



State of Tennessee

Justin P. Wilson, State Comptroller

For Immediate Release: February 25, 2014

Pickett County Audit Reveals Nearly 20 Bookkeeping and Management Issues

An audit released today by the Comptroller's office highlights 19 separate areas of concern with accounting, bookkeeping and management practices within Pickett County government.

Those findings are spread across numerous different departments of the county government, which serves a portion of upper Middle Tennessee that includes the popular Dale Hollow Lake resort area. Thirteen of the issues were identified in previous audits, but had not been sufficiently addressed by local officials.

These issues included deficiencies in budgeting and purchasing procedures, failure to report unclaimed funds and failure to deposit money collected in a timely fashion. There were also examples of inadequate internal safeguards, such as allowing employees to share computer user names and passwords and failing to adequately separate responsibilities for handling financial transactions.

"I am very concerned with the findings in this audit," Comptroller Justin P. Wilson said. "Failing to follow good fundamental rules about generally-accepted accounting and management practices may seem to some people like a small thing – but those rules can significantly reduce the chances public funds will be wasted, misspent or stolen. I am also disappointed that this audit included so many findings that were identified in previous audits. I hope and expect Pickett County officials to take appropriate action to correct the problems our auditors have identified."

To view the audit online, go to: <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/la/>.

If you suspect fraud, waste or abuse of public money in Tennessee, you may call the Comptroller's hot line at 1-800-232-5454 or fill out a report online at <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/shared/safwa.asp>.

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