Washington State Auditor's Office

Troy Kelley

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Accountability Audit Report

Skagit Emergency Communications Center (Skagit 911)

Skagit County

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

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Washington State Auditor
Troy Kelley

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Emergency Management Council
Skagit 911
Mount Vernon, 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 Center 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 Center'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 X. Kelley

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STATE AUDITOR

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AUDIT SUMMARY

Results in brief

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

However, we noted certain matters that we communicated to Center management in a letter dated December 3, 2014, related to internal controls. We appreciate the Center's commitment to resolving those matters.

About the audit

This report contains the results of our independent accountability audit of Skagit 911 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 Center'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:

- Software conversion
- Cash receipting internal controls
- Disbursements
- Financial condition
- Leave accrual
- Open Public Meetings Act

RELATED REPORTS

Financial

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

INFORMATION ABOUT THE CENTER

The Skagit Emergency Communications Center, doing business as Skagit 911, was organized by an interlocal agreement among Skagit County, the cities of Anacortes, Burlington, Mount Vernon and Sedro-Woolley, and the towns of Concrete, Hamilton, La Conner and Lyman. The Center was formed to provide law enforcement, fire and emergency medical service call support and dispatching service within Skagit County.

The Center is administered by the 11-member Skagit County Emergency Management Council, which is composed of the Skagit County Board of Commissioners and mayors from the member cities and towns. The operating budgets for fiscal years 2012 and 2013 were approximately $4.2 million and $4.4 million, respectively. Approximately 40 employees provide 9-1-1 call answering and emergency dispatching services for the fire, medic and law enforcement agencies in Skagit County.

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 Skagit 911 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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