

**ATTESTATION REPORT  
OF  
BUFFALO COUNTY COURT  
JULY 1, 2011 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2013**

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**Issued on May 20, 2014**

# BUFFALO COUNTY COURT

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
<b><u>Comments Section</u></b>	
Comment and Recommendation	1
<b><u>Financial Section</u></b>	
Independent Accountant's Report	2 - 3
Financial Schedules:	
Schedule of Changes in Assets and Liabilities Arising from Cash Transactions - Agency Funds - For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2013	4
Schedule of Changes in Assets and Liabilities Arising from Cash Transactions - Agency Funds - For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012	5
Notes to Financial Schedules	6

# BUFFALO COUNTY COURT

## COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

During our examination of the Buffalo County Court, we noted a certain deficiency and other operational matters that are presented here.

This comment and recommendation is intended to improve the internal control over financial reporting or result in operational efficiencies in the following area:

### **Segregation of Duties**

Good internal control includes a plan of organization, procedures, and documentation designed to safeguard assets and provide reliable financial records. A system of internal control should include a proper segregation of duties, so no one individual is capable of handling all phases of a transaction from beginning to end.

We noted the office of the County Court lacked a segregation of duties, as one person was capable of handling all aspects of processing transactions from beginning to end. A lack of segregation of duties increases the risk of possible errors or irregularities; however, due to a limited number of personnel, an adequate segregation of duties is not possible without additional cost. Further, personnel are under the direction of both the Nebraska State Court Administrator and the Presiding Judge. We have included this comment in previous examinations. We consider this to be a material weakness.

We recommend the County Court and the Nebraska State Court Administrator review this situation. As always, the cost of hiring additional personnel versus the benefit of a proper segregation of duties must be weighed.

It should be noted this report is critical in nature as it contains only our comment and recommendation on the area noted for improvement and does not include our observations on any accounting strengths of the County Court.

Draft copies of this report were furnished to the County Court to provide management an opportunity to review the report and to respond to the comment and recommendation included in this report. The County Court declined to respond.



## NEBRASKA AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

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### BUFFALO COUNTY COURT

#### INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

We have examined the accompanying Schedules of Changes in Assets and Liabilities Arising from Cash Transactions of the Buffalo County Court as of and for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2013, and June 30, 2012. The County Court's management is responsible for the Schedules. Our responsibility is to express an opinion based on our examination.


Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and, accordingly, included examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the Schedules and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our examination provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the Schedules referred to above present, in all material respects, the assets and liabilities arising from cash transactions of the Agency Funds of the Buffalo County Court, as of June 30, 2013, and June 30, 2012, and the related activity for the fiscal years then ended, based on the accounting system and procedures prescribed by the Nebraska Supreme Court, as described in Note 1.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we are required to report findings of deficiencies in internal control, violations of provisions of contracts or grant agreements, and abuse that are material to the Schedules and any fraud and illegal acts that are more than inconsequential that come to our attention during our examination. We are also required to obtain the views of management on those matters. We performed our examination to express an opinion on whether the Schedules are presented in accordance with the criteria described above and not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the internal control over the Schedules or on compliance and other matters; accordingly, we express no such opinions. Our examination disclosed a certain finding that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*, and the finding, along with the views of management, is described in the Comments Section of the report.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Supreme Court, others within the County Court, and the appropriate Federal and regulatory agencies, and it is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties. However, this report is a matter of public record, and its distribution is not limited.

May 14, 2014

  
Deann Haeffner, CPA  
Assistant Deputy Auditor

**BUFFALO COUNTY COURT**  
**KEARNEY, NEBRASKA**  
**SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**  
**ARISING FROM CASH TRANSACTIONS**  
**AGENCY FUNDS**  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2013

	Balance July 1, 2012	Additions	Deductions	Balance June 30, 2013
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Cash and Deposits	\$ 587,187	\$ 1,955,870	\$ 1,947,843	\$ 595,214
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Due to State Treasurer:				
Regular Fees	\$ 18,558	\$ 215,187	\$ 214,082	\$ 19,663
Law Enforcement Fees	1,673	20,076	20,096	1,653
State Judges Retirement Fund	5,512	69,714	69,640	5,586
Court Administrative Fees	9,789	118,267	119,173	8,883
Legal Services Fees	6,117	72,906	73,070	5,953
Due to County Treasurer:				
Regular Fines	47,425	519,336	523,292	43,469
Overload Fines	358	10,350	10,558	150
Regular Fees	6,788	75,430	78,568	3,650
Petty Cash Fund	525	-	-	525
Due to Municipalities:				
Regular Fines	3,117	45,332	45,661	2,788
Trust Fund Payable	487,325	809,272	793,703	502,894
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 587,187</b>	<b>\$ 1,955,870</b>	<b>\$ 1,947,843</b>	<b>\$ 595,214</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the schedule.

**BUFFALO COUNTY COURT**  
**KEARNEY, NEBRASKA**  
**SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**  
**ARISING FROM CASH TRANSACTIONS**  
**AGENCY FUNDS**  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012

	<u>Balance</u> <u>July 1, 2011</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deductions</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>June 30, 2012</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Cash and Deposits	\$ 349,543	\$ 2,773,131	\$ 2,535,487	\$ 587,187
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Due to State Treasurer:				
Regular Fees	\$ 21,703	\$ 244,460	\$ 247,605	\$ 18,558
Law Enforcement Fees	1,892	23,308	23,527	1,673
State Judges Retirement Fund	6,417	77,353	78,258	5,512
Court Administrative Fees	10,035	132,502	132,748	9,789
Legal Services Fees	7,134	82,205	83,222	6,117
Due to County Treasurer:				
Regular Fines	49,100	585,520	587,195	47,425
Overload Fines	575	10,598	10,815	358
Regular Fees	3,975	92,539	89,726	6,788
Petty Cash Fund	50	475	-	525
Due to Municipalities:				
Regular Fines	3,606	72,136	72,625	3,117
Trust Fund Payable	245,056	1,452,035	1,209,766	487,325
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>\$ 349,543</u>	<u>\$ 2,773,131</u>	<u>\$ 2,535,487</u>	<u>\$ 587,187</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the schedule.

**BUFFALO COUNTY COURT**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL SCHEDULES**  
For the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2013, and June 30, 2012

**1. Criteria**

**A. Reporting Entity**

The Buffalo County Court is established by State statute and is administratively operated through the Court Administrator's Office of the Nebraska Supreme Court, which is part of the State of Nebraska reporting entity. The Schedules of Changes in Assets and Liabilities Arising from Cash Transactions of the County Court reflect only the Agency Funds activity of the County Court, including the receipts and their subsequent disbursement to the appropriate entities for which they were collected. The Schedules do not reflect the personal services expenses of the County Court, which are paid by the Nebraska Supreme Court, or the operating expenses, which are paid by Buffalo County.

**B. Basis of Accounting**

The accounting records of the County Court Agency Funds are maintained, and the Schedules of Changes in Assets and Liabilities Arising from Cash Transactions have been prepared, based on the accounting system and procedures prescribed by the Nebraska Supreme Court. Under this system of accounting, fines, fees, and receipts relating to trust funds are shown as additions to assets and as an increase in the related liability when received. Likewise, disbursements are shown as deductions to assets and as a decrease in the related liability when a check is written.

**2. Deposits and Investments**

Funds held by the County Court are deposited and invested in accordance with rules issued by the Supreme Court, as directed by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 25-2713 (Reissue 2008). Funds are generally consolidated in an interest-bearing checking account; however, the County Court may order certain trust funds to be invested separately. Any deposits in excess of the amount insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation are required by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 77-2326.04 (Reissue 2009) to be secured either by a surety bond or as provided in the Public Funds Deposit Security Act.