

**LANA SPAKE, COURT CLERK  
COTTON COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
STATUTORY REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2002**

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STATE OF OKLAHOMA  
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR AND INSPECTOR

JEFF A. McMAHAN  
State Auditor and Inspector

June 5, 2003

Lana Spake, Court Clerk  
Cotton County, Oklahoma

Transmitted herewith is the statutory report for the Cotton County, Court Clerk, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2002. This engagement was conducted in accordance with 20 O.S. §1312. A report of this type is critical in nature; however, we do not intend to imply that there were not commendable features in the present accounting and operating procedures of the Court Clerk.

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

The Office of the State Auditor and Inspector is committed to serve the public interest by providing independent oversight and to issue 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 black ink that reads "Jeff A. McMahan".

JEFF A. McMAHAN  
State Auditor and Inspector

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## **INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION**

The Court Clerk is elected by the qualified voters of the County for a term of four years.

The primary responsibilities of the Court Clerk are to record, file and maintain the proceedings of the District Court, and perform other duties as directed by the District Court. Other duties and responsibilities of the Court Clerk are as follows: collecting all required Court fees, issuing warrants, orders, writs, subpoenas, passports and certain licenses, maintaining dockets and financial records for the various divisions of the Court, maintaining an appropriation ledger to control and monitor Court Fund expenditures, disbursing District Court funds in accordance with Court instructions and state statutes, and reviewing Court Fund claims for proper supporting documentation before bringing the claims and vouchers to the Court Fund Board for approval.



STATE OF OKLAHOMA  
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR AND INSPECTOR

JEFF A. McMAHAN  
State Auditor and Inspector

Lana Spake, Court Clerk  
Cotton County Courthouse  
Walters, Oklahoma 73572

Dear Mrs. Spake:

For the purpose of complying with 20 O.S. § 1312, we have performed the following procedures for the fiscal year 2002.

- We tested Court Fund vouchers issued to determine whether the expenditure: (1) was properly supported by a claim, invoice, and receiving documentation, (2) was properly approved, (3) was properly classified, and (4) did not exceed appropriations.
- We tested District Court vouchers to determine they were properly accounted for, and we looked at supporting documentation for disbursements to determine they were issued in accordance with Court instructions.
- We reconciled the Court Fund activity and/or balances to the County Treasurer's records.
- We reconciled the District Court case balances to the County Treasurer's depository ledger.
- We tested receipts issued to determine whether: (1) the correct fee was collected, and (2) the receipt was properly accounted for in the financial records.

All information included in the reconciliations, the Court Fund appropriation ledger, the monthly reports, and the cash receipts journal is the representation of the Court Clerk.

Our Court Clerk's engagement was limited to the procedures performed above and was less in scope than an audit performed in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on any general-purpose financial statements of Cotton County.

Based on the above reconciliations, tests, and procedures performed; the Court Clerk is collecting the correct fees and is properly accounting for them; Court Fund vouchers were properly supported, approved, classified, and did not exceed appropriations; District Court vouchers were properly accounted for and were issued in accordance with Court instructions; Court Fund financial records and District Court case balances reconciled with the County Treasurer's records.

We have prepared a detailed analysis of the Court Fund, which is presented following this report.

This report is intended for the information and use of the Cotton County Court Fund Board and the Administrative Office of the Courts. This restriction is not intended to limit the distribution of this report, which is a matter of public record.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff A. McMAHAN". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "M".

JEFF A. McMAHAN  
State Auditor and Inspector

May 15, 2003

LANA SPAKE, COURT CLERK  
COTTON COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
COURT FUND ACCOUNT ANALYSIS  
JUNE 30, 2002

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Collections:

Court fund fines, fees, and forfeitures	\$ 247,274
Interest earned on deposits	647
Total collections	247,921

Deductions:

Lump sum budget categories:

Juror expenses	1,154
Trial court attorneys	4,850
Mental health hearings attorneys	370
Transcripts-preliminary & trial	93
Transcripts-appeals	1,565
Court system computer training	178
General office supplies	2,866
Forms printing	1,910
Publications	59
Postage and freight	6,000
Microfilm supplies	2,873
Court reporter supplies	94
Gas, water, electricity	9,501
General telephone expense	1,666
Long-distance telephone expense	383
Other expenses (robes, etc.)	143
Total lump sum categories	33,705

Restricted budget categories:

Renovation and remodeling	5,370
Maintenance of court area(s)	7,172
Furniture and fixtures	1,750
Equipment purchases	3,665
Equipment rentals	1,140
Maintenance of equipment	10,897
OCIS	16,548
Photocopy equipment maintenance	900
Part-time court clerk employee	59,294
Total restricted categories	106,736

LANA SPAKE, COURT CLERK  
COTTON COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
COURT FUND ACCOUNT ANALYSIS  
JUNE 30, 2002

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Mandated categories:	
Law library	5,000
State judicial fund	<u>106,083</u>
Total mandated categories	<u>111,083</u>
Total deductions	<u>251,524</u>
Collections over (under) deductions	(3,603)
Refunds	1,301
Beginning account balance July 1, 2001	<u>46,024</u>
Ending account balance June 30, 2002	<u>\$ 43,722</u>