

State Auditor

• *Mission and philosophy*

The State Auditor's Office serves the people of Wyoming by providing quality statewide accounting and financial reporting services through the committed involvement of its staff, carrying out its duties with integrity, honesty and fairness at the least possible cost to the taxpayers. The office will effectively manage and coordinate the fiscal operations of the state of Wyoming by complying with and monitoring compliance with applicable Wyoming statutes. Accomplishment of this mission will directly contribute to the state's eighth functional goal: "To operate the state and local governments responsibly, effectively and efficiently in an open, ethical and an accountable manner."

• *Results of outcomes*

The State Auditor's Office (SAO) suggested statutory revisions to meet its objective of increasing efficiency in state government. One suggestion would have revised the SAO statutes to allow electronic commerce and reduce paper-driven procedures. A second suggestion would have streamlined travel statutes, providing faster filing and review of travel claims.

Additionally, the SAO offered an Appropriations Act revision to create a central funding pool for leave payouts on terminations and retirements. This would have allowed agencies to budget for these items and charge federal/augmenting revenue sources for a portion of leave when earned.

In prior years, the SAO suggested programs for early retirement, school bond guarantees, and more timely federal fund reimbursements. These continued during the last fiscal year, resulting in savings of over \$8 million.

To measure customer satisfaction, the SAO conducts an annual survey covering all areas of the office. This points to areas where the office is doing well, and also areas where additional efficiencies could be gained. The outcome of this survey was a 99 percent approval rating for the office.

To meet the objective of assuring compliance with the state's budget, appropriation, and fiscal statutes, the SAO processed all vouchers submitted within 24 hours of receipt. Also, all appropriations were processed by July 31.

During FY 98, the Department of Transportation (DOT) moved to the SAO payroll system, leading to more efficient and economical payroll operations for the state as a whole. This consolidation eliminated the DOT payroll system, and increased the employees on the SAO payroll system by approximately 20 percent.

To provide increased user access to accounting system data, the SAO made a data query and ad hoc reporting tool (Advantage DS) available to agencies. More than 30 copies of the tool were purchased by agencies.

The office is a source of information to the public as well as the legislature, responding to more than 40 formal requests for

General information

Dave Ferrari, State Auditor

Agency contact

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Year established

1889

Statutory reference

Wyoming Constitution - Article 4, Section 11;
W.S. 9-1-401 through 408; 9-4-217

Number of authorized personnel

Full-time 21

Organizational structure

Internal/Systems Audit, Systems,
Accounting and Appropriation Control

Clients served

General public, legislators, city and county officials, state officials and employees, federal officials and other state agencies.

Budget information:

General funds	\$4,478,667
Total	\$4,478,667

information. These requests were not simply callers with questions but rather ranged from providing information readily available to in-depth, detailed data extraction and analysis.

To help insure the integrity of the state's financial information, the state's annual financial reports are submitted for review by an independent body, the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). In August, 1998, the GFOA awarded a Certificate of Excellence for Wyoming's FY97 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

» Strategic plan changes

The State Auditor's Office goals were not modified for the coming year. There were refinements of output and outcome measures and targets, as necessary. With both the accounting system and, as of March 1999, the payroll system Year 2000 compliant, the office can focus more on monitoring appropriations control and facilitating electronic commerce. The payroll system implementation will bring a 25-year-old outdated system, into the 21st century with remote online entry and will provide users access to their data. It should also be noted the office replaced both the two major statewide systems without asking for any new money.

Office of the State Auditor organization chart

