



State Auditor  
Julie Blaha

## OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

# E-Update

September 4, 2020



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1. Message from Auditor Blaha
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### 1. Message from Auditor Blaha

On Wednesday, the Office of the State Auditor released our 2019 Asset Forfeiture Report. This annual report provides accountability and transparency for the system of asset forfeitures that are governed by Minnesota statutes.

What we found is that the big story is in the small numbers. The majority of forfeitures are of cash and property that nets less than \$1500; while these amounts have a small impact on government systems, they may have a substantial impact at the individual level. If you are a low income individual, having a few hundred dollars seized can mean the difference between making rent or homelessness.

More information on the 2019 Asset Forfeiture Report may be found below in item #2 as well as online at: <https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=2019AssetForfeitRpt>.

As we head into the fall season with much uncertainty and caution in the air, I want to take this opportunity to encourage you to rest and recharge this weekend. The work you do for the communities you serve is so important. Thank you – and happy Labor Day!

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### 2. Released: 2019 Asset Forfeitures in Minnesota Report

This week State Auditor Julie Blaha released the 2019 Asset Forfeiture Report. Auditor Blaha announced that 317 law enforcement agencies reported a total of 7,708 completed forfeitures, down from 8,091 completed forfeitures in 2018. In 2019, vehicles accounted for 65 percent of property seized, followed by cash at 25 percent, firearms at 9 percent, and other property at 1 percent.

The complete report is available at:

<https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=2019AssetForfeitRpt>

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### **3. Opportunity: Volunteer Fire Relief Association Working Group**

There is currently one open seat on the State Auditor's Volunteer Fire Relief Association Working Group for a relief association trustee representing Greater Minnesota. The Working Group will hold five or six weekday meetings during the fall and early winter. The meetings will be held using a virtual format.

Information about the Working Group is provided on our website, at <https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=reliefworkinggroup>.

Anyone who would like to be considered for this open seat should contact Rose Hennessy Allen by September 9 at (651) 296-5985 or [Rose.Hennessy-Allen@osa.state.mn.us](mailto:Rose.Hennessy-Allen@osa.state.mn.us).

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### **4. TIF: County Road Improvement Costs**

The TIF Act allows a county board, when reviewing a proposed TIF plan, to require that certain county road costs be included in the plan.

To learn more, visit: <https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=CoRdImpCosts>.

If you have any questions, please contact us at [TIF@osa.state.mn.us](mailto:TIF@osa.state.mn.us).

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### **5. Avoiding Pitfalls: Payroll Entries**

In many larger public entities, the personnel office notifies the payroll office of new hires, promotions, pay increases, and other personnel-related financial changes. The payroll office then enters the changes into the payroll system.

This Avoiding Pitfall is available on our website at: <https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20090724.044>

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If you are interested in signing up to receive an e-mail version of the E-Update regularly, send an e-mail with your contact information to [signup@osa.state.mn.us](mailto:signup@osa.state.mn.us).

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