



COMMISSIONERS COURT
COMMUNICATION

REFERENCE NUMBER CO#115250
0
PAGE 1 OF 4
DATE: 5/21/2013

SUBJECT: **RECEIVE AND FILE THE AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR THE REVIEW OF THE TARRANT COUNTY CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 4, PROPERTY ROOM**

COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED:

It is requested that the Commissioners Court receive and file the Auditor's Report for the review of the Tarrant County Constable, Precinct 4, Property Room.

BACKGROUND:

In accordance with Local Government Code, Sec. 112.006, General Oversight Authority of the County Auditor, the Auditor's Office performed a review of the controls over the Constable's property room as of February 27, 2013. The objective of the review was to determine whether property held by the Constable's Office was properly recorded and secured. The Auditor's Office observed one condition related to the disposition of three items held in the property room since 2010. The Auditor's Office discussed this condition with the Constable.

Attached is a written response.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with this item.

SUBMITTED BY:	Auditor	PREPARED BY:	S. Renee Tidwell
		APPROVED BY:	



TARRANT COUNTY

TARRANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING - ROOM 506
100 E. WEATHERFORD
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76196-0103
817/884-1205
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S. RENEE TIDWELL, CPA
COUNTY AUDITOR
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CRAIG MAXWELL
FIRST ASSISTANT COUNTY AUDITOR
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April 17, 2013

The Honorable Dub Branson, Constable 4
The Honorable District Judges
The Honorable Commissioners Court
Tarrant County, Texas

Re: Auditor's Report – Review of Constable, Precinct 4, Property Room

SUMMARY

In accordance with Local Government Code, Sec. 112.006, General Oversight Authority of the County Auditor, we performed a review of the controls over the Constable's property room as of February 27, 2013. The objective of our review was to determine whether property held by the Constable's Office was properly recorded and secured. We observed one condition related to the disposition of three items held in the property room since 2010. We discussed this condition with the Constable during the time of our review. Attached is his written response.

OBSERVATION AND RECOMMENDATION

Three weapons had remained in the property room since 2010.

During the course of normal duty, a peace officer may obtain items such as weapons, ammunition, drugs, and drug paraphernalia. When this occurs, the peace officer, in this case the Constable's Office, retains custody of the property until further orders are received from a magistrate. The Code of Criminal Procedure provides guidance for the safeguarding and the disposition of seized, forfeited, and unclaimed property held by a peace officer.

We observed three weapons that had been in the property room since 2010. According to Constable staff, the owner of two of the weapons was deceased. Certified letters were sent the deceased owner's family, but they were not interested in claiming the weapons. The third weapon was seized on an execution. When Constable staff communicated with the owner in 2010, the owner requested that the weapon be held.

Recommendation

In accordance with Code of Criminal Procedure, we recommend that the Constable obtain a judicial order for the disposition of the property since the weapons have remained unclaimed since 2010.

CLOSING REMARKS

We appreciate the cooperation of the Constable Bransom and Chief Rogers during our review. If you have any questions concerning this report, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



S. Renee Tidwell, CPA
County Auditor

Attachment:
Management's Response

Distribution:
Chief Deputy Frederick Rogers

Team:
Kim Trussell, Audit Manager
Matt Jones, Internal Auditor



TARRANT COUNTY
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102

DUB BRANSOM
CONSTABLE PCT. 4
NORTHWEST SUB-COURTHOUSE
6713 TELEPHONE ROAD
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76135
817-238-4410
FAX 817-238-4413

May 13, 2013

To: Renee Tidwell, Auditor

From: Constable Dub Bransom

Reference: Commissary Audit

Constable Dub Bransom is in receipt of the recent audit findings for our office,
and we are in agreement with all findings.

We appreciate the cooperation and diligence shown by the Audit Staff. As always,
we stand ready to assist your efforts in every way.

Constable Dub Bransom

