AUDIT REPORT
OF
BLAINE COUNTY
JULY 1, 2024, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025

BLAINE COUNTY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
List of County Officials	1
Financial Section	
Independent Auditor's Report	2 - 4
Basic Financial Statements:	
Government-Wide Financial Statements:	
Statement of Net Position - Cash Basis	5
Statement of Activities - Cash Basis	6
Fund Financial Statements:	
Statement of Cash Basis Assets and Fund Balances - Governmental Funds	7
Statement of Cash Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Cash Basis Fund Balances - Governmental Funds	8
Statement of Cash Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Cash Basis Fund Balances - Fiduciary Funds	9
Notes to Financial Statements	10 - 16
Combining Statements and Schedules:	
Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Budget and Actual - General Fund	17
Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Budget and Actual - Major Funds	18
Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Budget and Actual - Nonmajor Funds	19
Combining Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Cash Basis Fund Balances - Nonmajor Funds	20 - 21
Schedule of Office Activities	22
Schedule of Taxes Certified and Collected for All Political Subdivisions in the County	23
Government Auditing Standards Section	
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*	24 – 25
Auditee Section	
Schedule of Findings and Reponses	26

BLAINE COUNTY

145 Lincoln Ave
Brewster, NE 68821

LIST OF COUNTY OFFICIALS
At June 30, 2025

Title	Name	Expires
Board of Commissioners	Matt Eggert	Jan. 2029
	Mike Peterson	Jan. 2027
	Craig Thompson	Jan. 2027
Clerk	April Warren	Jan. 2027
Attorney	Kayla Clark	Jan. 2027
Sheriff	Tim Sierks	Jan. 2027
Treasurer	Ann Marie Shinn	Jan. 2027
Veterans' Service Officer	Emory Haynes	Appointed
Weed Superintendent	Dustin Spanel	Appointed
Highway Superintendent	Kent Anderson	Appointed

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BLAINE COUNTY
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Commissioners Blaine
County, Nebraska

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions
We have audited the cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Blaine County, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements, as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective cash-basis financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Blaine County as of June 30, 2025, and the respective changes in cash-basis financial position for the year then ended in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

Basis for Opinions
We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the County and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting
We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinions are not modified with respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements
Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the cash basis of accounting described in Note 1, and for determining that the cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and, therefore, is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the County's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Supplementary Information
Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements. The combining nonmajor fund financial statement, budgetary comparison information, schedule of office activities, and schedule of taxes certified and collected, as noted in the table of contents, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from, and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 15, 2026, on our consideration of Blaine County's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Blaine County's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Seward, Nebraska
June 15, 2026

BLAINE COUNTY

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION - CASH BASIS

June 30, 2025

	Governmental Activities
ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Equivalents (Note 1.D)	$ 1,193,340
Investments (Note 1.D)	700,729
TOTAL ASSETS	$ 1,894,069
NET POSITION	
Restricted for:	
Lodging Tax	$ 12,843
Preservation & Modernization	2,784
Sheriff Pretrial	1,772
Law Enforcement	66,300
Unrestricted	1,810,370
TOTAL NET POSITION	$ 1,894,069

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

BLAINE COUNTY

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES - CASH BASIS

For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Functions:	Cash Disbursements	Program Cash Receipts: Fees, Fines, and Charges for Services	Program Cash Receipts: Operating Grants and Contributions	Net (Disbursement) Receipts and Changes in Net Position
Governmental Activities:				
General Government	$ (295,432)	$ 30,378	$ 35,773	$ (229,281)
Public Safety	(294,884)	538	-	(294,346)
Public Works	(548,325)	-	299,605	(248,720)
Public Assistance	(3,000)	-	-	(3,000)
Miscellaneous	(272,815)	-		(272,815)
Capital Outlays	(167,110)	-	-	(167,110)
Total Governmental Activities	$ (1,581,566)	$ 30,916	$ 335,378	$ (1,215,272)
General Receipts:				
Taxes				$ 697,634
Grants and Contributions Not Restricted to Specific Programs				164,743
Investment Income				87,591
Licenses and Permits				3,863
Health Insurance Settlements				340
Miscellaneous				14,065
Net Transfers				-
Total General Receipts				$ 968,236
Change in Net Position				(247,036)
Net Position - Beginning of year				2,141,105
Net Position - End of year				$ 1,894,069

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

BLAINE COUNTY

STATEMENT OF CASH BASIS ASSETS AND FUND BALANCES

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

June 30, 2025

	General Fund	Road/Bridge Fund	Inheritance Fund	Nonmajor Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS					
Cash and Cash Equivalents (Note 1.D)	$ 20,324	$ 452,941	$ 628,352	$ 91,723	$ 1,193,340
Investments (Note 1.D)	286,682	-	414,047	-	700,729
TOTAL ASSETS	$ 307,006	$ 452,941	$ 1,042,399	$ 91,723	$ 1,894,069
FUND BALANCES					
Restricted for:					
Lodging Tax	-	-	-	12,843	12,843
Preservation & Modernization	-	-	-	2,784	2,784
Sheriff Pretrial	-	-	-	1,772	1,772
Law Enforcement	-	-	-	66,300	66,300
Committed to:					
Veterans' Aid	-	-	-	5,647	5,647
COVID American Rescue Plan	-	-	-	2,377	2,377
Unassigned	307,006	452,941	1,042,399	-	1,802,346
TOTAL CASH BASIS FUND BALANCES	$ 307,006	$ 452,941	$ 1,042,399	$ 91,723	$ 1,894,069

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

BLAINE COUNTY
STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS,
AND CHANGES IN CASH BASIS FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	General Fund	Road/Bridge Fund	Inheritance Fund	Nonmajor Funds	Total Governmental Funds
RECEIPTS					
Taxes	$ 696,850	$ -	$ -	$ 784	$ 697,634
Licenses and Permits	3,863	-	-	-	3,863
Investment Income	86,901	690	-	-	87,591
Intergovernmental	161,391	338,730	-	-	500,121
Charges for Services	30,097	88	-	731	30,916
Miscellaneous	1,857	12,548	-	-	14,405
TOTAL RECEIPTS	980,959	352,056	-	1,515	1,334,530
DISBURSEMENTS					
General Government	295,432	-	-	-	295,432
Public Safety	99,640	-	-	195,244	294,884
Public Works	30,571	517,754	-	-	548,325
Public Health	-	-	-	-	-
Public Assistance	3,000	-	-	-	3,000
Culture and Recreation	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	272,815	-	-	-	272,815
Debt Service:					
Principal Payments	-	-	-	-	-
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Outlay	-	167,110	-	-	167,110
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	701,458	684,864	-	195,244	1,581,566
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF RECEIPTS OVER DISBRUSEMENTS	279,501	(332,808)	-	(193,729)	(247,036)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
Transfers in	-	337,308	-	9,500	346,808
Transfers out	(346,808)	-	-	-	(346,808)
Proceeds from Sale of Bonds					
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	(346,808)	337,308	-	9,500	-
Net Change in Fund Balances	(67,307)	4,500	-	(184,229)	(247,036)
CASH BASIS FUND BALANCES - BEGINNING	374,313	448,441	1,042,399	275,952	2,141,105
CASH BASIS FUND BALANCES - ENDING	$ 307,006	$ 452,941	$ 1,042,399	$ 91,723	$ 1,894,069

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

BLAINE COUNTY
STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS,
AND CHANGES IN CASH BASIS FUND BALANCES
FIDUCIARY FUNDS
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	Custodial Fund Balances July 1, 2024	Receipts	Disbursements	Custodial Fund Balances June 30, 2025
ASSETS				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	$ 50,600	$ 2,978,536	$ 2,975,518	$ 53,618
LIABILITIES				
Due to other governments				
State - Collected by County Treasurer	7,793	189,967	182,372	15,388
State - Collected by Other Offices	45	48,574	45,824	2,795
Schools	31,488	2,395,919	2,411,030	16,377
Educational Service Units	660	45,559	45,884	335
Technical College	3,595	127,499	130,567	527
Natural Resource Districts	616	47,053	47,307	362
Fire Districts	715	40,331	40,708	338
Municipalities	1,396	35,605	36,619	382
Agricultural Society	118	8,600	8,654	64
Others - Collected by County Treasurer	3,560	39,429	26,553	16,436
Others - Collected by Other Offices	614	-	-	614
TOTAL LIABILITIES	50,600	2,978,536	2,975,518	53,618
TOTAL NET POSITION	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

The following is a summary of the significant accounting policies utilized in the accounting system of Blaine County.

A. Reporting Entity

Blaine County, Nebraska, (County) is a governmental entity established under and governed by the laws of the State of Nebraska (State). The County is managed by county officials who are elected on a political ballot for four-year terms. As a political subdivision of the State, the County is exempt from State and Federal income taxes. The financial statements include all funds of the County that are not legally separate. The County has also considered all potential component units for which it is financially accountable, as well as other organizations that are either fiscally dependent on the County or maintain a significant relationship with the County, such that exclusion would be misleading or incomplete. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) has set forth criteria to be considered in determining financial accountability. These criteria include appointing a voting majority of an organization's governing body, and (1) the ability of the County to impose its will on that organization, or (2) the potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to, or impose specific financial burdens on, the County. The County is also considered financially accountable if an organization is fiscally dependent on and there is potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to, or impose specific financial burdens on, the County regardless of whether the organization has (1) a separately elected governing board, (2) a governing board appointed by a higher level of government, or (3) a jointly appointed board. As required by Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), these financial statements present the County (the primary government). No component units were identified.

B. Basis of Presentation

Government-Wide Financial Statements. The Statement of Net Position - Cash Basis and Statement of Activities - Cash Basis display information about the activities of the County and are in the format of government-wide statements, as required by GASB Statement Number 34. These statements include all the financial activities of the County, except for fiduciary activities. Internal activities in these statements were considered immaterial and have not been eliminated. Governmental Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) requires internal activity to be eliminated to minimize double counting. The County reports governmental activities only. Governmental activities are generally financed through taxes, intergovernmental receipts, and other nonexchange transactions. The Statement of Net Position presents the County's non-fiduciary assets in two categories:

> **Restricted.** This category results when constraints are externally imposed on net asset use by creditors, grantors, or contributors, or imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the County's policy to use restricted resources first, then the unrestricted resources as they are needed.
>
> **Unrestricted.** This category represents resources that do not meet the definition of the preceding category. Unrestricted resources often have constraints on resources that are imposed by management, but those constraints can be removed or modified.

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct disbursement of a given function or segment is offset by program receipts. Direct disbursements are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or segment. Program receipts include the following: 1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function or segment; and 2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or segment. Taxes and other items not properly included among program receipts are reported instead as general receipts.

Fund Financial Statements. The fund financial statements provide information about the County's funds, including its fiduciary funds. GAAP requires separate statements by fund category – governmental, proprietary, and fiduciary. The County uses only the governmental and fiduciary fund categories. The County Board is the highest level of decision-making authority and has the authority, by resolution, to establish, modify or rescind the commitment or assignment of a fund balance to a specific purpose. When resources for a specific purpose are available in more than one fund balance classification, the County's policy is to use resources in the following order: restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned. The emphasis of fund financial statements is on major governmental funds. All remaining governmental funds are aggregated and reported as nonmajor funds.

The County reports the following major governmental funds:

General Fund. This is the County's primary operating fund. It accounts for financial resources of the general government, except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

Road/Bridge Fund. This fund is used to account for costs associated with the repair and maintenance of roads and bridges and is primarily funded by State tax receipts.

Inheritance Fund. This fund is used to account for the receipts generated from inheritance taxes and is used for various projects.

The County reports the following additional non-major governmental fund types:

Special Revenue Funds. These funds account for the proceeds from a specific receipt source that is restricted to disbursements for a specified purpose.

Custodial Funds. These funds account for assets help by the County as an agent for various local governments.

The County designates fund balances as follows:

Restricted. The fund balance is restricted by external impositions, such as creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments.

Committed. The fund balance has been designated by the County Board for a specific purpose.

Assigned. The fund balance has not been designated by the County Board for a specific purpose, but it has been separated based on the type of revenue.

Unassigned. This portion of the General Fund is not restricted, committed, or assigned for a specific purpose.

C. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus and basis of accounting. The accounting records of the County are maintained and the government-wide financial statements were reported on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements. As such, the measurement focus includes only those assets and fund balances arising from cash transactions on the Statement of Net Position - Cash Basis and the Statement of Activities - Cash Basis. Receipts are recognized when received, and disbursements are recognized when paid. This differs from governmental GAAP, which requires the government-wide and fiduciary fund financial statements to be reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Under this measurement focus and basis of accounting, receipts are recorded when earned, and disbursements are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows.

The governmental fund financial statements were also reported on the cash receipt and disbursement basis of accounting. As such, the same measurement focus and basis of accounting were used, as described above. This differs from governmental GAAP, which requires governmental fund financial statements to be reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under this measurement focus and basis of accounting, receipts are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Receipts are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. Disbursements are generally recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, disbursements related to compensated absences, and claims and judgments are recorded only when payment is due.

D. Assets and Net Position

Cash and Cash Equivalents. The County's cash and cash equivalents consist of all cash on hand, demand deposit accounts, and money market accounts with immediate liquidity.

Investments. The types of investments in which the County is authorized to invest funds are enumerated in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 77-2315, § 77-2340, and § 77-2341 (Reissue 2018) and generally include U.S. Government obligations, certificates of deposit, time deposits, and securities authorized by the Nebraska Investment Council**.**

Capital Assets. Under the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting, capital assets are not capitalized in the funds used to acquire or construct them. Instead, capital acquisitions are reflected as disbursements in governmental funds. GAAP requires capital assets, which would include property, plant, equipment, and infrastructure assets (e.g., roads, bridges, sidewalks, and similar items), to be reported in the applicable governmental activities columns in the government-wide financial statements.

Depreciation expenses on capital assets were not recorded on the cash basis financial statements. Under GAAP, depreciation expenses would be recorded in the Statement of Activities. The cost of normal maintenance and repairs that does not add to the value of the asset or extend asset life is not capitalized.

Compensated Absences. Vested or accumulated vacation leave that is liquidated with expendable available financial resources is reported as a disbursement of the County funds as paid. Upon termination, employees are paid for any unused vacation. Under the receipts and disbursements basis of accounting, the liabilities for compensated absences are not reported since they do not represent liabilities arising from cash transactions. Under GAAP, the compensated absences liability would be reported in the government-wide financial statements and would be recorded in accordance with the County's policy, which is to recognize the expense and accrued liability when vacation and compensatory leave is earned.

Restricted Net Position. When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the County's policy to use restricted resources first, then the unrestricted resources, as they are needed. Net position is reported as restricted when constraints placed on its use are either externally imposed or imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. The government-wide statement of net position reports $83,700 of restricted net position which is fully restricted by enabling legislation.

Budgetary Process. The County adopts an annual budget in accordance with the statutory requirements of the Nebraska Budget Act and County Budget Act of 1937. The budget is prepared on the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting. The budget contains only those receipts actually received by the County Treasurer. The County does not utilize an encumbrance accounting system. All appropriated spending authority lapses at the end of the fiscal year.

On or before August 1, the County budget-making authority prepares and transmits a budget for each County fund to the County Board. The budget includes the requirements, the outstanding warrants, the operating reserves to be maintained, the cash on hand at the close of the preceding fiscal year, the receipts from sources other than taxation, and the amount to be raised by taxation. The County Board must hold at least one public hearing on the proposed budget. On or before September 30, the County Board adopts the budget and appropriates the amounts specified in the budget for the departments, offices, activities, and funds of the County.

2. Deposits and Investments

The County has generally pooled the cash resources of the various funds for investment purposes. Interest earned on pooled funds is credited to the County General Fund in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 77- 2315 (Reissue 2018).

Breakdown of Cash and Investments as of June 30, 2025:

Checking	$	32,001
Money Market		1,225,356
Certificates of Deposit		700,729
Total Cash and Investments	$	1,958,086
Less: Agency Held Funds		(50,212)
Less: Balance Held by Other Offices		(13,805)
Total Cash Held by County		1,894,069

Custodial Credit Risk – For purposes of classifying categories of custodial risk, the bank balances of the County's deposits during the current fiscal year end were not entirely insured by the FDIC or collateralized with securities held by the County's agent in the County's name. At the end of the year, the County had no insurance deficiency. The County is aware of the potential for deficiency and believes the credit risk is low due to the custodian's reputation and history.

Interest Rate Risk – Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. Duration is a measure of a debt investment's exposure to fair value changes arising from changes in interest rates. It uses the present value of cash flows, weighted for those cash flows as a percentage of the investments full price.

The County invests primarily in certificates of deposit which effectively limits exposure to interest rate risk as certificates of deposit have fixed interest rates. The County's use of money market funds does expose the County to interest rate risk, but the effects of such exposure do not put the County's current operating environment at risk for failure as the County is not dependent on the performance of such funds to maintain its current operations.

Credit Risk – Credit risk is the risk that an issuer or other counterparty to an investment will not fulfill its obligations. By investing primarily in certificates of deposit and money market accounts the County effectively limits exposure to credit risk. Bond ratings are not applicable to the County's portfolio of cash and investments.

Concentration of Credit Risk – Concentration of credit risk is the risk of loss attributed to the magnitude of a government's investment in a single issuer. The County does have some exposure to concentration of credit risk as it keeps funds in investment vehicles that were not entirely insured by the FDIC or collateralized with securities held in the County's name.

The County does not have exposure to foreign currency risk.

3. Taxes

Property taxes are levied by the County Board on or before October 15 of each year for all political subdivisions in the County. Real estate and personal property taxes are due and attach as an enforceable lien on January 1 following the levy date, and they become delinquent in two equal installments on May 1 and September 1. Motor vehicle taxes are due when application is made for registration of a motor vehicle.

Counties are permitted by the State Constitution to levy a tax of up to $.50/$100 of assessed valuation for general governmental services other than the payment of principal and interest on bonded debt. Counties may levy taxes in addition to the 50-cent limitation upon a vote of the people.

The levy set in October 2024, for the 2024 taxes, which will be materially collected in May and September 2025, was set at $.2209/$100 of assessed valuation. The levy set in October 2023, for the 2023 taxes, which were materially collected in May and September 2024, was set at $.2219/$100 of assessed valuation. The amount collected for the motor vehicle tax is outlined in State statute.

Additionally, there is currently a statutory lid limitation, which limits taxation to the prior year's level, with provisions for growth. The lid may be increased by 1% upon the approval of a three-fourths majority of the County Board.

The tax receipts classification also contains collections from the assessment of inheritance taxes, 911 surcharges, and lodging taxes.

4. Retirement Systems

The Retirement System for Nebraska Counties (Plan) is a multiple-employer plan administered by the Public Employees Retirement Board in accordance with the provisions of the County Employees Retirement Act. The Plan consists of a defined contribution option and a cash balance benefit. The cash balance benefit is a type of defined benefit plan. The Plan provisions are established under Neb. Rev. Stat.§§ 23-2301 through 23-2334 (Reissue 2022) and may be amended through legislative action.

Participation in the Plan is required of all full-time employees. Part-time (working less than one-half of the regularly scheduled hours) employees may elect voluntary participation upon reaching age 18. Part-time elected officials may exercise the option to join.

County employees and elected officials contribute 4.5% of their total compensation. In addition, the County contributes an amount equal to 150% of the employee's contribution. The contribution rates are established by § 23-2307 and § 23-2308 and may be amended through legislative action. The employee's and employer's contributions are kept in separate accounts. The employee's account is fully vested. The employer's account is fully vested after three years of participation in the system or credit for participation in another governmental plan prior to actual contribution to the Plan. Non-vested County contributions are forfeited upon termination. Forfeitures are used to cover a portion of the pension plan's administrative expenses. Prior service benefits are paid directly by the County to the retired employee. The Plan's financial statements, including pension costs and obligations, are audited annually and can be obtained from the State of Nebraska Public Employees Retirement System.

A supplemental retirement plan was established on January 1, 2003, for the benefit of all present and future commissioned law enforcement personnel employed by the County. Employees contribute 1% of their salary, and the County contributes an amount equal to 100% of the employee's contribution. In a defined contribution plan, benefits depend solely on amounts contributed to the Plan plus investment earnings. For the year ended June 30, 2025, 13 employees contributed $17,734 and the County contributed $26,005.

5. Risk Management

The County is exposed to various risks of loss related to the following: torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The County is a member of the Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Association (NIRMA), a public entity risk pool currently operating as a common risk management and insurance program for 106 counties and local governments throughout Nebraska.

The County pays an annual deposit premium, as calculated by the administrator of the pool. The premium is based on the losses and exposures of each County and the entire pool. If the pool becomes insolvent or otherwise unable to discharge its legal liabilities and obligations, the County may be assessed for an additional contribution. Each county remains liable for such assessments, regardless of the county's withdrawal from participation or the termination of the agreement, as well as for liabilities of the pool incurred during the county's period of membership.

The agreement with NIRMA requires the risk pool to provide coverage for up to a maximum amount per occurrence and purchase commercial insurance for claims in excess of coverage provided. In the event of a liability exceeding the commercial insurance, the County would be responsible for funding the excess amount.

	NIRMA Coverage	Maximum Coverage
General Liability Claim	$ 300,000	$ 5,000,000
Workers' Compensation Claim	$ 550,000	Statutory Limits
Property Damage Claim	$ 250,000	Insured Value at Replacement Cost

The County has not paid any additional assessments to the pool or paid out any amounts that exceeded coverage provided by the pool in the last three fiscal years. There were no significant reductions in insurance coverage from the prior year coverage.

The County utilized Blue Cross Blue Shield for employee health insurance and has contracted with Blue Cross Blue Shield to administer the County's insurance plan. Details of the coverage are available upon request from the County Clerk. The plan is funded through a combination of employee and County contributions, and reimbursements received from the County's secondary insurance provider. The activity of the plan is reflected in the County's financial statements under the Health Insurance Fund. No settlements exceeded coverage in any of the past three fiscal years. The County has obtained stop-loss coverage to limit the County's total exposure to $40,000 per enrolled member, per year.

6. Interfund Transfers

Interfund transfers for the year ended June 30, 2025, consisted of the following:

		Transfers Out	
		MAJOR FUNDS	
		100	
		General	Total
Transfers In			
	MAJOR FUNDS		
200	Road/Bridge Fund	$ 337,308	$ 337,308
	NONMAJOR FUNDS		
2901	Law Enforcement Sinking Fund	9,500	9,500
	Total	$ 346,808	$ 346,808

In the year ended June 30, 2025, the County made a one-time transfer of $337,308 from the General Fund to the Road/Bridge Fund for repairs, road project costs, and the purchase of equipment.

7. Subsequent Events

Subsequent events have been evaluated through June 15, 2026 which is the date the financial statements were issued. During the review of subsequent events no issues were noted that were required to be disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

BLAINE COUNTY
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL
GENERAL FUND
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
RECEIPTS				
Taxes	$ 824,648	$ 824,648	$ 696,850	$ (127,798)
Licenses and Permits	-	-	3,863	3,863
Investment Income	16,500	16,500	86,901	70,401
Intergovernmental	34,900	34,900	161,391	126,491
Charges for Services	31,500	31,500	30,097	(1,403)
Miscellaneous	-	-	1,857	1,857
TOTAL RECEIPTS	907,548	907,548	980,959	73,411
DISBURSEMENTS				
General Government:				
County Board	40,300	40,300	36,896	3,404
County Clerk	95,800	95,800	96,693	(893)
County Treasurer	82,100	82,100	75,023	7,077
County Assessor	41,000	41,000	24,469	16,531
Election Commissioner	13,800	13,800	6,366	7,434
Clerk of the District Court	15,525	15,525	1,131	14,394
County Court System	12,250	12,250	2,251	9,999
Building and Grounds	47,400	47,400	31,164	16,236
Agricultural Extension Agent	21,440	21,440	21,440	-
County Sheriff	73,525	73,525	69,997	3,528
County Attorney	29,300	29,300	27,457	1,843
County Jail	11,500	11,500	-	11,500
Emergency Management	10,000	10,000	2,186	7,814
Noxious Weed Control	31,383	31,383	30,571	812
Veterans' Service Officer	-	-	3,000	(3,000)
Public Transit	3,000	3,000	-	3,000
Miscellaneous General	295,630	295,630	272,815	22,815
Capital Outlay	70,600	70,600	-	70,600
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	894,553	894,553	701,459	193,094
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS	12,995	12,995	279,500	266,505
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers in	-	-	-	-
Transfers out	(337,308)	(337,308)	(346,808)	(9,500)
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING	(337,308)	(337,308)	(346,808)	(9,500)
Net Change in Fund Balance	(324,313)	(324,313)	(67,308)	257,005
FUND BALANCE - BEGINNING	374,313	374,313	374,313	-
FUND BALANCE - ENDING	$ 50,000	$ 50,000	$ 307,005	$ 257,005

BLAINE COUNTY
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL
MAJOR FUNDS
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

ROAD/BRIDGE FUND	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
RECEIPTS				
Intergovernmental	$ 342,478	$ 342,478	$ 338,730	$ (3,748)
Charges for Services	-	-	88	88
Miscellaneous	-	-	12,548	12,548
TOTAL RECEIPTS	342,478	342,478	352,056	9,578
DISBURSEMENTS	1,078,226	1,078,226	684,864	393,362
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS	(735,748)	(735,748)	(332,808)	402,940
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers in	337,308	337,308	337,308	-
Transfers out	-	-	-	-
Proceeds from Sale of Bonds	-	-	-	-
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	337,308	337,308	337,308	-
Net Change in Fund Balance	(398,440)	(398,440)	4,500	402,940
FUND BALANCE - BEGINNING	448,441	448,441	448,441	-
FUND BALANCE - ENDING	$ 50,001	$ 50,001	$ 452,941	$ 402,940
INHERITANCE FUND				
RECEIPTS				
Taxes	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
TOTAL RECEIPTS	-	-	-	-
DISBURSEMENTS	1,042,399	1,042,399	-	1,042,399
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS	(1,042,399)	(1,042,399)	-	1,042,399
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers in	-	-	-	-
Transfers out	-	-	-	-
Proceeds from Sale of Bonds	-	-	-	-
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	-	-	-	-
Net Change in Fund Balance	(1,042,399)	(1,042,399)	-	1,042,399
FUND BALANCE - BEGINNING	1,042,399	1,042,399	1,042,399	-
FUND BALANCE - ENDING	$ -	$ -	$ 1,042,399	$ 1,042,399

BLAINE COUNTY
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL
NONMAJOR FUNDS
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
LODGING TAX FUND				
Receipts	$ -	$ -	$ 784	$ 784
Disbursements	(12,059)	(12,059)	-	12,059
Transfers in	-	-	-	-
Transfers out	-	-	-	-
Proceeds from Sale of Bonds	-	-	-	-
Net Change in Fund Balance	(12,059)	(12,059)	784	12,843
Fund Balance - Beginning	12,059	12,059	12,059	-
Fund Balance - Ending	$ -	$ -	$ 12,843	$ 12,843
ROD PRESERVATION/MODERNIZATION FUND				
Receipts	$ -	$ -	$ 282	$ 282
Disbursements	(2,503)	(2,503)	-	2,503
Transfers in	-	-	-	-
Transfers out	-	-	-	-
Proceeds from Sale of Bonds	-	-	-	-
Net Change in Fund Balance	(2,503)	(2,503)	282	2,785
Fund Balance - Beginning	2,503	2,503	2,503	-
Fund Balance - Ending	$ -	$ -	$ 2,785	$ 2,785
VETERANS' AID FUND				
Receipts	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Disbursements	(5,647)	(5,647)	-	5,647
Transfers in	-	-	-	-
Transfers out	-	-	-	-
Proceeds from Sale of Bonds	-	-	-	-
Net Change in Fund Balance	(5,647)	(5,647)	-	5,647
Fund Balance - Beginning	5,647	5,647	5,647	-
Fund Balance - Ending	$ -	$ -	$ 5,647	$ 5,647
SHERIFF PRETRIAL FUND				
Receipts	$ -	$ -	$ 450	$ 450
Disbursements	(8,622)	(8,622)	(7,300)	1,322
Transfers in	-	-	-	-
Transfers out	-	-	-	-
Proceeds from Sale of Bonds	-	-	-	-
Net Change in Fund Balance	(8,622)	(8,622)	(6,850)	1,772
Fund Balance - Beginning	8,622	8,622	8,622	-
Fund Balance - Ending	$ -	$ -	$ 1,772	$ 1,772
COVID AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN				
Receipts	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Disbursements	(190,321)	(190,321)	(187,944)	2,377
Transfers in	-	-	-	-
Transfers out	-	-	-	-
Proceeds from Sale of Bonds	-	-	-	-
Net Change in Fund Balance	(190,321)	(190,321)	(187,944)	2,377
Fund Balance - Beginning	190,321	190,321	190,321	-
Fund Balance - Ending	$ -	$ -	$ 2,377	$ 2,377
LAW ENFORCEMENT SINKING FUND				
Receipts	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Disbursements	(56,800)	(56,800)	-	56,800
Transfers in	-	-	9,500	9,500
Transfers out	-	-	-	-
Proceeds from Sale of Bonds	-	-	-	-
Net Change in Fund Balance	(56,800)	(56,800)	9,500	66,300
Fund Balance - Beginning	56,800	56,800	56,800	-
Fund Balance - Ending	$ -	$ -	$ 66,300	$ 66,300

BLAINE COUNTY

COMBINING STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN CASH BASIS FUND BALANCES

NONMAJOR FUNDS

For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	Lodging Tax Fund	ROD Preservation/ Modernization Fund	Veterans' Aid Fund	Sheriff Pretrial Fund
RECEIPTS				
Taxes	$ 784	$ -	$ -	$ -
Investment Income	-	-	-	-
Intergovernmental	-	-	-	-
Licenses and Permits	-	-	-	-
Charges for Services	-	281	-	450
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	784	281	-	450
DISBURSEMENTS				
General Government	-	-	-	-
Public Safety	-	-	-	7,300
Public Works	-	-	-	-
Health and Sanitation	-	-	-	-
Public Assistance	-	-	-	-
Culture and Recreation	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-
Debt Service:				
Principal Payments	-	-	-	-
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	-	-	-
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	-	-	-	7,300
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS	784	281	-	(6,850)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers in	-	-	-	-
Transfers out	-	-	-	-
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	-	-	-	-
Net Change in Fund Balances	784	281	-	(6,850)
FUND BALANCES - BEGINNING	12,059	2,503	5,647	8,622
FUND BALANCES - ENDING	$ 12,843	$ 2,784	$ 5,647	$ 1,772
FUND BALANCES:				
Restricted for:				
Lodging Tax	12,843	-	-	-
Preservation & Modernization	-	2,784	-	-
Sheriff Pretrial	-	-	-	1,772
Law Enforcement	-	-	-	-
Committed to:				
Veterans' Aid	-	-	5,647	-
COVID American Rescue Plan	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	$ 12,843	$ 2,784	$ 5,647	$ 1,772

BLAINE COUNTY
COMBINING STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN CASH BASIS FUND BALANCES
NONMAJOR FUNDS
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025
(Continued)

	COVID American Rescue	Law Enforcement Sinking Fund	Total Nonmajor Funds
RECEIPTS			
Taxes	$ -	$ -	$ 784
Investment Income	-	-	-
Intergovernmental	-	-	-
Licenses and Permits	-	-	-
Charges for Services	-	-	731
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	-	-	1,515
DISBURSEMENTS			
General Government	-	-	-
Public Safety	187,944	-	195,244
Public Works	-	-	-
Health and Sanitation	-	-	-
Public Assistance	-	-	-
Culture and Recreation	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
Debt Service:			-
Principal Payments	-	-	-
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	-	-
Capital Outlay	-	-	-
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	187,944	-	195,244
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS	(187,944)	-	(193,729)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)			
Transfers in	-	9,500	9,500
Transfers out	-	-	-
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	-	9,500	9,500
Net Change in Fund Balances	(187,944)	9,500	(184,229)
FUND BALANCES - BEGINNING	190,321	56,800	275,952
FUND BALANCES - ENDING	$ 2,377	$ 66,300	91,723
FUND BALANCES:			
Restricted for:			
Lodging Tax	-	-	12,843
Preservation & Modernization	-	-	2,784
Sheriff Pretrial	-	-	1,772
Law Enforcement	-	66,300	66,300
Committed to:			
Veterans' Aid	-	-	5,647
COVID American Rescue Plan	2,377	-	2,377
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	$ 2,377	$ 66,300	91,723

BLAINE COUNTY
SCHEDULE OF OFFICE ACTIVITIES
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	County Clerk	Clerk of the District Court	County Sheriff	Total
BALANCES JULY 1, 2024	$ 164	$ 614	$ -	$ 778
RECEIPTS				
Taxes	-	-	-	-
Licenses and Permits	-	-	90	90
Intergovernmental	-	-	-	-
Charges for Services	22,937	189	316	23,442
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-
State Fees	48,489	85	-	48,574
Other Liabilities	-		-	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	71,426	274	406	72,106
DISBURSEMENTS				
Payments to County Treasurer	12,652	197	406	13,255
Payments to State Treasurer	45,710	114	-	45,824
Petty Cash & Other Payments	-	-	-	-
Other Liabilities	-	-	-	-
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	58,362	311	406	59,079
BALANCES JUNE 30, 2025	$ 13,228	$ 577	$ -	$ 13,805
BALANCES CONSIST OF:				
Due to County Treasurer	$ 10,403	$ -	$ -	10,403
Petty Cash	-	-	-	-
Due to State Treasurer	2,825	-	-	2,825
Due to Others	-	577	-	577
BALANCES JUNE 30, 2025	$ 13,228	$ 577	$ -	$ 13,805

BLAINE COUNTY
SCHEDULE OF TAXES CERTIFIED AND COLLECTED
FOR ALL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS IN THE COUNTY
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Tax Certified by Assessor					
Real Estate	$ 2,556,240	$ 2,505,466	$ 2,515,058	$ 2,452,122	$ 1,849,633
Personal and Specials	60,802	55,248	52,976	57,289	60,154
Total	2,617,042	2,560,714	2,568,034	2,509,411	1,909,787
Corrections					
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Deductions	-	-	-	-	-
Net Additions/ Deductions	-	-	-	-	-
Corrected Certified Tax	2,617,042	2,560,714	2,568,034	2,509,411	1,909,787
Net Tax Collected by County Treasurer as of June 30, 2025	2,616,941	2,560,654	2,567,714	2,507,484	1,227,165
Total Net Collections	2,616,941	2,560,654	2,567,714	2,507,484	1,227,165
Total Uncollected Tax	$ 101	$ 60	$ 320	$ 1,927	$ 682,622
Percentage Uncollected Tax	0%	0%	0%	0%	36%

Note: Tax refunds are netted against tax collections to determine Net Tax Collected.

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BLAINE COUNTY
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Board of Commissioners
Blaine County, Nebraska

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Blaine County, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated June 15, 2026. The report notes the financial statements were prepared on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting
In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the County's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the County's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We consider the deficiencies described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses as Findings 2025-1 to 2025-2 to be material weaknesses.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters
As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Blaine County's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

Blaine County's Response to Findings
Government Auditing Standards require the auditor to perform limited procedures on the County's response to the finding identified in our audit and described previously. The County's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

Purpose of this Report
The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering the County's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Seward, Nebraska
June 15, 2026

BLAINE COUNTY, NEBRASKA
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

Finding 2025-1 Financial Statement Preparation

Criteria: Good internal control requires entities have personnel in place to produce financial statements, which includes the notes to the financial statements, in accordance with GAAP and other applicable standards.

Condition: Though management demonstrates the capability of running a governmental organization, we noted a lack of expertise and knowledge was evident in the area of financial statement preparation in accordance with cash basis and other applicable standards. Additionally, numerous material audit adjustments were brought to management's attention during the audit.

Effect: Without proper personnel, there is an increased risk the financial statements may be materially misstated.

Recommendation: We recommend the County weigh the cost benefit of providing training to current personnel in the areas of GAAP and financial statement preparation or hiring additional personnel with this expertise.

Response: *The County will consider the costs benefit of training provisions or hiring additional personnel.*

Questioned Costs: No questioned costs were identified.

Finding 2025-2 Segregation of Duties

Criteria: Good internal control over financial reporting requires entities have proper segregation of duties in the accounting function so that no one person can authorize a transaction, record the transaction in account, and be responsible for the custody of the asset resulting from the transaction.

Condition: Though management demonstrates the capability of running a governmental organization, we noted a lack of segregation of duties as one person could handle all phases of a transaction from beginning to end.

Effect: Without proper segregation of duties, there is an increased risk the financial statements may be materially misstated.

Repeat Finding: Yes

Recommendation: We recommend the County weigh the cost benefit of hiring personnel with accounting function capabilities in order to properly segregate duties.

Response: *The County's Board will consider the costs benefit of hiring additional personnel. Additionally, the Board takes an active interest in the finances of the County and provides additional oversight.*

Questioned Costs: No questioned costs were identified.