



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE
POLICY AND PROGRAMS

October 26, 2012

Mayor Don Camp
Town of Great Falls
PO BOX 177
Great Falls, SC 29055-1638

Dear Mayor Camp:

Thank you for submitting a response letter addressing your concerns regarding the recent SOVA audit of the Town of Great Falls Victim Assistance Program. At this time I would like to respond to your concerns noted in the letter received on October 24, 2012. It appears your concerns are directed towards how the total reimbursement amount was calculated. I will address each concern individually. Please be advised that we are unable to make any changes to the official report at this time, however, we will ensure that all correspondence is posted and attached to the final report on the website when the report is posted and will address your concern in the 90 Day Follow-up Audit along with the other recommendations.

First, you wanted to know if the disallowed expenses were due to being capped at 5% of the chief's salary. Yes, the salary allocation was capped and determined to be 5% of the total working hours providing direct victim services from the March 2011 – June 2011 according to the Time and Activity forms submitted by your chief on June 24, 2011. Because the town has never had a full time victim advocate and no accountability of working hours for victim services prior to the SOVA requested Time and Activity sheets, the submitted Time and Activity sheets were the only documentation available to calculate the estimated percentage of time the part time advocate provides direct services to crime victims. I have attached a copy of the SOVA Victim Advocate Time and Activity Percentage Calculation Worksheet that was used to calculate the percentage. Additionally, the part time victim advocate must continue to maintain Time and Activity sheets on a daily basis. However, prior to preparing the FY 13-14 Budget, the percentage could be recalculated using a 90-day review period of Time and Activity Sheets on hand that the chief has used to document services to victims. Once you have recalculated the percentage, submit a copy of the Time and Activity sheets used as well as the Percentage Calculation Worksheet for agency review.

Secondly, you asked if the expenses being disallowed were due to the law change from 2010 and being used for 2007, 2008, and 2009. None of the expenditures disallowed as a result of this audit would have been affected by the guidelines changing in 2010.

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STATE OFFICE OF VICTIM ASSISTANCE
1205 PENDLETON STREET, EDGAR A. BROWN BUILDING, ROOM 401
COLUMBIA, SC 29201 (803) 734-1900
WWW.SOVA.SC.GOV

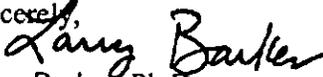
I am attaching a copy of the Suggested Guidelines prior to January 2010 and the Approved Guidelines as of January 2010. In reviewing the attached guidelines, you will find I have highlighted the changes made which included eliminating purchases: (1) For certified officers funded and serving as victim advocates; funding for uniforms, weapons, body armor, radio, credentials, badge, etc. and (2) Pawn shop investigators, sex offender registry investigators, CDV investigators, and crime prevention programs directly providing services for crime victims within local law enforcement agencies. After further review, it appears all of the unallowable expenditures identified in the report were purchased at 100% to support the police department's operation and was not purchased exclusively for the support of the victim advocate in providing direct services to crime victims.

Therefore, these expenditures were considered unallowable and the town was asked to reimburse the fund \$44,111.16. In the audit SOVA used the 5% allowable allocation in calculating the repayment as it related to paying the part time victim advocate's salary and the Nicholson Software because these were directly related to assisting the victim advocate in providing direct services to crime victims. However, after reconsideration in the initial calculation of the expenses and in an effort to not make the town reimburse the fund unfairly, SOVA will apply the 5% allowable allocation to the total cell phone cost because the town did have a part time victim advocate providing direct services to crime victims. This means the total Alltel cell phone reimbursement amount of \$8,047.88 will be reduced by 5% making the total unallowable amount for the police department Alltel cell phone bill \$7,645.49. By doing this, the town's total reimbursement amount is reduced to \$43,635.17.

Next, you are requesting a copy of the law that would disallow these expenses during the timeframe reviewed. SOVA's criteria for approving expenditures' included reviewing Proviso 81.61, the SOVA Guide for Expenditures of Monies Collected or Crime Victim Service in Municipalities and Counties (prior to January 2010), and the SC Victim Service Coordinating Council Approved Guide for Expenditures of Monies Collected for Crime Victim Service in Municipalities and Counties (Effective January /2010). These documents have been attached to this letter for your review.

I appreciate you taking the time to submit a written response on behalf of the Town of Great Falls. Because there are other recommendations in the report that will need to be addressed, we will address these concerns and review all other recommendations during the 90 day Follow-up Audit in January 2013. Also, SOVA will further address any additional concerns that may arise if warranted during the 90 Day Follow-up Audit.

Please note, all SOVA audit reports are public information and the official report with all correspondence will be posted to the SOVA website at www.sova.sc.gov. If you have any further questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me or Ms. Copeland at 803- 734-1900.

Sincerely,

Larry Barker, Ph.D.
Director

CC: Chief Steven Rice
Julie Blackwell

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