



NEBRASKA AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

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State Auditor

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March 9, 2026

Steven Smith, Chairperson
Village of Lawrence
PO Box 363
Lawrence, NE 68957

Dear Chairperson Smith:

The Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) has reviewed the audit waiver request received from the Village of Lawrence (Village) for the fiscal year ending 2025. **That request has been approved.**

However, the Village's disbursements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, exceeded our normal threshold (\$500,000) for granting a waiver of the audit requirement. Disbursements for the fiscal year ended 2025, totaled \$568,132, which exceeds the normal audit waiver threshold. Due to the Village's submission of supporting documentation for one-time, low risk expenditures, that accounted for a significant percentage of the current year's expenditures, we were able to consider for this year, the Village's activity to be low enough to grant the audit waiver request.

However, if the September 30, 2026, fiscal year end disbursements are similar to or greater than the fiscal year 2025's expenditures, or close to the budgeted disbursements for fiscal year 2026, an audit of fiscal year end September 30, 2026, may be required. This information is only for your consideration of planning for fiscal year 2026 and forward.

While performing, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-304 (Supp. 2025), the preliminary examination necessary to determine whether the audit waiver should be allowed or further audit work would be required, the APA noted certain internal control or compliance matters, or other operational issues, within the Village.

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

Comments and Recommendations

1. Negative Fund Balance

On Exhibit A of the Village's audit waiver request form, the APA noted that the Street Fund and the Culture and Recreation Fund had deficit balances of \$26,057 and \$23,920, respectively, as of September 30, 2025. Per the Village's accountant, the Village plans to limit capital improvements and transfer funds from the General Fund to cover the deficit balances.

Good internal control and sound accounting practices require procedures to ensure that Village fund balances are sufficient to cover fully all disbursements and transfers approved by the Board. Those same procedures should ensure also that the Board is apprised regularly of each Village fund balance and, therefore, placed in a position to take necessary action to resolve any deficits therein.

Without such procedures, there is an increased risk of not only insufficient Village fund balances but also the resultant inability to cover fully all disbursements and transfers approved by the Board.

We recommend the Village Board implement procedures to ensure the Board is apprised regularly of each Village fund balance and, therefore, placed in a position to take necessary action to resolve any deficits therein.

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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 Village's policies or procedures. Nevertheless, our objective is to use the knowledge gained during the performance of that preliminary planning work to offer comments and suggestions that we hope will prove useful to the Village.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of the Village 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Avery", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Mark Avery, CPA
Assistant Deputy Auditor