
Department of Transportation (DOT)

Agency: 405

Audit Report: 6544

Finding Number: 001

Finding: The Department of Transportation's Washington State Ferries Division does not have adequate controls over ticket sales and revenue collection.

Resolution: The Department is in the process of replacing the current point-of-sale system at the Ferries Division with an electronic fare system, which will provide additional controls over ticket sales and revenue collection. The new system is undergoing a phased implementation which began in January of 2006 with a limited launch on the Port Townsend-Keystone route. The full system, including self-service ticket sales via the Internet and kiosks, was implemented at the Anacortes terminal in October; full implementation of the system is planned to be completed by late spring 2007.

The Ferries Division is developing a formal Loss Prevention Department to enable them to develop and utilize the monitoring and control capabilities of the new system. Currently, the Loss Prevention Department is authorized one managerial position, which was filled in December 2006. A decision package requesting additional staff has been forwarded to the Office of Financial Management and is included in the Governor's 2007-2009 budget proposal.

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Finding Number: 002

Finding: The Department of Transportation's Washington State Ferries Division made travel payments to employees in excess of written contract amounts.

Resolution: This finding questioned payment of travel time to Marine Engineers Beneficial Association (MEBA) employees on the Washington State Ferries (WSF) Inter-Island route. It has been fully addressed. Language codifying this past practice was agreed to by WSF and MEBA officials in the final 2005-2007 and 2007-2009 collective bargaining agreements.

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Finding Number: 003

Finding: The Department of Transportation does not have adequate internal controls to ensure compliance with federal and state laws for 167 leased properties on a timely basis.

Resolution: The Department successfully procured a contract for a new system to replace the current Real Estate Information System. The replacement system will contain complete and accurate information, including lease effective dates and re-evaluation due dates. It will also provide the reports necessary to track and appropriately update rents when necessary. Substantial progress has been made on the system, and it is scheduled to be implemented by June 2007.

Additionally, headquarters property management staff continue to work with region property management staff to ensure revenue generating leases are reviewed and rents updated, as necessary. For updates in the Northwest Region, specific headquarters property management staff have been assigned the responsibility to complete the updates. The remaining regions (North Central, Southwest, South Central, Olympic, and Eastern) are completing their reviews and updates with current staff. The Department is committed to completing the necessary updates during Fiscal Year 2007.

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