

STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS
302 West Washington Street
Room E418
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2769

FEDERAL COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT

OF

TOWN OF WALKERTON

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, INDIANA

January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021



FILED
07/29/2022

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SCHEDULE OF OFFICIALS

<u>Office</u>	<u>Official</u>	<u>Term</u>
Clerk-Treasurer	Theresa Buckmaster	01-01-21 to 12-31-22
President of the Town Council	Gene Reese	01-01-21 to 12-31-22



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING
AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL
STATEMENT PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

TO: THE OFFICIALS OF THE TOWN OF WALKERTON, ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, INDIANA

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statement of the Town of Walkerton (Town), for the year ended December 31, 2021, and the related notes to the financial statement, which collectively comprise the Town's financial statement and have issued our report thereon dated June 29, 2022, wherein we noted the Town followed accounting practices the Indiana State Board of Accounts prescribes rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Report On Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statement, we considered the Town's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Town's financial statement will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies, and, therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We did identify certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs as item 2021-001, that we consider to be material weaknesses.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING
AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL
STATEMENT PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*
(Continued)

Report On Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Town's financial statement is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs as item 2021-001.

Town of Walkerton's Response to Findings

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Town's response to findings identified in our audit and described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs. The Town's response to the findings identified in our audit is described in the accompanying Corrective Action Plan. The Town's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statement, and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Town's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Beth Kelley, CPA, CFE
Deputy State Examiner

June 29, 2022



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR THE MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM; REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE; AND REPORT ON SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE

TO: THE OFFICIALS OF THE TOWN OF WALKERTON, ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, INDIANA

Report on Compliance for the Major Federal Program

Opinion on the Major Federal Program

We have audited the Town of Walkerton's (Town) compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on its major federal program for the year ended December 31, 2021. The Town's major federal program is identified in the Summary of Auditor's Results section of the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs.

In our opinion, the Town complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on its major federal program for the year ended December 31, 2021.

Basis for Opinion on the Major Federal Program

We conducted our audit of compliance 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 (*Government Auditing Standards*); and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance* section of our report.

We are required to be independent of the Town and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with 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 opinion on compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the Town's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to the Town's federal programs.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR THE MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM; REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE; AND REPORT ON SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE
(Continued)

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the Town's compliance based on our audit. 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, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Non-compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material, if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually, or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the Town's compliance with the requirements of each major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, 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 Town's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- Obtain an understanding of the Town's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

Other Matters

The results of our auditing procedures disclosed instances of noncompliance, which are required to be reported in accordance with the Uniform Guidance and which are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs as item 2021-002. Our opinion on the major federal program is not modified with respect to these matters.

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Town's response to the noncompliance findings identified in our audit described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs. The Town's response to the noncompliance findings identified in our audit is described in the accompanying Corrective Action Plan. The Town's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance, and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR THE MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM; REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE; AND REPORT ON SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE
(Continued)

Report on Internal Control over Compliance

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance* section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as discussed below, we did identify certain deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses.

A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A material weakness in internal control over compliance is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. We consider the deficiencies in internal control over compliance described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs as items 2021-002 and 2021-003, to be material weaknesses.

A significant deficiency in internal control over compliance is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

Government Auditing Standards require the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Town's response to the internal control over compliance findings identified in our audit described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs. The Town's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance, and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR THE MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM; REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE; AND REPORT ON SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE
(Continued)

Report on Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards Required by the Uniform Guidance

We have audited the financial statement of the Town, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021, and the related notes to the financial statement. We issued our report thereon dated June 29, 2022, which contained a dual opinion on the financial statement. An adverse opinion was issued regarding the presentation in accordance with U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, and an unmodified opinion was issued regarding the presentation in accordance with the Regulatory Basis of Accounting. Our audit was performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statement as a whole. The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by the Uniform Guidance and is not a required part of the financial statement. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statement. The 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 Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statement as a whole.



Beth Kelley, CPA, CFE
Deputy State Examiner

June 29, 2022

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS AND ACCOMPANYING NOTES

The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and accompanying notes presented were approved by management of the Town. The schedule and notes are presented as intended by the Town.

TOWN OF WALKERTON
 SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
 For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Federal Grantor Agency Cluster Title/Program Title/Project Title	Pass-Through Entity or Direct Grant	Assistance Listings Number	Pass-Through Entity (or Other) Identifying Number	Passed Through to Subrecipient	Total Federal Awards Expended
<u>Department of Homeland Security</u>					
Assistance to Firefighters Grant	Direct Grant	97.044	EMW-2019-FG-10608	\$ -	\$ 763,957
Federal Emergency Management Agency Grant					
Total - Department of Homeland Security				-	763,957
Total federal awards expended				\$ -	\$ 763,957

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards.

TOWN OF WALKERTON
NOTES TO SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Basis of Presentation

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA) includes the federal grant activity of the Town under programs of the federal government for the year ended December 31, 2021. The information in the SEFA is presented in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Because the SEFA presents only a select portion of the operations of the Town, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position of the Town.

B. Other Significant Accounting Policies

Expenditures reported on the SEFA are reported on the cash basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following, as applicable, either the cost principles in OMB Circular A-87, *Cost Principles for State, Local, and Indian Tribal Governments*, or the cost principles contained in the Uniform Guidance, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowed or are limited as to reimbursement. When federal grants are received on a reimbursement basis, the federal awards are considered expended when the reimbursement is received.

Note 2. Indirect Cost Rate

The Town has elected not to use the 10 percent de minimis indirect cost rate allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

TOWN OF WALKERTON
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

Section I - Summary of Auditor's Results

Financial Statement:

Type of auditor's report issued:	Adverse as to GAAP; Unmodified as to Regulatory Basis
Internal control over financial reporting:	
Material weaknesses identified?	yes
Significant deficiencies identified?	none reported
Noncompliance material to financial statement noted?	yes

Federal Awards:

Internal control over major program:	
Material weaknesses identified?	yes
Significant deficiencies identified?	none reported
Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with 2 CFR 200.516(a)?	yes

Identification of Major Program and type of auditor's report issued on compliance for it:

Assistance Listings Number	Name of Federal Program or Cluster	Opinion Issued
97.044	Assistance to Firefighters Grant	Unmodified

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between Type A and Type B programs: \$750,000

Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee? no

Section II - Financial Statement Findings

FINDING 2021-001

Subject: Preparation of the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards
Audit Findings: Material Weakness, Noncompliance

Condition and Context

The Town had not established effective internal controls over the federal award information entered in the Indiana Gateway for Government Units (Gateway) financial reporting system, which was the source of the Town's Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA).

The Town failed to properly review the federal grant information prepared and submitted in Gateway. Although one employee prepared and entered the federal award information into Gateway, and another employee reviewed and approved the information entered, the internal control was not effective and did not detect and allow correction of errors prior to submission.

TOWN OF WALKERTON
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
(Continued)

Due to the lack of effective internal controls, the SEFA presented for audit included the following errors:

1. The Assistance to Firefighters Grant expenditures were overstated by \$38,153.
2. The Assistance to Firefighters Grant passed through to subrecipient expenditures were overstated by \$587,705.
3. Other errors included incorrect project title, pass-through entities, and identifying number.

Audit adjustments were proposed, accepted by the Town, and made to the SEFA presented in this report.

Criteria

The Indiana State Board of Accounts (SBOA) is required under Indiana Code 5-11-1-27(e) to define the acceptable minimum level of internal control standards. To provide clarifying guidance, the State Examiner compiled the standards contained in the manual. *Uniform Internal Control Standards for Indiana Political Subdivisions*. All political subdivisions subject to audit by SBOA are expected to adhere to these standards. The standards include adequate control activities. According to this manual:

"Control activities are the actions and tools established through policies and procedures that help to detect, prevent, or reduce the identified risks that interfere with the achievement of objectives. Detection activities are designed to identify unfavorable events in a timely manner whereas prevention activities are designed to deter the occurrence of an unfavorable event. Examples of these activities include reconciliations, authorizations, approval processes, performance reviews, and verification processes.

An integral part of the control activity component is segregation of duties. . . .

There is an expectation of segregation of duties. If compensating controls are necessary, documentation should exist to identify both the areas where segregation of duties are not feasible or practical and the compensating controls implemented to mitigate the risk. . . ."

2 CFR 200.303 states in part:

"The non-Federal entity must:

- (a) Establish and maintain effective internal control . . ."

2 CFR 200.62 states in part:

"Internal control over compliance requirements for Federal awards means a process implemented by a non-Federal entity designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the achievement of the following objectives for Federal awards:

- (a) Transactions are properly recorded and accounted for, in order to:
 - (1) Permit the preparation of reliable financial statements . . ."

TOWN OF WALKERTON
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
(Continued)

2 CFR 200.508 states in part:

"The auditee must: . . .

(b) Prepare appropriate financial statements, including the schedule of expenditures of Federal Awards in accordance with § 200.510. . . ."

2 CFR 200.510(b) states:

"Schedule of expenditures of Federal awards. The auditee must also prepare a schedule of expenditures of Federal awards for the period covered by the auditee's financial statements which must include the total Federal awards expended as determined in accordance with § 200.502. While not required, the auditee may choose to provide information requested by Federal awarding agencies and pass-through entities to make the schedule easier to use. For example, when a Federal program has multiple Federal award years, the auditee may list the amount of Federal awards expended for each Federal award year separately. At a minimum, the schedule must:

- (1) List individual Federal programs by Federal agency. For a cluster of programs, provide the cluster name, list individual Federal programs within the cluster of programs, and provide the applicable Federal agency name. For R&D, total Federal awards expended must be shown either by individual Federal award or by Federal agency and major subdivision within the Federal agency. For example, the National Institutes of Health is a major subdivision in the Department of Health and Human Services.
- (2) For Federal awards received as a subrecipient, the name of the pass-through entity and identifying number assigned by the pass-through entity must be included.
- (3) Provide total Federal awards expended for each individual Federal program and the Assistance Listings Number or other identifying number when the Assistance Listings information is not available. For a cluster of programs also provide the total for the cluster.
- (4) Include the total amount provided to subrecipients from each Federal program.
- (5) For loan or loan guarantee programs described in § 200.502(b), identify in the notes to the schedule the balances outstanding at the end of the audit period. This is in addition to including the total Federal awards expended for loan or loan guarantee programs in the schedule.
- (6) Include notes that describe that significant accounting policies used in preparing the schedule and note whether or not the auditee elected to use the 10% de minimis cost rate as covered in § 200.414."

Cause

Management had not established a system of internal control that would have ensured proper reporting of the SEFA.

Effect

Without a proper system of internal control in place that operated effectively, material misstatements of the SEFA remained undetected. The SEFA contained the errors identified in the *Condition and Context*.

TOWN OF WALKERTON
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
(Continued)

Views of Responsible Officials

For the views of responsible officials, refer to the Corrective Action Plan that is part of this report.

Section III - Federal Award Findings and Questioned Costs

FINDING 2021-002

Subject: Assistance to Firefighters Grant - Procurement and Suspension and Debarment
Federal Agency: Department of Homeland Security
Federal Program: Assistance to Firefighters Grant
Assistance Listings Number: 97.044
Federal Award Number and Year (or Other Identifying Number): EMW-2019-FG-10608
Pass-Through Entity: Direct Grant
Compliance Requirement: Procurement and Suspension and Debarment
Audit Findings: Material Weakness, Other Matters

Condition and Context

An effective internal control system, which would include segregation of duties, was not in place at the Town to ensure compliance with requirements related to the grant agreement and the Procurement and Suspension and Debarment compliance requirement.

Procurement

The Town did not obtain sealed bids, competitive proposals or noncompetitive proposals from an adequate number of sources for purchases of goods or services exceeding \$150,000. Additionally, the Town did not have a contract with vendors for purchases over \$25,000.

Suspension and Debarment

The Town did not verify that applicable vendors were not excluded or disqualified from participation in federal award programs.

The lack of internal controls and noncompliance were systemic issues throughout the audit period.

Criteria

2 CFR 200.303 states in part:

"The non-Federal entity must:

- (a) Establish and maintain effective internal control over the Federal award that provides reasonable assurance that the non-Federal entity is managing the Federal award in compliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the Federal award. These internal controls should be in compliance with guidance in 'Standards for Internal Control in the Federal Government' issued by the Comptroller General of the United States or the 'Internal Control Integrated Framework', issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). . . ."

TOWN OF WALKERTON
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
(Continued)

2 CFR 200.318(i) states:

"The non-Federal entity must maintain records sufficient to detail the history of procurement. These records will include but are not necessarily limited to the following: Rationale for the method of procurement, selection of contract type, contractor selection or rejection, and the basis for the contract price."

2 CFR 200.319(a) states: "All procurement transactions for the acquisition of property or services required under a Federal award must be conducted in a manner providing full and open competition consistent with the standards of this section and § 200.320."

2 CFR 200.324(a) states:

"The non-Federal entity must perform a cost or price analysis in connection with every procurement action in excess of the Simplified Acquisition Threshold including contract modifications. The method and degree of analysis is dependent on the facts surrounding the particular procurement situation, but as a starting point, the non-Federal entity must make independent estimates before receiving bids or proposals."

2 CFR 200.320 states in part:

". . . (b) *Formal procurement methods*. When the value of the procurement for property or services under a Federal financial assistance award exceeds the SAT, or a lower threshold established by a non-Federal entity, formal procurement methods are required. Formal procurement methods require following documented procedures. Formal procurement methods also require public advertising unless a non-competitive procurement can be used in accordance with §200.319 or paragraph (c) of this section. The following formal methods of procurement are used for procurement of property or services above the simplified acquisition threshold or a value below the simplified acquisition threshold the non-Federal entity determines to be appropriate:

(1) *Sealed bids*. A procurement method in which bids are publicly solicited and a firm fixed-price contract (lump sum or unit price) is awarded to the responsible bidder whose bid, conforming with all the material terms and conditions of the invitation for bids, is the lowest in price. The sealed bids method is the preferred method for procuring construction, if the conditions.

(i) In order for sealed bidding to be feasible, the following conditions should be present:

(A) A complete, adequate, and realistic specification or purchase description is available;

(B) Two or more responsible bidders are willing and able to compete effectively for the business; and

(C) The procurement lends itself to a firm fixed price contract and the selection of the successful bidder can be made principally on the basis of price.

TOWN OF WALKERTON
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
(Continued)

(ii) If sealed bids are used, the following requirements apply:

(A) Bids must be solicited from an adequate number of qualified sources, providing them sufficient response time prior to the date set for opening the bids, for local, and tribal governments, the invitation for bids must be publicly advertised;

(B) The invitation for bids, which will include any specifications and pertinent attachments, must define the items or services in order for the bidder to properly respond;

(C) All bids will be opened at the time and place prescribed in the invitation for bids, and for local and tribal governments, the bids must be opened publicly;

(D) A firm fixed price contract award will be made in writing to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. Where specified in bidding documents, factors such as discounts, transportation cost, and life cycle costs must be considered in determining which bid is lowest. Payment discounts will only be used to determine the low bid when prior experience indicates that such discounts are usually taken advantage of; and

(E) Any or all bids may be rejected if there is a sound documented reason.

(2) *Proposals.* A procurement method in which either a fixed price or cost-reimbursement type contract is awarded. Proposals are generally used when conditions are not appropriate for the use of sealed bids. They are awarded in accordance with the following requirements:

(i) Requests for proposals must be publicized and identify all evaluation factors and their relative importance. Proposals must be solicited from an adequate number of qualified offerors. Any response to publicized requests for proposals must be considered to the maximum extent practical;

(ii) The non-Federal entity must have a written method for conducting technical evaluations of the proposals received and making selections;

(iii) Contracts must be awarded to the responsible offeror whose proposal is most advantageous to the non-Federal entity, with price and other factors considered; and

(iv) The non-Federal entity may use competitive proposal procedures for qualifications-based procurement of architectural/engineering (A/E) professional services whereby offeror's qualifications are evaluated and the most qualified offeror is selected, subject to negotiation of fair and reasonable compensation. The method, where price is not used as a selection factor, can only be used in procurement of A/E professional services. It cannot be used to purchase other types of services though A/E firms that are a potential source to perform the proposed effort.

(c) *Noncompetitive procurement.* There are specific circumstances in which noncompetitive procurement can be used. Noncompetitive procurement can only be awarded if one or more of the following circumstances apply:

TOWN OF WALKERTON
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
(Continued)

- (1) The acquisition of property or services, the aggregate dollar amount of which does not exceed the micropurchase threshold (see paragraph (a)(1) of this section);
- (2) The item is available only from a single source;
- (3) The public exigency or emergency for the requirement will not permit a delay resulting from publicizing a competitive solicitation;
- (4) The Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity expressly authorizes a noncompetitive procurement in response to a written request from the non-Federal entity; or
- (5) After solicitation of a number of sources, competition is determined inadequate."

2 CFR 180.300 states:

"When you enter into a covered transaction with another person at the next lower tier, you must verify that the person with whom you intend to do business is not excluded or disqualified. You do this by:

- (a) Checking SAM Exclusions; or
- (b) Collecting a certification from that person; or
- (c) Adding a clause or condition to the covered transaction with that person."

Cause

Management had not developed a system of internal control that would have ensured compliance with the grant agreement and the Procurement and Suspension and Debarment compliance requirement.

Effect

The failure to establish an effective system of internal control enabled material noncompliance to go undetected. Noncompliance with the grant agreement and the Procurement and Suspension and Debarment compliance requirement could have resulted in the loss of federal funds to the Town.

Questioned Costs

There were no questioned costs identified.

Recommendation

We recommended that the Town's management establish a system of internal control to ensure compliance and comply with the Procurement and Suspension and Debarment compliance requirement.

Views of Responsible Officials

For the views of responsible officials, refer to the Corrective Action Plan that is part of this report.

TOWN OF WALKERTON
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
(Continued)

FINDING 2021-003

Subject: Assistance to Firefighters Grant - Cash Management, Matching, Level of Effort, Earmarking, and Reporting
Federal Agency: Department of Homeland Security
Federal Program: Assistance to Firefighters Grant
Assistance Listings Number: 97.044
Federal Award Number and Year (or Other Identifying Number): EMW-2019-FG-10608
Pass-Through Entity: Direct Grant
Compliance Requirements: Cash Management; Matching, Level of Effort, Earmarking; Reporting
Audit Finding: Material Weakness

Condition and Context

An effective internal control system, which would include segregation of duties, was not in place at the Town to ensure compliance with requirements related to the grant agreement and the Cash Management; Matching, Level of Effort, Earmarking; and Reporting compliance requirements.

The Town had not established internal controls over the submission of the following reports: Reimbursement Requests, Federal Financial Reports, and Semi-Annual Program Performance Reports. The reports were filed by one employee of the Town without proper review or oversight.

Additionally, there were no documented internal controls in place to ensure matching or level of effort requirements were met. The grant administrator calculated the local match required by the contributing township fire departments and verified the level of effort with no review or oversight.

The lack of internal controls was a systemic issue throughout the audit period.

Criteria

2 CFR 200.303 states in part:

"The non-Federal entity must:

- (a) Establish and maintain effective internal control over the Federal award that provides reasonable assurance that the non-Federal entity is managing the Federal award in compliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the Federal award. These internal controls should be in compliance with guidance in 'Standards for Internal Control in the Federal Government' issued by the Comptroller General of the United States or the 'Internal Control Integrated Framework', issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). . . ."

Cause

Management had not developed a system of internal control that would have ensured compliance with the grant agreement and the Cash Management, Matching, Level of Effort, Earmarking, and Reporting compliance requirements.

Effect

The failure to establish an effective system of internal control could have enabled material noncompliance to go undetected.

TOWN OF WALKERTON
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
(Continued)

Questioned Costs

There were no questioned costs identified.

Recommendation

We recommended that the Town's management establish a system of internal control to ensure compliance with the Cash Management; Matching, Level of Effort, Earmarking; and Reporting compliance requirements.

Views of Responsible Officials

For the views of responsible officials, refer to the Corrective Action Plan that is part of this report.

AUDITEE-PREPARED DOCUMENT

The subsequent document was provided by management of the Town. The document is presented as intended by the Town.

TOWN OF WALKERTON
301 Michigan St.
Walkerton, Indiana 46574

(574)586-3711 Office

Office of the Clerk Treasurer

(574)586-2248 Fax

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

FINDING 2021-001

Contact Person Responsible for Corrective Action:
Theresa Buckmaster

Contact Phone Number:
574-586-3711

Views of Responsible Official:
I concur with the finding,

Description of Corrective Action Plan:

For future grant information needed for the SEFA will be prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer and reviewed with source documents like the grant agreements and ledgers closely by the Economic Director or a deputy Clerk to ensure the correct information is being provided.

Anticipated Completion Date:
Immediately

TOWN OF WALKERTON
301 Michigan St.
Walkerton, Indiana 46574

(574)586-3711 Office

Office of the Clerk Treasurer

(574)586-2248 Fax

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

FINDING 2021-002

Contact Person Responsible for Corrective Action:
Theresa Buckmaster

Contact Phone Number:
574-586-3711

Views of Responsible Official:
I concur with the findings.

Description of Corrective Action Plan:

All future projects will obtain price or rate quotes for purchases of goods or services exceeding \$150,000 from an adequate number of sources that fall under the simplified acquisition threshold procedures. The town will also have a contract with vendors for purchases over \$25,000.

The town will verify that applicable vendors were not excluded or disqualified from participation in federal programs. All documentation will be maintained in the grant folder for audit by the Clerk-Treasurer.

Anticipated Completion Date
Immediately

**TOWN OF WALKERTON
301 Michigan St.
Walkerton, Indiana 46574**

(574)910-0820 Cell - Office 574-586-3711

Building Department

(574)586-2248 Fax

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

FINDING 2021-003

Contact Person Responsible for Corrective Action:
Theresa Buckmaster

Contact Phone Number:
574-586-3711

Views of Responsible Official:
I concur with the findings

Description of Corrective Action Plan:

The town will have internal controls in place to ensure segregation of duties and to ensure compliance with the requirements related to grants. The town will have internal controls in place to ensure oversight of all reporting and financial distributions.

The town will establish controls over the submission of all reporting for grants. Additionally, the town will ensure there are controls to have oversight of all local match requirements.

For Cash Management and Reporting the Clerk-Treasurer will complete the reimbursement requests and required reports with the applicable source documents, ledgers, invoices, etc. and the reports will be reviewed by the Economic Director or a Deputy Clerk (initialed and dated) prior to submission and maintained in the grant folder.

For the Matching, Level of Effort and Earmarking requirements the Clerk-Treasurer will verify the matching requirements, local match or level of effort requirements that are required are met on a spreadsheet that will be reviewed by the Economic Director or Deputy Clerk (initialed and dated) and maintained in the grant folder.

Anticipated Completion Date:
Immediately

OTHER REPORTS

In addition to this report, other reports may have been issued for the Town. All reports can be found on the Indiana State Board of Accounts' website: <http://www.in.gov/sboa/>.