



NEBRASKA AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Mike Foley
State Auditor

Mike.Foley@nebraska.gov
PO Box 98917
State Capitol, Suite 2303
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
402-471-2111, FAX 402-471-3301
auditors.nebraska.gov

November 26, 2024

Patrick Meysenburg, Chairperson
Olive Township Butler County
3750 IJ Road
David City, NE 68632

Dear Chairperson Meysenburg:

The Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) has reviewed the audit waiver request received from the Olive Township Butler County (Township) for the fiscal year ending 2024. **That request has been approved.**

While performing, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-304 (2024 Neb. Laws, L.B. 1143, § 3), the preliminary examination necessary to determine whether further audit work would be required or the audit waiver should be allowed, the APA noted certain internal control or compliance matters, or other operational issues, within the Township.

The following information is intended to improve internal controls or result in other operational efficiencies.

Background Information

Over the course of the fiscal year ending 2024, the Township made several payments to Summit Township Butler County (Summit Township) to reimburse the Township's portion of joint expenses split between the two entities. These joint expenses are first approved by the Summit Township Board and are then signed off by all Olive Township Board members. After the claims are approved, the Summit Township's Clerk submits the payment through its online banking system. At the end of each month, the Township sends a check to the Summit Township for its portion of all joint expenses that occurred during the month. A summary of the Township's disbursements is shown in the table below:

FY2024 Disbursements	Amount
Reimbursement Payments to Summit Township	\$ 134,958
Other Disbursements	60,820
Total	\$ 195,778


Comment and Recommendation

Truck Purchase

As stated above in the "Background Information" section herein, the Township regularly engages in joint expenditures with the Summit Township. One such joint expense occurred in July 2024, when the Township jointly purchased a 2007 Chevy Silverado 2500 truck, with an attached snowplow, for \$35,200. Below is an image of the truck from the dealership's original listing:

2007 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD Blizzard Snow plow 4WD Reg Cab 133" in Lincoln, NE

[-< Back to Inventory](#)




Sale Price: Call For Price!
 Mileage: 40,444
 Condition: Used Truck
 VIN: 1GCHK24K87E580169
 Stock #: 560169
 Doors: 2
 Drive Train: Four Wheel Drive
 Fuel Type: Gasoline
 Engine: ENGINE, VORTEC 6.0L VARIABLE VALVE TIMING V8 SFI
 Transmission: TRANSMISSION, 6-SPEED AUTOMATIC, HEAVY-DUTY, ELECTRONICALLY CONTROLLED

[Request More Info](#) [Loan Calculator](#)
[Request Quick Quote!](#) [Schedule Test Drive](#)
[Print Vehicle Info](#) [Email A Friend](#)

[View More Photos | 19 Photos](#)

According to Kelley Blue Book, a vehicle valuation and automotive research company, the truck shown in the above listing, without a snowplow attached, had a fair market value range from \$11,335 to \$13,809 as of mid-November 2024. The snowplow attached to the truck appears to be similar to the following listing for a used snowplow, which had an asking price of \$2,500:

Home / Used Blizzard 680LT Plow SUV Small Truck Personal Snow Plow 6'8



Used Blizzard 680LT Plow SUV Small Truck Personal Snow Plow 6'8

\$2,500.00
[CONTACT FOR SHIPPING](#)

SKU#: 11007

Used Blizzard 680LT Snowplow.

In addition to the snowplow itself, the hardware to mount the snowplow to the truck would also be required. The APA identified the following listing for an apparently compatible mount for the above plow, totaling \$865:

B30042-1 99-2010 Chevy GMC 2500/3500 Blizzard Power Hitch Truck Plow Mount HD

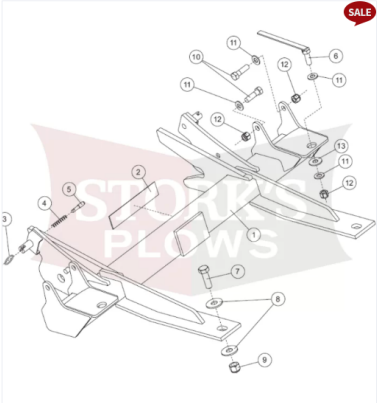
\$865.00
 \$969.00

5 AVAILABLE
 SKU#: B30042-1

A New Blizzard B30042 plow mount to fit the '99+ Chevy body style 1500HD, 2500HD and 3500.

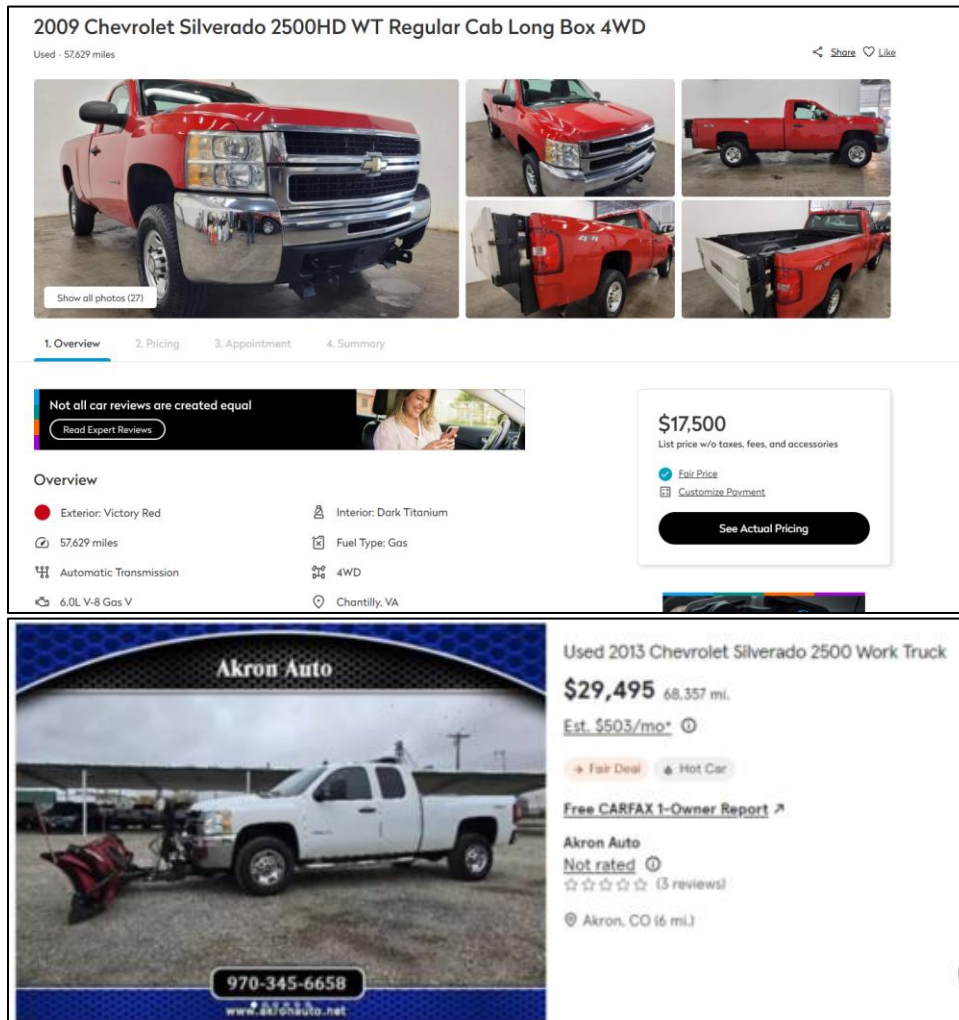
[ADD TO CART](#)

[Add to Wish List](#) [Add to Compare](#)



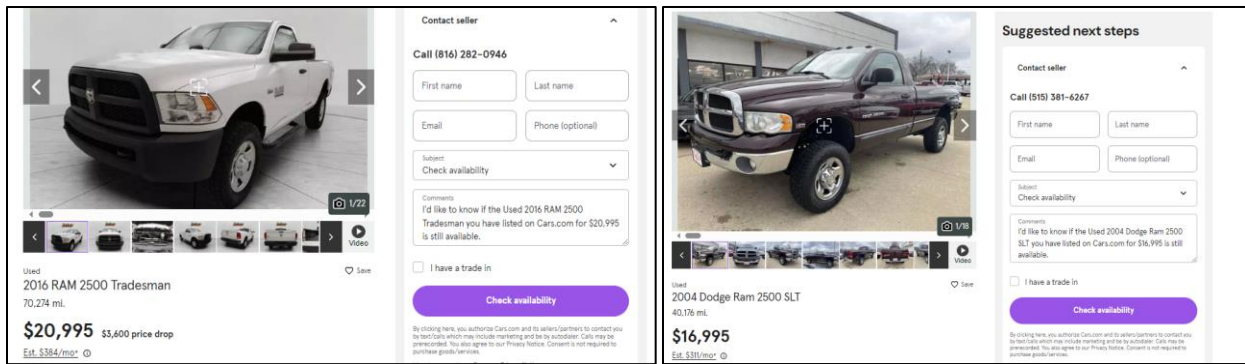
It was noted that at least one business in the Omaha area provides an installation service for snowplows. Using the top end of the aforementioned Kelley Blue Book range, the estimated price the APA calculated for the truck and snowplow parts would be around \$17,174. While the APA was unable to determine what price the installation fee would be at the particular Omaha-based business, a similar business located in Minnesota quotes the plow installation at \$800-\$900, with wiring installation costing \$400. Even including the labor costs to install a plow and wiring, the Township appears to have paid significantly more than what the truck and snowplow were worth.

After conducting a nationwide search to find similar vehicles, the APA identified trucks comparable to that which was ultimately purchased by the Township. The first image below shows a slightly newer truck with comparable miles being sold for a listed price of \$17,500. The second image below shows a six-year newer truck with comparable miles and a snowplow already installed for \$29,495.



After inquiring with the Summit Township, the APA was informed that the truck had been purchased because it was the only half-ton pickup in the area that was in good condition with a snowplow already attached. No other items of significant value were noted on the truck purchased.

Following this inquiry, the APA searched vehicle listings within 250 miles of the Township to find other trucks in the general area. In doing so, the APA identified several trucks currently for sale online that appear to have similar specifications and be capable of performing the same work for which the Township intends to use the 2007 Chevy Silverado. The image on the left shows a considerably newer truck with comparable miles being sold out of Kansas City, Missouri, for \$20,995. On the right, a slightly older truck with fewer miles being sold out of Des Moines, Iowa, for \$16,995:



While neither truck shown above has an attached snowplow, a snowplow and mount could likely be purchased and installed separately for significantly less than the amount ultimately paid for the original truck and attached snowplow.

The table below contains pricing information for both the truck that the Township purchased and comparable trucks, as described above, with additional estimates for the cost of installing, if needed, a snowplow of the same value (\$2,500 for the plow and \$865 for the mount) as that attached to the Township's truck:

Vehicle	Vehicle Price	Plow Price	Labor Price	Total Price	Note
2007 Chevy Silverado 2500	\$ 35,200	N/A	N/A	\$ 35,200	Snowplow already installed
2009 Chevy Silverado 2500	\$ 17,500	\$ 3,365	\$ 1,300	\$ 22,165	
2013 Chevy Silverado 2500	\$ 29,495	N/A	N/A	\$ 29,495	Snowplow already installed
2016 RAM 2500 Tradesman	\$ 20,995	\$ 3,365	\$ 1,300	\$ 25,660	
2004 Dodge Ram 2500 SLT	\$ 16,995	\$ 3,365	\$ 1,300	\$ 21,660	

Good internal controls and sound business practices require procedures to ensure that public funds are protected from waste, misuse, or theft. Further, those same procedures require due diligence when purchasing significant items, ensuring that Township expenditures are reasonable and not excessive when compared to the cost of similar goods or services. Without such procedures, there is an increased risk for waste, misuse, or theft of public funds.

We recommend the Board implement procedures to ensure the following: 1) public funds are protected from waste, misuse, or theft; 2) due diligence is exercised when purchasing significant items; and 3) all Township expenditures are reasonable and not excessive when compared to the cost of similar goods or services.

* * * * *

The preliminary planning work that resulted in this letter was designed primarily on a test basis and, therefore, may not bring to light all existing weaknesses in the Township's policies or procedures. Nevertheless, our objective is to use the knowledge gained during the performance of that preliminary planning work to make comments and suggestions that we hope will prove useful to the Township.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of the Township and its management. It is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than those specified parties. However, this letter is a matter of public record, and its distribution is not limited. If you have any questions, please contact **Dakota Christensen at 402-499-8702 or dakota.christensen@nebraska.gov**.

Sincerely,

Mark Avery, CPA
Assistant Deputy Auditor