

INTERNAL AUDIT

DESCRIPTION

Internal Audit assists the County Manager, Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Supervisors, and the School Board by providing objective analyses, recommendations, advice, and comments concerning areas reviewed to ensure an appropriate level of control at a reasonable cost. To be effective, Internal Audit must maintain independence and therefore reports directly to the County Manager and the County's and Schools' Audit Committees.

Internal Audit evaluates the adequacy and effectiveness of internal controls within County agencies and School operating divisions and examines the performance of their operations for potential improvements in accountability. Assessing performance includes (1) evaluating the reliability and integrity of financial and operating information and the means to process data; (2) evaluating the sufficiency of compliance with significant plans, policies, procedures, laws, and regulations; (3) ascertaining the adequacy of controls for achieving objectives including safeguarding assets and, as appropriate, verifying asset existence; and (4) examining efficient use of resources and program accomplishments.

OBJECTIVES

- Perform an annual risk assessment, identify areas of risk for audit, conduct planned internal audits to evaluate controls, recommend workable improvements, and note commendable practices that can be shared with other County agencies and divisions within Schools.
- Follow up on prior internal audits to determine that agreed-upon management action plans have been effectively implemented to address the risks identified during the audits.

ANNUAL FISCAL PLAN SUMMARY

Description	FY25 Actual	FY26 Original	FY27 Approved	% Change
Personnel	\$984,365	\$1,029,983	\$1,060,787	3.0%
Operation	22,175	28,053	28,053	0.0%
Capital	0	0	0	0.0%
Subtotal	<u>\$1,006,540</u>	<u>\$1,058,036</u>	<u>\$1,088,840</u>	<u>2.9%</u>
Recommended Adjustment	\$0	\$0	-\$31,741	100.0%
Total	<u><u>\$1,006,540</u></u>	<u><u>\$1,058,036</u></u>	<u><u>\$1,057,099</u></u>	<u><u>-0.1%</u></u>
Personnel Complement	7	7	7	0

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PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY25	FY26	FY27	26-27 Change
Workload Measures				
Financial/Performance Audits and Projects	12	15	15	0
Non-Audit Projects: Follow Ups, Consults, Special Requests	9	10	10	0
Percentage of Audit Recommendations Agreed to by Management	100	100	100	0
Number of Management Plans Added for Audit Recommendation	45	50	50	0
External Audit Assistance Testing Areas	13	0	0	0
Hotline Concerns Handled	48	46	45	-1
Quality Measures				
% Staff with Professional Certifications and/or Advanced Degrees	57	62	71	9
% Staff Meeting Continuing Professional Education Requirements	100	100	100	0

OBJECTIVES (CONTINUED)

- Assist with the County's annual external audit and help facilitate the external audit of the Schools' activity funds.
- Advise County and School management, and the County's and School's Audit Committees on potential improvements in operations and results through technical assistance.
- Perform requested special audits and follow up on issues raised through the fraud reporting mechanisms and recommend corrective action as required.
- Administer office activities for continuous professional education, training, and skills development, ensuring excellent quality and adherence to independent auditing with integrity.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Internal Audit's budget for FY27 is \$1,057,099, which represents a decrease of \$937 or 0.1% over the previous fiscal year's approved budget. Personnel is increasing by \$30,804 due to increases in salary and the accompanying benefit adjustments. Increasing costs in software licensing and dues and professional membership costs will be handled through reallocation of existing operating funding. As part of an exercise in fiscal prudence, this budget includes an operating decrease of \$31,741, which is equivalent to 3% of the department's FY26 approved budget.

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DEPARTMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS

With a consolidated Internal Audit function for both the General Government and Schools, both entities are able to leverage audit resources, audit skillsets, standardize audit methodologies, department processes, and tools, and minimize redundancy. The Office of Internal Audit (“the Office”) continues exploring new ways to use technology to provide efficient audit services, streamline internal administrative processes, and foster greater collaboration among the team as well as agencies and departments at both entities. The Office provides feedback to both entities on their continually evolving processes and control practices.

The Office has been conducting projects during FY26 that include, but are not limited to, audits of the Division of Fire, James River Juvenile Detention Center, Permit Center, Building Inspections, fleet management practices, and security assessments of County and Schools technology environments.

The Office conducts annual surveys and finalizes risk-based planning assessments to select and perform routine audits of the effectiveness of controls in a number of areas. The goal of the audit planning process is to select auditable areas of risk in the major General Government operating segments and School locations and operating divisions each year.

The Office manages the County’s webpage and telephone hotline that allows citizens and employees to report concerns of potential government fraud, waste, and abuse. These resources may generate additional special projects in the form of investigations or evaluations of controls to sufficiently respond to any reported concerns.

Technical assistance is and will continue to be provided to County agencies and School divisions as requested. The Office provides audit perspectives on controls in draft policies, processes being modified, and systems being implemented. The Office also participates in financial and compliance-related trainings of School leaders and responsible staff.

The auditing environment has become increasingly complex and challenging as the County, its agencies, and the School system continually implement new programs and technology and as regulations and accounting requirements are continuously changing. To meet these challenges and provide quality audit results, the Office uses automated audit documentation and data analysis software in its audits to better examine activity in a cost-effective manner. The Office pays annual software licensing costs to maintain current versions and vendor support for these tools. In addition, the staff maintain and/or pursue a variety of relevant professional certifications, and the Office provides for annual continuing education to stay current with requirements, potential business risks, and the latest audit techniques. The software licensing costs as well as the continuing education costs are the two largest components of the operating budget for Internal Audit.