

**JO FREEMAN, COURT CLERK
MURRAY COUNTY, OKLAHOMA
STATUTORY REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2003**

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STATE OF OKLAHOMA
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR AND INSPECTOR

JEFF A. McMAHAN
State Auditor and Inspector

March 12, 2004

Jo Freeman, Court Clerk
Murray County, Oklahoma

Transmitted herewith is the statutory report for the Murray County, Court Clerk, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2003. 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. McMahon".

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

Jo Freeman, Court Clerk
Murray County Courthouse
Sulphur, Oklahoma 73086

Dear Ms. Freeman:

For the purpose of complying with 20 O.S. § 1312, we have performed the following procedures for the fiscal year 2003:

- 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 Court Clerk Revolving Fund vouchers issued to determine whether the expenditure: (1) was properly supported by a claim, invoice, and receiving documentation, and (2) was properly approved.
- 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 Court Clerk Revolving 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.

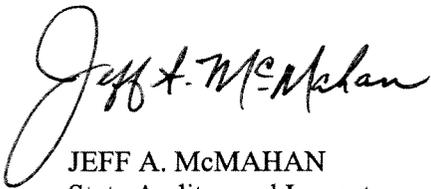
Our Court Clerk's engagement was limited to the procedures performed above and was less in scope than an audit performed in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on any general-purpose financial statements of Murray 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 activity, Court Clerk Revolving Fund financial records, and District Court case balances reconciled with the County Treasurer's records. With respect to the Court Fund and Court Clerk Revolving Fund vouchers being properly supported and approved and the matter of segregation of duties, our findings are included in the schedule of findings and recommendations.

We have prepared a detailed analysis of the Court Fund and an analysis of the Court Clerk Revolving Fund, which are presented following this report.

This report is intended for the information and use of the Murray 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 that reads "Jeff A. McMahán". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

JEFF A. McMAHAN
State Auditor and Inspector

February 3, 2004

**JO FREEMAN, COURT CLERK
MURRAY COUNTY, OKLAHOMA
COURT FUND ACCOUNT ANALYSIS
JUNE 30, 2003**

Collections:

Court fund fines, fees, and forfeitures	\$316,149
Cancelled vouchers	429
Interest earned on deposit	<u>5,279</u>
Total collections	<u>321,857</u>

Deductions:

Lump sum categories:

Juror expenses	8,200
Witness expense	200
Trial court (attorneys)	27,915
Transcripts-preliminary and trial	158
General office supplies	6,929
Forms printing	2,200
Postage and freight	2,397
Court reporter supplies	485
Books for records and indexes	887
Gas, water, and electricity	6,064
Other expenses	1,197
General telephone expense	<u>3,478</u>
Total lump sum categories	<u>60,110</u>

Restricted categories:

Maintenance of court area(s)	5,072
Furniture and fixtures	2,100
Equipment purchases	4,928
Equipment rental	2,412
Photocopy equipment maintenance	1,326
Maintenance of equipment	5,528
OCIS services	17,962
Part-time court clerk employees	<u>95,407</u>
Total restricted categories	<u>134,735</u>

**JO FREEMAN, COURT CLERK
MURRAY COUNTY, OKLAHOMA
COURT FUND ACCOUNT ANALYSIS
JUNE 30, 2003**

Mandated budget categories:	
Law library	7,000
State judicial fund	<u>75,405</u>
Total mandated categories	<u>82,405</u>
Total deductions	<u>277,250</u>
Collections over (under) deductions	44,607
Beginning account balance	<u>18,127</u>
Ending account balance	<u>\$ 62,734</u>

**JO FREEMAN, COURT CLERK
MURRAY COUNTY, OKLAHOMA
COURT CLERK REVOLVING FUND ACCOUNT ANALYSIS
JUNE 30, 2003**

Beginning Balance	\$ 9,835
Collections	8,779
Disbursements	<u>3,520</u>
Ending Balance	\$ <u>15,094</u>

**JO FREEMAN, COURT CLERK
MURRAY COUNTY, OKLAHOMA
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
JUNE 30, 2003**

Finding 2003-1 – Segregation of Duties

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 the Court Clerk's office 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. Under these conditions, the most effective controls lie in management's knowledge of County operations and a periodic review of operations.

Management's Response: We concur with the auditor's findings. The Court Clerk does have knowledge of office operations and will perform a periodic review of these operations.

Finding 2003-2 – Court Fund Claims

Criteria: Effective accounting procedures are necessary to ensure stewardship and accountability of public funds.

Condition: During our examination of court fund claims, the following were noted:

- Voucher #6298 could not be traced to a court fund claim or the court fund calendar.
- Six court fund claims did not have an invoice or other supporting documentation attached.
- Eleven court fund claims were not approved by the majority of the court fund board.
- Three claims were not signed by the claimant.
- Twenty-five claims did not have documentation to acknowledge that goods and or services were received.

Recommendation: We recommend that more emphasis be placed on the preparation of court fund claims in order to better enhance stewardship and accountability.

Management's Response: Management concurs with this finding and is implementing procedures to correct this issue.

**JO FREEMAN, COURT CLERK
MURRAY COUNTY, OKLAHOMA
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
JUNE 30, 2003**

Finding 2003-3 – Court Clerk Revolving Fund Claims

Criteria: Effective accounting procedures are necessary to ensure stewardship and accountability of public funds.

Condition: During our examination of court clerk revolving fund claims, the following were noted:

- Five claims were not checked for mathematical accuracy. We noted three claims where the incorrect mileage allowance was used. The mileage was calculated at 36.5 cents per mile instead of 36 cents.
- Four claims did not have an invoice or other supporting documentation attached.
- Two claims were not approved by the majority of the court fund board.
- Eighteen claims were not signed by the claimant.
- Eighteen claims did not have documentation to acknowledge that goods and or services were received.

Recommendation: We recommend that more emphasis be placed on the preparation of court clerk revolving fund claims in order to better enhance stewardship and accountability.

Management's Response: Management concurs with this finding and is implementing procedures to correct this issue.