

# COMPLIANCE AUDIT

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Sheriff  
Luzerne County, Pennsylvania  
For the Period  
March 1, 2017 to February 28, 2021

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April 2022



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Department of the Auditor General

Timothy L. DeFoor • Auditor General



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**TIMOTHY L. DEFOOR  
AUDITOR GENERAL**

The Honorable Brian Szumski  
Sheriff  
Luzerne County  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Sheriff, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania (County Officer), for the period March 1, 2017 to February 28, 2021, pursuant to the requirements of Section 401(e) of *The Fiscal Code*, 72 P.S. § 401(e).

The objective of the audit was to determine whether all moneys collected on behalf of the Commonwealth have been correctly assessed, reported, and promptly remitted and to provide a report to the Office of Comptroller Operations and the Pennsylvania State Police. Our audit was limited to areas related to the objective identified above and was not conducted, nor was it required to be, in accordance with Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

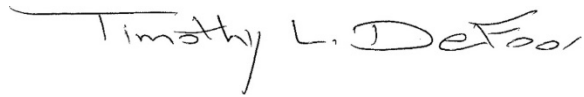
The County Officer is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance of compliance with state laws and regulations applicable to the collection of moneys on behalf of the Commonwealth, including whether they have been correctly assessed, reported, and promptly remitted. The County Officer is also responsible for complying with those laws and regulations. It is our responsibility to perform procedures to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to the extent necessary to satisfy the audit objective. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our conclusions.

Based on our audit procedures, we conclude that, for the period March 1, 2017 to February 28, 2021, the County Officer, in all significant respects, complied with state laws and regulations applicable to the collection of moneys on behalf of the Commonwealth, including whether they have been correctly assessed, reported, and promptly remitted.

This report includes summaries of the County Officer's receipts and disbursements of funds collected on behalf of the Commonwealth (summaries). We obtained data representing the County Officer's receipts and disbursements from the Office of Comptroller Operations and the Pennsylvania State Police, which obtains data from each of the Commonwealth's sheriff offices, and used the data to create the summary. We also evaluated the accuracy of the data as part of our audit to conclude on the County Officer's compliance with certain state laws and regulations as described in the previous paragraph. Any adjustments that we considered necessary based on our audit work are disclosed in the *Audit Adjustments* line of the summaries; however, the scope of our audit does not include the issuance of an opinion on the accuracy of the amounts reported in the summaries.

The purpose of this report is to determine whether all moneys collected on behalf of the Commonwealth have been correctly assessed, reported, and promptly remitted. This report is not suitable for any other purposes.

The contents of this report were discussed with the management of the County Officer. We appreciate the courtesy extended by the Sheriff, Luzerne County, to us during the course of our audit. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Bureau of County Audits at 717-787-1363.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy L. DeFoor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Timothy L. DeFoor  
Auditor General  
March 31, 2022

## CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Background .....	1
Summaries Of Receipts And Disbursements:	
Office of Comptroller Operations.....	2
Pennsylvania State Police.....	3
Summary Of Prior Audit Recommendations.....	4
Report Distribution .....	5

SHERIFF  
LUZERNE COUNTY  
BACKGROUND  
FOR THE PERIOD  
MARCH 1, 2017 TO FEBRUARY 28, 2021

The Department of Auditor General is mandated by Article IV, Section 401 (e) of *The Fiscal Code* (Act of April 9, 1929, P.L.343, No. 176), to audit the accounts of each county officer to determine whether all moneys collected on behalf of the Commonwealth have been correctly assessed, reported and promptly remitted.

Sheriff receipts consist of monies collected on behalf of the Office of Comptroller Operations and the Pennsylvania State Police. These include monies collected for the following surcharges and fees:

- Deputy Sheriff's Education and Training Surcharges of \$10 on each fee collected by the sheriff of every county upon acceptance for each service required for any complaint, summons, writ, or other legal paper required to be served or posted by the sheriff. Effective January 1, 2021 the surcharge was increased to \$16 on each required service.
- Firearms License Validation System Account Fees of \$1 imposed for applying for a license to carry a firearm. Effective March 1, 2015, this fee is remitted to the Pennsylvania State Police as required by Pennsylvania Uniform Firearms Act.

Total disbursements for the audit period are comprised as follows:

Sheriff checks issued to:

Office of Comptroller Operations	<u>\$ 491,478</u>
Pennsylvania State Police	<u>\$ 28,685</u>

This balance reflects a summary of receipts and disbursements on behalf of the Office of Comptroller Operations and the Pennsylvania State Police.

Brian Szumski served as Sheriff during the period March 1, 2017 to February 28, 2021.

The summaries of receipts and disbursements provides a summary of receipts and disbursements by category. The categories and the amounts of surcharges and fees assessed are based on Pennsylvania laws and regulations.

The summaries were prepared in accordance with reporting requirements prescribed by the Pennsylvania Office of Comptroller Operations and the Pennsylvania State Police. Under this method, only the Commonwealth portion of cash receipts and disbursements are presented, revenues are recognized when received, and expenditures are recognized when paid.

SHERIFF  
LUZERNE COUNTY  
OFFICE OF COMPTROLLER OPERATIONS  
SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD  
MARCH 1, 2017 TO FEBRUARY 28, 2021

Receipts:

Deputy Sheriff's Training and Education Surcharges	\$ 491,444
Disbursements to Office of Comptroller Operations	<u>(491,478)</u>
Balance due Office of Comptroller Operations (County)	(34)
Audit adjustments	<u>-</u>
Adjusted balance due Office of Comptroller Operations (County) for the period March 1, 2017 to February 28, 2021	<u><u>\$ (34)</u></u>

SHERIFF  
LUZERNE COUNTY  
PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE  
SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD  
MARCH 1, 2017 TO FEBRUARY 28, 2021

Receipts:

Firearms License Validation System Account Fees	\$ 28,685
Disbursements to Commonwealth	<u>(28,685)</u>
Balance due Commonwealth (County)	-
Audit adjustments	<u>-</u>
Adjusted balance due Commonwealth (County) for the period March 1, 2017 to February 28, 2021	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>

SHERIFF  
LUZERNE COUNTY  
SUMMARY OF PRIOR AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR THE PERIOD  
MARCH 1, 2017 TO FEBRUARY 28, 2021

Summary Of Prior Audit Recommendations

During our prior audit, we recommended that the office:

- Attempt to identify all existing liabilities associated with the office bank account and take appropriate action. Any unidentified funds should be accounted for under normal escheat procedures. Furthermore, we recommended that the office ensure that reconciled cash equals unpaid obligations monthly.

During our current audit, we noted that the office complied with our recommendations.



SHERIFF  
LUZERNE COUNTY  
REPORT DISTRIBUTION  
FOR THE PERIOD  
MARCH 1, 2017 TO FEBRUARY 28, 2021

This report was initially distributed to:

**Mr. Harrison Brooks**  
Commonwealth Accountant Manager  
Office of Comptroller Operations  
Accounts Receivable

**Corporal Daniel McGough**  
Pennsylvania State Police  
Firearm Records Unit

**Mr. Derin Myers**  
Director  
Office of Financial Management and Administration  
Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency

**The Honorable Brian Szumski**  
Sheriff

**The Honorable Kendra Radle**  
Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners

**The Honorable Walter Griffith**  
Controller

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at [www.PaAuditor.gov](http://www.PaAuditor.gov). Media questions about the report can be directed to the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, Office of Communications, 229 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120; via email to: [news@PaAuditor.gov](mailto:news@PaAuditor.gov).