



**Washington State Auditor's Office**

**Troy Kelley**

**Integrity • Respect • Independence**

## **Accountability Audit Report**

# **City of Goldendale**

**Klickitat County**

**For the period January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2013**

**Published November 24, 2014**

**Report No. 1013025**





## Washington State Auditor Troy Kelley

November 24, 2014

Mayor and City Council  
City of Goldendale  
Goldendale, Washington

### Report on Accountability

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you to promote accountability, integrity and openness in government. The State Auditor's Office takes seriously our role of providing state and local governments with assurance and accountability as the independent auditor of public accounts. In this way, we strive to help government work better, cost less, deliver higher value and earn greater public trust.

Independent audits provide essential accountability and transparency for City operations. This information is valuable to management, the governing body and public stakeholders when assessing the government's stewardship of public resources.

The attached comprises our report on the City's compliance and safeguarding of public resources. Our independent audit report describes the overall results and conclusions for areas we examined. We appreciate the opportunity to work with your staff and we value your cooperation during the audit.

Sincerely,

TROY KELLEY  
STATE AUDITOR

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## AUDIT SUMMARY

### Results in brief

In the areas we audited, City operations complied with applicable requirements and provided adequate safeguarding of public resources. The City also complied with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures in the areas we examined.

### About the audit

This report contains the results of our independent accountability audit of the City of Goldendale from January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2013.

Management is responsible for ensuring compliance and adequate safeguarding of public resources from fraud, loss or abuse. This includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls relevant to these objectives.

Our audit involved performing procedures to obtain evidence about the City's uses of public resources, compliance with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures, and internal controls over such matters.

In keeping with general auditing practices, we do not examine every transaction, activity or area. Instead, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of fraud, loss, abuse, or noncompliance. The following areas were examined during this audit period:

- Utilities – billing and adjustments
- Police Department – evidence room
- Procurement
- Cost allocation plan
- Payroll
- Disbursements

## STATUS OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS

The status of findings contained in the prior years' audit reports of the City of Goldendale is provided below:

**1. The City of Goldendale lacks adequate internal controls to ensure utility bills and adjustments are accurate and valid.**

Report No. 1008926, dated November 30, 2012

***Background***

The City implemented a new system to calculate utility bills, process adjustments and receipt customer payments. The City did not verify the new system was properly calculating charges and we identified several errors in our recalculation of utility bills. In addition, the City did not maintain support for account adjustments made and thus we were unable to verify the validity of adjustments.

***Status***

The condition noted in the prior audit has been resolved. The City has improved controls over the utility billing system and bills are calculated accurately. In addition, the City has made improvements relating to documentation of adjustments.

## RELATED REPORTS

### **Financial**

Our opinion on the City's financial statements is provided in a separate report, which includes the City's financial statements.

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE CITY

The City of Goldendale is the county seat for Klickitat County and serves approximately 3,750 citizens. The City provides a range of services including water and sewer systems as well as public safety, fire protection, street maintenance and improvement, parks and recreation, general administrative services and tourism.

The City is governed by a Mayor and an elected, seven-member Council. For fiscal years 2012 and 2013, the City had 26 full-time employees, whose operations and capital budget totaled approximately \$6.5 million and \$8.0 million, respectively.

### Contact information related to this report

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*Information current as of report publish date.*

### Audit history

You can find current and past audit reports for the City of Goldendale at <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

## ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

The State Auditor's Office is established in the state's Constitution and is part of the executive branch of state government. The State Auditor is elected by the citizens of Washington and serves four-year terms.

We work with our audit clients and citizens to achieve our vision of government that works for citizens, by helping governments work better, cost less, deliver higher value, and earn greater public trust.

In fulfilling our mission to hold state and local governments accountable for the use of public resources, we also hold ourselves accountable by continually improving our audit quality and operational efficiency and developing highly engaged and committed employees.

As an elected agency, the State Auditor's Office has the independence necessary to objectively perform audits and investigations. Our audits are designed to comply with professional standards as well as to satisfy the requirements of federal, state, and local laws.

Our audits look at financial information and compliance with state, federal and local laws on the part of all local governments, including schools, and all state agencies, including institutions of higher education. In addition, we conduct performance audits of state agencies and local governments as well as [fraud](#), state [whistleblower](#) and [citizen hotline](#) investigations.

The results of our work are widely distributed through a variety of reports, which are available on our [website](#) and through our free, electronic [subscription](#) service.

We take our role as partners in accountability seriously, and provide training and technical assistance to governments, and have an extensive quality assurance program.

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