

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS – PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES

STATE OF LOUISIANA

FINANCIAL AUDIT SERVICES

Management Letter
Issued June 10, 2026

**LOUISIANA LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
1600 NORTH THIRD STREET
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BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804-9397**

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MICHAEL J. "MIKE" WAGUESPACK, CPA

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BETH Q. DAVIS, CPA

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Louisiana Legislative Auditor

Michael J. "Mike" Waguespack, CPA



**Department of Public Safety and Corrections –
Public Safety Services**

June 2026

Audit Control # 80250098

Introduction

As a part of our audit of the State of Louisiana’s Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and our work related to the Single Audit of the State of Louisiana (Single Audit) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, we performed procedures at the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Public Safety Services (DPS) to provide assurances on financial information that is significant to the state’s Annual Comprehensive Financial Report; evaluate the effectiveness of DPS’s internal controls over financial reporting and compliance; and determine whether DPS complied with applicable laws and regulations.

In addition to the procedures noted above, we also determined whether management has taken actions to correct the findings reported in the prior management letter.

Results of Our Procedures

Follow-up on Prior-year Findings

Our auditors reviewed the status of the prior-year findings reported in the DPS management letter dated June 18, 2025. We determined that management has resolved the prior-year finding related to Lack of Adherence to Controls over Payroll. The prior-year finding related to Weaknesses in Controls over Property of the Office of State Police (OSP) has not been resolved and is addressed again in this letter.

Current-year Finding

Weaknesses in Controls over Property of the Office of State Police

The OSP did not ensure that all property purchased was timely tagged and recorded in the state property system in accordance with state property regulations. This is the seventh consecutive engagement in which this issue related to OSP movable property was noted.

The Louisiana Administrative Code requires all movable property items having an original acquisition cost of \$1,000 or more to be tagged with a uniform state of

Louisiana identification tag, and all pertinent inventory information forwarded to the Louisiana Property Assistance Agency within 60 calendar days after receipt of the items.

Our procedures performed on 177 OSP movable property items recorded between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, disclosed the following:

- 150 items (85%) totaling \$528,799 were not entered into the LaGov property system within 60 days of acquisition. Of those 150 items, 106 were entered only after notification by the auditor of the asset purchases. The time between the acquisition date of the assets and entry into LaGov ranged from 76 to 521 days (or an average of 422 days).
- The acquisition cost entered into the LaGov property system for 15 items tested (9%) did not agree to the purchase amount per invoice. The total cost of 10 assets was understated by \$6,184, and the total cost of five assets was overstated by \$351,089.

OSP's movable property function is hampered by employees not adhering to department procedures for tagging and recording assets and the decentralization of movable property at various locations. Failure to comply with state property regulations increases the risk that assets may be misreported, lost, or stolen.

OSP management should ensure that information included in LaGov is accurate and complete through reconciliations to purchases per the accounting system and through the establishment of centralized receiving locations to the extent possible.

Management concurred with the finding and provided a corrective action plan (see Appendix A).

Annual Comprehensive Financial Report – State of Louisiana

As a part of our audit of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the year ended June 30, 2025, we considered internal control over financial reporting and examined evidence supporting motor vehicle sales tax revenues of the DPS Office of Motor Vehicles and the additions and deletions of the Parish and Municipal Motor Vehicle Sales and Use Tax Escrow Fund.

Based on the results of these procedures, we did not report any findings. In addition, the classes of transactions tested are materially correct.

Trend Analysis

We compared the most current and prior-year financial activity using DPS's Annual Fiscal Reports and/or system-generated reports and obtained explanations from DPS's management for any significant variances.

The recommendations in this letter represent, in our judgment, those most likely to bring about beneficial improvements to the operations of DPS. The nature of the recommendations, their implementation costs, and their potential impact on the operations of DPS should be considered in reaching decisions on courses of action. The findings related to DPS's compliance with applicable laws and regulations should be addressed immediately by management.

Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this letter is a public document, and it has been distributed to appropriate public officials.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. "Mike" Waguespack, CPA
Legislative Auditor

CH:LA:RR:BQD:ch

DPS2025

APPENDIX A: MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSE



JEFF LANDRY
GOVERNOR

COLONEL ROBERT P. HODGES
DEPUTY SECRETARY

State of Louisiana
Department of Public Safety and Corrections
Public Safety Services

May 19, 2026

Michael J. "Mike" Waguespack, CPA
Louisiana Legislative Auditor
P.O. Box 94397
Baton Rouge, La 70804-9397

Mr. Waguespack,

Representatives from the Louisiana Legislative Auditor (LLA) conducted an audit of movable property within the Department of Public Safety (DPS), which included assets assigned to the Office of State Police. The Louisiana State Police (LSP), Business Support Unit (BSU), and DPS Property Manager Austin Davis, were tasked with reviewing the audit findings. After the audit, LLA found that DPS had weaknesses in controls over property of the Office of State Police. DPS has reviewed the documentation, and we concur with the findings discovered. DPS has and will be implementing remediation efforts to prevent these errors from happening again.

LSP REMEDIATION

Each section within LSP is required to designate two property custodians (one primary and one secondary) to manage section property. The BSU works in coordination with these custodians to ensure compliance with all applicable policies and regulations. As part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen the movable property process, the BSU has implemented several initiatives, including the following:

- Creation and implementation of a yearly movable property training curriculum that must be completed by all LSP property custodians.
 - Two training sessions were conducted (via Teams) by the BSU in 2026 (February 10, 2026, and February 11, 2026). Topics discussed included cost matching, unlocated items, warranty repairs, cannibalizing procedures, idle property, missing or illegible property tags, and the timeframe for tagging movable property.
- Perform yearly on-site audits across a minimum of 25% of LSP sections that maintain movable property.


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- Conduct in-person movable property training specifically targeting deficiencies identified during internal or external audits.
 - Training sessions were conducted at all LSP regions in March 2026. Topics discussed included deficiencies identified during a recent LPAA Audit.

LSP is committed to strengthening its movable property process, and we are dedicated to working with both LLA and DPS Internal Audit. The partnerships provided by the staff at LLA are paramount to making these processes more efficient. We look forward to working through future audits. If you have any questions, or need clarification regarding any of these items, please contact either Austin Davis or Michele Swanson:

Austin Davis (Austin.davis@la.gov), DPS Property Manager
Michele Swanson (Michele.swanson@la.gov), LSP Property Manager

Thank you,



Captain William Moragne
Commander, Technology and
Business Louisiana State Police

APPENDIX B: SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

We performed certain procedures at the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Public Safety Services (DPS) for the period from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, to provide assurances on financial information significant to the State of Louisiana's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, and to evaluate relevant systems of internal control in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our procedures, summarized below, are a part of the audit of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and our work related to the Single Audit of the State of Louisiana (Single Audit) for the year ended June 30, 2025.

- We evaluated DPS's operations and system of internal controls through inquiry, observation, and review of its policies and procedures, including a review of the laws and regulations applicable to DPS.
- Based on the documentation of DPS's controls and our understanding of related laws and regulations, we performed procedures to provide assurances on certain account balances and classes of transactions to support our opinions on the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.
- We compared the most current and prior-year financial activity using DPS's Annual Fiscal Reports and/or system-generated reports to identify trends and obtained explanations from DPS's management for significant variances.

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our work at DPS, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of DPS's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. Accordingly, this report is not intended to be, and should not be, used for any other purposes.

We did not audit or review DPS's Annual Fiscal Reports, and accordingly, we do not express an opinion on those reports. DPS's accounts are an integral part of the State of Louisiana's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, upon which the Louisiana Legislative Auditor expresses opinions.