

**VIRGINIA SANDERS  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY, DISTRICT 17  
STATUTORY REPORT  
PROPERTY FORFEITURE FUND  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
JUNE 30, 2004**

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STATE OF OKLAHOMA  
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR AND INSPECTOR

JEFF A. McMAHAN  
State Auditor and Inspector

March 21, 2005

Virginia Sanders, District Attorney  
District 17

Transmitted herewith is the statutory report for the District Attorney of District 17, Choctaw, McCurtain, and Pushmataha Counties, Oklahoma (the District), for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2004. 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 District.

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 cursive script that reads "Jeff A. McMahon".

JEFF A. McMAHAN  
State Auditor and Inspector

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## INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION

Most district attorneys in the state have a Property Forfeiture Fund. The fund is not subject to fiscal year limitations and is to be used for enforcement of controlled dangerous substances laws, drug abuse prevention and education, and is maintained by the District Attorney to be used at his or her discretion for those purposes. The revenues for said fund come from the proceeds of forfeited assets.

Any cash, vehicles, real property, or other assets used in the commission of or acquired as a result of a crime as described in the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act is presumed to be forfeitable.

Asset forfeiture is an effective law enforcement tool used by local district attorneys to deprive criminals of their ill-gotten gains by seizing the proceeds of criminal activity and property used to facilitate crime. The proceeds of seized, forfeited assets make a substantial contribution to the investigation and prosecution of drug related offenses.



STATE OF OKLAHOMA  
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR AND INSPECTOR

JEFF A. McMAHAN  
State Auditor and Inspector

**Statutory Report**

Virginia Sanders  
District Attorney, District 17  
McCurtain County Courthouse  
Idabel, Oklahoma 74745

For the purpose of complying with 74 O.S. §212 (E) and 63 O.S. §2-506, we have performed the following procedures as it relates to the records of the Property Forfeiture Fund for the fiscal year 2004:

- We examined a group of receipts and deposit slips for propriety.
- We reviewed sale documentation for selected cases to determine whether forfeited assets were sold after due notice at public auction to the highest bidder in accordance with 63 O.S. §2-508.C.3.
- For selected cases, the distribution of proceeds of the sale was reviewed to determine the distribution was in accordance with Court order pursuant to 63 O.S. §2-506.K.
- We determined whether expenditures tested were used for enforcement of controlled dangerous substance laws, drug abuse prevention and education in accordance with 63 O.S. §2-506.L.3.
- We determined whether expenditures tested were supported by approved claims, invoices, and independent verification that goods or services paid for were received in accordance with 63 O.S. §2-508.C.3.
- We determined whether the District Attorney prepared and submitted an annual report to the Board of County Commissioners showing the total deposits, total expenditures, beginning and ending balances in accordance with 63 O.S. §2-506.L.3.
- We determined whether expenditures were properly classified and whether the District Attorney reconciles the balance with the County Treasurer monthly in accordance with 63 O.S. §2-508.C.3.

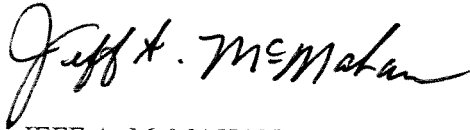
Our engagement was limited to the procedures performed above and was less in scope than an audit performed in accordance with accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on any general-purpose financial statements of Choctaw, McCurtain, or Pushmataha County.

Based on our procedures performed, the District is properly receipting and depositing the proceeds of forfeitures; forfeited assets were sold after proper notice at public auction to the highest bidder; the proceeds of forfeitures were distributed as directed by Court orders; expenditures were made for lawful uses; expenditures were supported by approved claims, invoices, and goods or services paid for were received; the District Attorney prepared and submitted an annual report to the Board of County Commissioners; and expenditures were properly classified. With respect to reconciling the balance with the County Treasurer's records, our finding is presented in the attached schedule of findings and recommendations.

We have included in this report a detailed analysis of the Property Forfeiture Fund.

This report is intended for the information and use of the District Attorney and Choctaw County, McCurtain County, and Pushmataha County officials. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff A. McMahon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

JEFF A. McMAHAN  
State Auditor and Inspector

October 19, 2004

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**2004-1 - Reconciliation**

Criteria: Effective internal controls over accounting and record keeping are necessary to ensure the accurate financial position of the District Attorney Property Forfeiture Program.

Condition: The District Attorney's Property Forfeiture (McCurtain County) Account balance at June 30, 2004 is not reconciled with the County Treasurer's balance.

Recommendation: We recommend that the District Attorney's office maintain accurate ledgers for the Property Forfeiture Fund and reconcile this fund with the County Treasurer at the end of each month.

Response: The District Attorney's office will implement procedures to reconcile the Property Forfeiture Fund ledgers to the County Treasurer's balance at the end of each month.