

FROM THE FRONT

GREENE

from Al

importance of finally securing a first tenant in the McCreary County Industrial Park. The industrial park’s spec building, which had been unoccupied since its grand opening in 2005, became a leased building in 2025 after securing its first tenant, Outdoor Venture Corporation (OVC).

In 2025, Greene said another important community need was met through the state’s \$7.5 million appropriation for a regional jail expansion at the Whitley County Detention Center. Upon completion of construction, McCreary County inmates will be housed at the expanded facility, significantly reducing the time and cost of transporting inmates to Knox County, where local inmates are currently housed. The move

will also allow inmate work crews to assist in McCreary County.

Greene also highlighted developments at the County Park, including the organization of a McCreary County Boys & Girls Club and its use of the Park’s Senior Citizen/all-purpose building from 2:30-7:00, Monday-Thursday, until a stand-alone Boys & Girls Club facility is secured. Additionally, Greene spotlighted the construction of the McCreary County Public Library’s Readers to Leaders Story Book Trail at the County Park, as well as the recent joint effort between county government and local businesses to Light Up the Park with Christmas displays during the holidays.

Greene cited \$1 million in new pavement on county roads in 2025, as well as coordination with the KY Transportation

Department that resulted in a turning lane at the park and improved roads at Whitley City Elementary.

According to Greene, work on securing grants to fund a new North McCreary County Fire Station continued in 2025. Greene is hopeful the project will come to fruition in 2026.

Greene acknowledged several other McCreary County achievements in 2025, including the addition of two more Bulk, Free Drop-Off Days (bringing the total to four days throughout the year), upgraded equipment for the ambulance service, the road department, maintenance staff, and other county departments, and opioid abatement grant funding awarded to ASAP and the Board of Education.

Additionally, in 2025, Greene said the Fiscal Court partnered with Scott County, Tennessee,


and the cities of Oneida, Winfield, and Huntsville to form a coalition opposing the proposed construction of a second landfill in Winfield/Oneida. The McCreary County government joined the coalition due to concerns about the landfill’s potential impact on McCreary County’s drinking water,

which is sourced from the Big South Fork River.

Greene looked ahead to 2026, saying the county has applied for a grant to construct a build-ready site at the Industrial Park, will continue upgrading the McCreary County Airport, and will explore ways to improve infra-

structure, particularly housing.

Before concluding his remarks, Greene thanked the many partners who work hand in hand with the Fiscal Court and encouraged citizens, agencies, and elected officials to continue working together for the betterment of McCreary County.



ALLISON BALL

AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Independent Auditor's Report

To the People of Kentucky

The Honorable Andy Beshear, Governor

Holly M. Johnson, Secretary

Finance and Administration Cabinet

The Honorable Jimmie W. Greene II, McCreary County Judge/Executive

Members of the McCreary County Fiscal Court

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statement

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balances – Regulatory Basis of the McCreary County Fiscal Court, for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statement, which collectively comprise the McCreary County Fiscal Court’s financial statement as listed in the table of contents.

Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the receipts, disbursements, and changes in fund balances – regulatory basis of the McCreary County Fiscal Court, for the year ended June 30, 2024, in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Commonwealth of Kentucky as described in Note 1.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles section of our report, the financial statements do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of each fund of the McCreary County Fiscal Court, for the year ended June 30, 2024, or the changes in financial position and cash flows thereof for the year then ended.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS), the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the *Fiscal Court Audit Guide* issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement section of our report. We are required to be independent of the McCreary County Fiscal Court 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.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 1 of the financial statement, the financial statement is prepared by the McCreary County Fiscal Court on the basis of the accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Department for Local Government to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky’s regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The effects on the financial statement of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statement

McCreary County Fiscal Court’s management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Department for Local Government to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky’s regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws. This includes determining that the regulatory basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statement in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of a financial statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the McCreary County Fiscal Court’s ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is 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 statement.

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 statement, 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 statement.
- 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 McCreary County Fiscal Court’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 statement.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the McCreary County Fiscal Court’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.

Other Matters

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statement taken as a whole of the McCreary County Fiscal Court. The Budgetary Comparison Schedules and the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards, as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance) are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statement; however, they are required to be presented in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Department for Local Government to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky’s regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws.

The accompanying Budgetary Comparison Schedules and Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statement. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statement and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statement or to the financial statement itself, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the Budgetary Comparison Schedules and the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statement as a whole.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information included in this report. The other information is comprised of the schedule of capital assets but does not include the financial statement and our auditor’s report thereon. Our opinions on the financial statement do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statement, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the financial statement, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated July 7, 2025, on our consideration of the McCreary County Fiscal Court’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 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 the McCreary County Fiscal Court’s internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Based on the results of our audit, we present the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses included herein, which discusses the following report findings:

2024-001 The Payroll Revolving Account Was Not Properly Reconciled

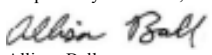
2024-002 The Fiscal Court Did Not Have Proper Purchase And Procurement Procedures

2024-003 The Fiscal Court’s Internal Controls Over Payroll Were Not Operating Effectively

2024-004 The Fiscal Court Did Not Have Adequate Internal Controls Over The Rural Business Enterprise Grants Revolving Loan Program

2024-005 The Fiscal Court Did Not Segregate Duties Over Accounting Functions

Respectfully submitted,



Allison Ball
Auditor of Public Accounts
Frankfort, Ky


July 7, 2025

State law requires the Auditor of Public Accounts to annually audit fiscal courts, county clerks, and sheriffs; and print the results in a newspaper having general circulation in the county. The complete audit and any other audit of state agencies, fiscal courts, county clerks, sheriffs, and property valuation administrators may be viewed in the reports section of the Auditor of Public Accounts’ website at auditor.ky.gov or upon request by calling 1-800-247-9126.

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“A copy of the complete audit report, including financial statements and supplemental information is on file at the Clerk’s office and available for public inspection during normal business hours”

“Citizens requesting a personal copy of the Clerk’s office audit report will be charged for duplication costs at a rate that shall not exceed twenty-five cents per page”

“Copies of the financial statement prepared in accordance with KRS 424.220 are available to the public at no cost at the business address of the officer responsible for preparation of the statement”

LIGHT

from Al

As initially reported by the McCreary Journal in its December 24, 2025, issue, TWRA issued a December 18, 2025, letter notifying that it had completed a formal review of the proposed Trans-Rail (Roberta Phase II) landfill project on Bear Creek Road in Oneida, TN, as requested by the Trans-Rail developer and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). The TWRA letter, written by Dennis Lindbom, gave its go-ahead to Trans-Rail’s ARAP application, which proposes 1,573 feet of stream impacts, 1.01 acres of wetland/pond fill, and approximately 642 linear feet of stream relocation to develop the project.

To avoid impacts on TN-state-listed (fish and wildlife) species, the TWRA letter specifically recommended that instream construction be conducted during periods of low flow whenever possible, that instream operation of heavy equipment be minimized, that bank or channel modifications be limited to the minimum extent necessary for completion, and that best management practices addressing erosion and sediment be implemented and maintained during all construction activities. The letter further stated that TWRA considers the implementation of best management practices sufficient to reduce the potential impact on fish and wildlife associated with the project.

The TWRA letter also stated that its approval

of the project is contingent on adherence to the stream and mitigation requirements established by TDEC and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as well as any recommendations from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding federally listed species.

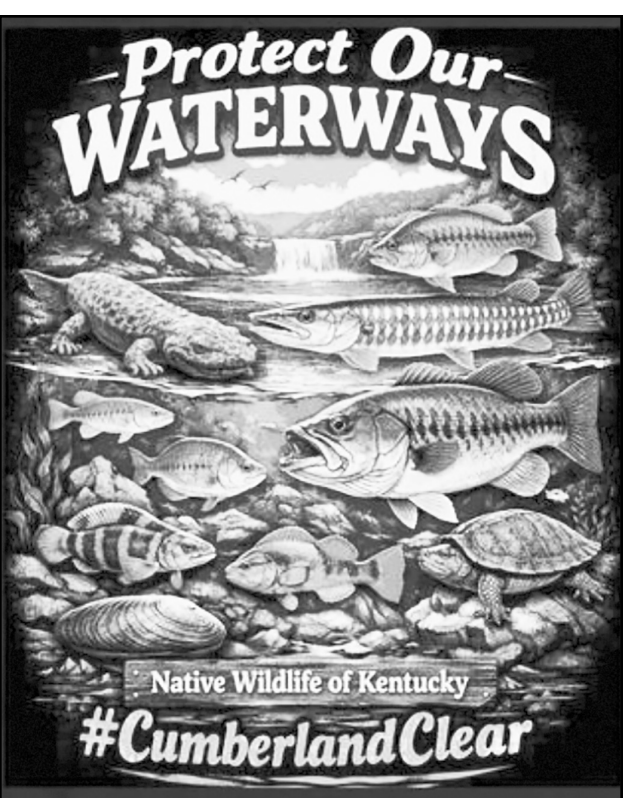
The formal TWRA review occurred after TDEC notified Trans-Rail Waste that the review was required as part of the developer’s application process. Trans-Rail Waste contacted TWRA to request the formal review. As a result, TWRA conducted the review to determine whether surveys were needed to assess the possible presence of listed (fish/wildlife) species in the site vicinity, or whether conditions were needed in the permit for any species.

OPPOSITION T-SHIRT DESIGN

A McCreary County resident demonstrated her opposition to the proposed second landfill in Scott County, TN, by creating a custom-designed T-shirt and initiating a fund-raiser with all proceeds from T-shirts sales going to Cumberland Clear, a citizen group leading efforts to stop construction of the landfill.

Kristen Gibson, an avid hiker who enjoys the beauty of the Daniel Boone National Forest, Big South Fork River and Recreation Area, and Lake Cumberland, said on Facebook that she launched the fund-raiser out of her concern for the potential impact on water, agriculture, and wildlife.

A link to order the shirt can be found on Cumberland



Clear’s facebook page or by searching CumberlandClear on www.bonfire.com

Gibson said all donations can be made directly to CumberlandClear.org.

NEWS IN PROGRESS:

The McCreary Journal will report on the 2024 Fiscal Court audit in next week’s issue, February 4, 2026.