical Plant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theft</li> <li>• Damage to Assets</li> <li>• Natural Disasters</li> </ul>		
Workers' Compensation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employees' Injuries</li> </ul>	The County carries commercial insurance.	A judgment could be assessed for claims in excess of coverage.
Employee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medical</li> <li>• Disability</li> <li>• Dental</li> <li>• Life</li> </ul>	The County carries commercial insurance.	None

ACCO-SIG - The pool operates as a common risk management and insurance program and is to be self-sustaining through member premiums. Each participating county chooses a \$10,000, \$25,000, or a \$50,000 deductible amount. The County has chosen a \$25,000 deductible for each insured event as stated in the County's "Certificate of Participation." The risk pool will pay legitimate claims in excess of the deductible amount for replacement value up to \$100,000 for property, and up to \$500,000 for general liability. The pool has acquired commercial reinsurance in the amount of \$1,000,000 to cover claims that exceed the pool's risk retention limits. Settled claims have not exceeded insurance coverage for each of the past three fiscal years. There have been no significant reductions in coverage from the prior fiscal year.

**CHEROKEE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005**

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Commercial Insurance - The County obtains commercial insurance coverage to pay legitimate workers' compensation claims and employees' insurance. Settled claims have not exceeded insurance coverage for each of the past three fiscal years. There have been no significant reductions in coverage from the prior fiscal year.

**5. Long-term Obligations**

**Capital Leases**

The County acquires road machinery and equipment through lease-purchase agreements financed by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and/or the equipment vendors or their assignees pursuant to the provisions of 69 O.S. § 636.1 through § 636.7. Lease agreements entered into with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) are interest free. However, starting in January 1997, ODOT began charging a one-time fee of 3% on all pieces of machinery subsequently acquired.

**6. Pension Plan**

Plan Description. The County contributes to the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement Plan (the Plan), a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). Benefit provisions are established and amended by the Oklahoma Legislature. The Plan provides retirement, disability, and death benefits to Plan members and beneficiaries. Title 74, Sections 901 through 943, as amended, establishes the provisions of the Plan. OPERS issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and supplementary information. That report may be obtained by writing OPERS, P.O. Box 53007, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105 or by calling 1-800-733-9008.

Funding Policy. The contribution rates for each member category are established by the Oklahoma Legislature and are based on an actuarial calculation which is performed to determine the adequacy of contribution rates. County employees are required to contribute between 3.5% and 8.5% of earned compensation. The County contributes between 5.0% and 10.0% of earned compensation. Elected officials could contribute between 4.5% and 10% of their entire compensation. The County contributes 10.0% of earned compensation for elected officials. The County's contributions to the Plan for the years ending June 30, 2005, 2004, and 2003 were \$376,326, \$371,538, and \$364,645 respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year.

**7. Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB)**

In addition to the pension benefits described in the Pension Plan note, OPERS provides post-retirement health care benefits of up to \$105 each for retirees who are members of an eligible

**CHEROKEE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005**

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group plan. These benefits are funded on a pay-as-you-go basis as part of the overall retirement benefit. OPEB expenditure and participant information is available for the state as a whole; however, information specific to the County is not available nor can it be reasonably estimated.

**8. Contingent Liabilities**

The County is a defendant in various lawsuits. Although the outcome of these lawsuits is not presently determinable, in management's opinion, the resolution of these matters will not have a material adverse effect on the financial condition of the County

**9. Sales Tax**

In 1984, Cherokee County voters approved a sales tax of one-cent to be effective for a period of five years. In 1989, 1994, 1999, and 2004, this tax was approved for additional five-year periods. The sales tax revenues received are designated for the following uses:

50% County Roads  
15% Law Enforcement  
25% General County Operations  
10% Grant Matching

The current tax is due to expire on January 31, 2009. In 1998, County voters also approved a permanent sales tax of .25% for fire protection.

**OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**CHEROKEE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA**  
**COMPARATIVE SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURES, AND**  
**CHANGES IN CASH BALANCES—BUDGET AND ACTUAL—BUDGETARY BASIS—**  
**GENERAL FUND**  
**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005**

	General Fund			
	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance
Beginning Cash Balances	\$ 399,462	\$ 399,462	\$ 399,462	\$ -
Less: Prior Year Outstanding Warrants	(90,530)	(90,530)	(89,038)	1,492
Less: Prior Year Encumbrances	(35,068)	(35,068)	(35,050)	18
Beginning Cash Balances, Budgetary Basis	<u>273,864</u>	<u>273,864</u>	<u>275,374</u>	<u>1,510</u>
Receipts:				
Ad Valorem Taxes	1,095,685	1,095,685	1,159,408	63,723
Charges for Services	248,692	725,505	725,505	
Intergovernmental Revenues	980,306	980,306	1,112,100	131,794
Miscellaneous Revenues	55,422	104,837	84,232	(20,605)
Total Receipts, Budgetary Basis	<u>2,380,105</u>	<u>2,906,333</u>	<u>3,081,245</u>	<u>174,912</u>
Expenditures:				
County Sheriff	387,900	420,616	419,747	
Total County Sheriff	<u>387,900</u>	<u>420,616</u>	<u>419,747</u>	<u>869</u>
OSU Extension	91,178	91,178	74,209	
Total OSU Extension	<u>91,178</u>	<u>91,178</u>	<u>74,209</u>	<u>16,969</u>
County Treasurer	160,273	158,223	158,111	
Total County Treasurer	<u>160,273</u>	<u>158,223</u>	<u>158,111</u>	<u>112</u>
County Commissioners	225,761	227,870	227,763	
Total County Commissioners	<u>225,761</u>	<u>227,870</u>	<u>227,763</u>	<u>107</u>
County Clerk	288,926	313,044	312,847	
Total County Clerk	<u>288,926</u>	<u>313,044</u>	<u>312,847</u>	<u>197</u>
Court Clerk	151,548	447,587	418,414	
Total Court Clerk	<u>151,548</u>	<u>447,587</u>	<u>418,414</u>	<u>29,173</u>
County Assessor	119,626	118,314	117,482	
Total County Assessor	<u>119,626</u>	<u>118,314</u>	<u>117,482</u>	<u>832</u>
Revaluation of Real Property	273,292	272,533	268,549	
Capital Outlay	3,500	3,500	3,455	
Total Revaluation of Real Property	<u>276,792</u>	<u>276,033</u>	<u>272,004</u>	<u>4,029</u>

continued on next page

The accompanying notes to the other supplementary information are an integral part of this schedule.  
See independent auditor's report.

**CHEROKEE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA**  
**COMPARATIVE SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURES, AND**  
**CHANGES IN CASH BALANCES—BUDGET AND ACTUAL—BUDGETARY BASIS—**  
**GENERAL FUND**  
**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005**

continued from previous page	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance
General Government	572,207	743,376	611,424	
Total General Government	572,207	743,376	611,424	131,952
Excise-Equalization Board	14,000	14,000	11,040	
Total Excise-Equalization Board	14,000	14,000	11,040	2,960
County Election Board	122,700	122,374	122,050	
Total County Election Board	122,700	122,374	122,050	324
Welfare Agencies	60,000	67,700	67,082	
Total Welfare Agencies	60,000	67,700	67,082	618
Charity	27,500	31,539	31,244	
Total Charity	27,500	31,539	31,244	295
Free Fair Budget	14,000	20,896	20,892	
Total Free Fair Budget	14,000	20,896	20,892	4
Child Guidance Clinic	100,000	86,046	85,722	
Total Child Guidance Clinic	100,000	86,046	85,722	324
Emergency Management	10,700	10,543	9,813	
Total Emergency Management	10,700	10,543	9,813	730
County Audit Budget	23,358	23,358	22,532	
Total County Audit Budget	23,358	23,358	22,532	826
Provision for Interest on Warrants	7,500	7,500	4,998	2,502
Total Expenditures, Budgetary Basis	2,653,969	3,180,197	2,987,374	192,823
Excess of Receipts and Beginning Cash Balances Over Expenditures, Budgetary Basis	\$ -	\$ -	369,245	\$ 369,245
Reconciliation to Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Cash Balances				
Add: Current Year Encumbrances			63,112	
Add: Current Year Outstanding Warrants			78,391	
Ending Cash Balance			\$ 510,748	

The accompanying notes to the other supplementary information are an integral part of this schedule.  
See independent auditor's report.

**CHEROKEE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURES,  
AND CHANGES IN CASH BALANCES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL  
COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT FUND  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005**

	County Health Department Fund			
	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance
Beginning Cash Balances	\$ 160,462	\$ 160,462	\$ 160,462	\$ -
Less: Prior Year Outstanding Warrants	(9,219)	(9,219)	(9,219)	
Less: Prior Year Encumbrances	(6,750)	(6,750)	(6,282)	468
Beginning Cash Balances, Budgetary Basis	<u>144,493</u>	<u>144,493</u>	<u>144,961</u>	<u>468</u>
Receipts:				
Ad Valorem Taxes	164,652	164,352	173,045	8,693
Charges for Services		28,196	29,123	927
Total Receipts, Budgetary Basis	<u>164,352</u>	<u>192,548</u>	<u>202,168</u>	<u>9,620</u>
Expenditures:				
Health and Welfare	308,845	337,041	257,120	79,921
Total Expenditures, Budgetary Basis	<u>308,845</u>	<u>337,041</u>	<u>257,120</u>	<u>79,921</u>
Excess of Receipts and Beginning Cash Balances Over Expenditures, Budgetary Basis	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	90,009	<u>\$ 90,009</u>
Reconciliation to Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Cash Balances				
Add: Current Year Encumbrances			17,292	
Add: Current Year Outstanding Warrants			1,726	
Ending Cash Balance			<u>\$ 109,027</u>	

The accompanying notes to the other supplementary information are an integral part of this schedule.  
See independent auditor's report.

**CHEROKEE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
NOTE TO OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005**

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**Budgetary Schedules**

The Comparative Schedules of Receipts, Expenditures, and Changes in Cash Balances—Budget and Actual—Budgetary Basis, for the General Fund and the County Health Department Fund present comparisons of the legally adopted budget with actual data. The "actual" data, as presented in the comparison of budget and actual, will differ from the data as presented in the Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Cash Balances with Combining Information because of adopting certain aspects of the budgetary basis of accounting and the adjusting of encumbrances and outstanding warrants to their related budget year.

Encumbrance accounting, under which purchase orders, contracts, and other commitments for the expenditure of monies are recorded in order to reserve that portion of the applicable appropriation, is employed as an extension of formal budgetary integration in these funds. At the end of the year, unencumbered appropriations lapse.

See independent auditor's report.

**INTERNAL CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE SECTION**



STATE OF OKLAHOMA  
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR AND INSPECTOR

JEFF A. McMAHAN  
State Auditor and Inspector

**Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters  
Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance With  
*Government Auditing Standards***

TO THE OFFICERS OF  
CHEROKEE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

We have audited the combined totals—all funds of the accompanying Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Cash Balances of Cherokee County, Oklahoma, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2005, which comprises Cherokee County's basic financial statement, prepared using accounting practices prescribed or permitted by Oklahoma state law, and have issued our report thereon dated June 15, 2006. Our report on the basic financial statement was adverse because the statement is not a presentation in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Also, our report describes certain responsibilities of the State Auditor and Inspector's Office other than audit responsibilities. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

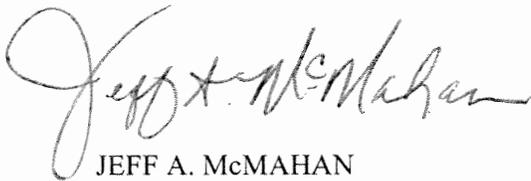
In planning and performing our audit, we considered Cherokee County's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting. However, we noted a certain matter involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be a reportable condition. Reportable conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control over financial reporting that, in our judgment, could adversely affect Cherokee County's ability to initiate, record, process, and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statement. The reportable condition is described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses as item 2004-1.

A material weakness is a reportable condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements caused by error or fraud in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statement being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be reportable conditions and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are also considered to be material weaknesses. However, we consider the reportable condition described above to be a material weakness.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Cherokee County'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 determination of financial statement amounts. 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 no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the management of Cherokee County and should not be used for any other purpose. This report is also a public document pursuant to the Oklahoma Open Records Act (51 O.S., section 24A.1 et seq.), and shall be open to any person for inspection and copying.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeff A. McMAHAN". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

JEFF A. McMAHAN  
State Auditor and Inspector

June 15, 2006

**CHEROKEE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005**

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**Findings related to the Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards***

**Finding 2004-1—Segregation of Duties (Repeat Finding)**

Criteria: Segregation of duties over asset custody, transaction authorization, bookkeeping and reconciliation is an important element of effective internal control over government assets and resources.

Condition: The limited number of office personnel within several County offices prevents a proper segregation of accounting functions, which is necessary to assure adequate internal control structure.

Recommendation: We recommend management be aware of this condition and realize that concentration of duties and responsibilities in a limited number of individuals is not desired from a control point of view. The most effective controls lie in management's knowledge of office operations and a periodic review of operations.

Views of responsible officials and planned corrective actions: We concur with the State Auditor's findings. Management does have knowledge of office operations and will perform a periodic review of these operations.