



## Executive Summary

### **Why We Conducted This Audit**

The Town Board of Trustees, in accordance with 74 O.S. § 227.8, requested an audit of questionable financial activity of former employees of the Town of Tryon. See the full report at [www.sai.ok.gov](http://www.sai.ok.gov).

### **What We Found**

#### **Payroll** (Page 2)

Three former employees of the Town misappropriated \$79,320.19 in payroll. The improper payments consisted of excess salary, excess holiday pay, vacation pay, and overtime pay. All three employees were also improperly paid “hazard pay,” asserting that eight additional hours of pay could be claimed anytime they worked on the sewer system regardless of the actual number of hours worked. The majority of the unauthorized payroll amount was received by former Police Chief Jered Prickett.

The Board of Trustees (Board) improperly appointed the town clerk-treasurer, Candace Prickett, to an elected position. She remained in the position for over eight years, in violation of law.

#### **Expenditures** (Page 8)

Jered Prickett charged \$3,776.37 in questionable credit card expenditures. These expenses consisted of a combination of improper fuel purchases, along with other personal transactions such as food, medical care, and deer hunting supplies.

Jered Prickett also used town funds to purchase six firearms, totaling \$3,330.40. The firearms were not located in the Town’s inventory.

#### **Police Auxiliary Account** (Page 10)

Donations made to the Tryon Police Department, totaling \$3,960, were not deposited into the Town’s bank account. The checks were either cashed out by Jered Prickett or deposited into his personal bank account.

Jered Prickett also misappropriated \$4,866.50 from the Police Auxiliary bank account via cash and ATM withdrawals. Six of the ATM withdrawals occurred at local area casinos.