



INVESTIGATIVE AUDIT REVEALS PAYROLL PROBLEMS IN PAYNE COUNTY

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK (June 4, 2025)

Oklahoma State Auditor & Inspector [SA&I] Cindy Byrd today released her investigative audit report for the Payne County Environmental Enforcement Office. SA&I reviewed records from January 1, 2022, through July 31, 2023.

The audit found three employees at the Environmental Enforcement Office were paid for hours they did not work. The employees over-reported 290.75 hours, totaling \$5,809.28.

The same three employees drove county vehicles more than 3,300 miles for personal use. The mileage has a monetary value of \$2,087.83.

“While the dollar amount in this case is relatively small, it speaks to a larger problem of oversight and accountability,” said Auditor Byrd. “Mismanagement tends to start with seemingly minor violations then, as government employees get away with it, their activity can snowball into substantial fraud and abuse.”

The full audit is posted [here](#) on the Oklahoma State Auditor & Inspector’s official website.

To schedule an interview with Cindy Byrd, please contact Andrew Speno at 405-315-5924.