



# OKLAHOMA COUNTY, OKLAHOMA INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS

For the Fiscal year Ended June 30, 2020

**Cindy Byrd, CPA**  
State Auditor & Inspector

**OKLAHOMA COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S 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*  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020**

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March 31, 2021

TO THE CITIZENS OF  
OKLAHOMA COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

Transmitted herewith is the Independent Auditor's 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* of Oklahoma County, Oklahoma for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. The audit was conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and *Government Auditing Standards*.

A report of this type is critical in nature; Failure to report commendable features in the accounting and operating procedures of the entity should not be interpreted to mean that they do not exist.

The goal of the State Auditor and Inspector is to promote accountability and fiscal integrity in state and local government. Maintaining our independence as we provide this service to the taxpayers of Oklahoma is of utmost importance.

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

Sincerely,



CINDY BYRD, CPA  
OKLAHOMA STATE AUDITOR & INSPECTOR



**Independent Auditor's 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  
OKLAHOMA COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

We have audited, in accordance with the 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, the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the discretely presented component unit, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Oklahoma County, Oklahoma, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Oklahoma County's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated March 29, 2021.

Our report includes a reference to other auditors who audited the financial statements of the Oklahoma County Public Buildings Authority, the Oklahoma County Finance Authority, and the Defined Benefit Retirement Plan of the Employees' Retirement System of Oklahoma County, as described in our report on Oklahoma County's financial statements. This report does not include the results of the other auditors' testing of internal control over financial reporting or compliance and other matters that are reported on separately by those auditors.

**Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Oklahoma County's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Oklahoma County's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Oklahoma County's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.



Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. We did identify a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses that we consider to be a significant deficiency. 2020-007.

### **Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Oklahoma County's financial statement is free from 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*.

We noted a certain matter regarding statutory compliance that we reported to the management of Oklahoma County, which is included in Section 2 of the schedule of findings and responses contained in this report.

### **Oklahoma County's Response to Findings**

Oklahoma County's response to the findings identified in our audit are described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses. Oklahoma County's responses were not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the responses.

### **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

This report is also a public document pursuant to the Oklahoma Open Records Act (51 O.S. § 24A.1 et seq.) and shall be open to any person for inspection and copying.



CINDY BYRD, CPA  
OKLAHOMA STATE AUDITOR & INSPECTOR

March 29, 2021

**OKLAHOMA COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020**

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**SECTION 1 - 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 2020-007 – Lack of Internal Controls Over Business Continuity Plan (Repeat Finding -2019-010 and 2018-009)**

**Condition:** Upon review of the County’s Business Continuity Plan (BCP), we noted the County’s plan needs to be updated and reviewed to ensure, in the event of a disaster, the County would not have delays in the recovery of operations. The specifics of the condition have been sanitized to protect the County pursuant to the provision of 51 O.S. § 24A.28.

**Cause of Condition:** Policies and procedures have not been designed and implemented to ensure the County reviews and updates its BCP regularly.

**Effect of Conditions:** This condition could result in increased delays in the recovery of critical business functions of the County.

**Recommendation:** OSAI recommends the County comply with best practices presented in the criteria. The specifics of the recommendation have been sanitized to protect the County pursuant to the provision of 51 O.S. § 24A.28.

**Management Response:**

**Chairman, Board of County Commissioners:** We are looking to add to an upcoming agenda of the Policy and Governance Committee and confirm updates with possible recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners to review and implement by June 2021.

**Criteria:** According to *CobiT, Deliver, Service and Support 4.05 Review, maintain and improve the continuity plans*, management should conduct a management review of the continuity capability at regular intervals to ensure its continued suitability, adequacy and effectiveness. Manage changes to the plans in accordance with the change control process to ensure that continuity plans are kept up to date and continually reflect actual business requirements.

**OKLAHOMA COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020**

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**SECTION 2 - This section contains certain matters not required to be reported in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. However, we believe these matters are significant enough to bring to management's attention. We recommend that management consider these matters and take appropriate corrective action.**

**Finding 2020-001 – Lack of Internal Controls and Noncompliance Over Inmate Trust Fund Checking Account and the Sheriff Commissary Fund (Repeat Finding)**

**Condition:** An audit of the Inmate Trust Fund Checking Account and the Sheriff Commissary Fund reflected the following;

- The inmate ledger was not reconciled to the bank statements.
- Expenditures made from the Inmate Trust Fund are for purposes other than allowable payments to the Sheriff Commissary Fund for inmate purchases or refunds to inmates.
- An annual Commissary Fund report was not filed with the Board of County Commissioners by January 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Cause of Condition:** Policies and procedures have not been designed and implemented regarding the Inmate Trust Fund Checking Account and the Sheriff Commissary Fund.

**Effect of Condition:** These conditions resulted in noncompliance with state statutes. Additionally, without proper accounting and safeguarding of the Inmate Trust Fund Checking Account there is an increased risk of misappropriation of funds.

**Recommendation:** OSAI recommends the following;

- Inmate Trust Fund monies should be maintained in a manner that reflects each inmate's trust deposits, disbursements, and account balances. The inmate's ledger balances should be reconciled to the bank statements and cash on hand each month.
- Expenditures should be made from the Inmate Trust Fund Checking Account in accordance with 19 O.S. § 531(A).
- The Sheriff should file a report of the Commissary with the Board of County Commissioners by January 15<sup>th</sup>, of each year in accordance with 19 O.S. § 180.43 (D).

**Management Response:**

**County Sheriff:** Effective July 1, 2020, the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office is no longer in operational control of the Oklahoma County Detention Center. The Oklahoma County Criminal Justice Authority assumed all responsibility at this time due to the formation of the Trust. Since my election, I have not overseen custody of the Oklahoma County Detention Center and this finding was from a prior administration.

**Criteria:** Component objectives of effective internal control systems are to deter and detect fraud and to provide accurate and reliable information. Internal controls are designed to safeguard assets and to analyze

**OKLAHOMA COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020**

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and check accuracy, completeness, and authorization of transactions. Failure to perform tasks that are part of internal controls, such as segregating duties or implementing compensating reviews, performing bank reconciliations accurately and timely, and maintaining records in a manner to ensure compliance with state statutes and/or to minimize the risk of misappropriation, are deficiencies in internal control.

The GAO Standards – Principal 10 – Design Control Activities – 10.03 states in part:

*Accurate and timely recording of transactions*

Transactions are promptly recorded to maintain their relevance and value to management in controlling operations and making decisions. This applies to the entire process or life cycle of a transaction or event from its initiation and authorization through its final classification in summary records. In addition, management designs control activities so that all transactions are completely and accurately recorded.”

Additionally, GAO Standards – Section 2 – Establishing an Effective Internal Control System – OV2.23 states in part:

*Objectives of an Entity – Compliance Objectives*

Management conducts activities in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. As part of specifying compliance objectives, the entity determines which laws and regulations apply to the entity. Management is expected to set objectives that incorporate these requirements.

Therefore, effective internal controls require management properly implement procedures to ensure that expenditures are made in accordance with state statutes:

Title 19 O.S. § 531(A) states in part, “...the county sheriff may establish a checking account, to be designated the “Inmate Trust Fund Checking Account.” The county sheriff shall deposit all monies collected from inmates incarcerated in the county jail into this checking account and may write checks to the Sherriff’s Commissary Account for purchases made by the inmate during his or her incarceration and to the inmate from unencumbered balances due the inmate upon his or her discharge.”

Title 19 O.S. § 180.43(D) states in part, “...the sheriff shall file an annual report on any said commissary under his or her operation no later than January 15 of each year...”



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S·A·I  
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