

March Fund 255 Reimbursement Invoice

The Subcommittee reviewed the Fund 255 reimbursement invoice for March 2025. The invoice was based on the amount of two payroll expenses for February. The amount of the reimbursement request was \$39,881.94.

Sheri Jones made a motion to approve the March reimbursement invoice. Kelly Spees seconded. The motion was approved.

January 2025 Financial Reports

The Subcommittee reviewed the financial reports for January 2025. Notably, the Bankers Trust settlement account opened with a beginning balance and closing balance of \$0. The Bankers Trust sweep account opened with a \$934,297.27 beginning balance and ended with a \$1,309,554.43 balance.

The Profit & Loss (P&L) statement for the month showed budgeted income of \$148,655.19 against budgeted expenses of \$118,137.63, resulting in budgeted net income of \$30,517.56. The ESS revolving income for the period was \$3,042,437.90, contributing to a total income of \$3,191,093.09. Revolving expenses were \$3,034,721.98, with total expenditures of \$3,175,544.34. The total net income for January 2025 was \$15,548.75.

The discussion included the income related to the money market sweep account used to offset the bank account analysis fees, each month. Although the interest rate is low, the benefits of the money market account are better than the previous account credits earned. Additionally, a single chargeback fee was shown. Also noted was the decrease in depreciation expense, which resulted from an asset that became fully depreciated in 2024.

The Balance Sheet indicated total assets and liabilities at approximately \$2,561,389.76, with \$415,627.42 specifically held by the Bankers Trust settlement account and \$1,309,554.43 in the Bankers Trust money market account. It is important to note, given the accrual-based accounting, the balance sheet figures are higher than the actual bank account balance.

The beginning balance of the credit card account was \$2,737.71, and the ending balance came in at \$6,963.28. The account was reconciled successfully.

Regarding Fund 255 for January, the account opened with a balance of \$164,286.89 and closed at \$161,074.16. This was consistent with the income identified in the March reimbursement invoice.

A motion was made by GERALYN GREER to approve the January 2025 financial reports. Susan Smith seconded, and the motion was approved.

ESS Financial and Strategic Review

February Metrics

E-Submission activity for February 2025 was well above the February 2023 and 2024 marks and ended up just below February 2022. Even though the numbers haven't reached peak levels, as in 2021, the line is heading in the right direction and is above what was projected in a month that is normally slow. The trend is normally expected to follow the previous year's month-to-month movements, however with the current economy it is expected that March will not follow the 2022 numbers.

Review of February ESS Committee Action

An update on the ESS Committee action from the February 20, 2025, meeting was presented. The resolution of an

Aureon bill from 2023 was discussed. An agreement between Aureon and ESS and then approved by the ESS Coordinating Committee, resulted in a settlement to resolve the outstanding bill. It was noted that the maintenance fee share credits were also approved, with another review of the credits planned for the upcoming

May meetings. Possible changes relating to the Fidlar counties maintenance arrangements will also be considered.

A question was raised about the counties that have Fidlar as their service provider versus the counties that use another service providers, when it comes to maintenance fees. It was explained that if Fidlar does not accept a contract extension from ESS, then the affected counties will not receive an invoice from ESS. Fidlar has not provided ESS with a reason for withdrawing from the maintenance agreement. Erin Canfield, Boone County Recorder, attended the meeting and she stated that Fidlar did not want to give up their stamping process, and she expressed the believe that this is why they are opting out of the maintenance agreement.

It was also reported that the ESS Coordinating Committee had approved the engagement with Denman for the 2024 audit. The schedule for the 2024 audit had not been finalized. Denman will also be preparing the 990 return for the Iowa County Recorders Association. ESS will cover the expense for the 2024 990 return.

Recording Fees and Modernization Update

An update on the recording fees and modernization initiative was provided. It was noted that a survey was being distributed to the members of the Recorders' Association to ask their opinion about participation in the ESS 28E agreement.

It was reported that Senate File 371 was approved by a Senate Local Government subcommittee. It was noted that the legislation was facing strong headwinds due to a proposal in the House of Representatives which would make substantial changes affecting ESS and Iowa Land Records.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the ESS Finance Subcommittee will be a web conference scheduled for April 10, 2025.