



**Texas Veterans Commission
Internal Audit Services**

**FY 2020 Annual Internal Audit
Report**



McCONNELL & JONES LLP
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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The Honorable Greg Abbott, Governor
Members of the Legislative Budget Board
Members of the Sunset Advisory Commission
Internal Audit Coordinator, State Auditor's Office

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Attached is the fiscal year 2020 Annual Internal Audit Report for the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC). This Annual Internal Audit Report was presented to the TVC governing board and is submitted in accordance with the Texas Internal Auditing Act requirement.

The Texas Internal Auditing Act requires agencies to file an annual report on their internal audit activities and the internal audit reports prepared for governing boards. The purpose of the Annual Internal Audit Report is to provide information on the assurance services, consulting services, and other activities of the internal audit function. In addition, the Annual Internal Audit Report assists oversight agencies in their planning and coordination efforts.

McConnell & Jones LLP (MJ) was engaged on September 1, 2017 to provide internal audit services to the TVC in accordance with The Texas Internal Auditing Act. Pursuant to the Request for Proposals (RFP) issued June 1, 2017, MJ submits this Annual Internal Audit Report for fiscal year 2020 on behalf of the Texas Veterans Commission.

Please contact Odysseus Lanier at 713.968.1603 or Thomas Palladino at 512.463.6564 if you should have any questions about this Annual Internal Audit Report.

Sincerely,

Odysseus Lanier, CPA
Partner

I. COMPLIANCE WITH TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 2102.015: POSTING THE AUDIT PLAN AND ANNUAL REPORT ON THE INTERNET

Texas Government Code, Section 2102.015, requires state agencies and institutions of higher education to post agency internal audit plans and internal audit annual reports to the agency’s internet website within 30 days of approval. Texas Government Code, Section 2102.015, also requires agencies to update the posting on the website to include a detailed summary of any weaknesses, deficiencies, wrongdoings, or other concerns raised by the audit plan or annual report and include a summary of the actions taken by the agency to address the issues raised.

In accordance with requirements of Texas Government Code, Section 2102.015, McConnell & Jones LLP (MJ) will ensure the required internal audit plan, internal audit annual report and any other required internal audit information is provided to the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) for posting to their website.

II. FISCAL YEAR 2020 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN STATUS

The fiscal year 2020 Annual Internal Audit Plan was prepared and completed by McConnell & Jones LLP based on a comprehensive risk assessment and approved by TVC’s commissioners. The table below reflects the approved audit plan status as of August 31, 2020.

Fiscal Year 2020 Internal Audit Plan Status

#	Description	Report Number	Report Date	Report Title	Audit Status
1	Veterans Education Program	20-001	March 16, 2020	Veterans Education Program Processes	Completed
2	Fund for Veterans Assistance	20-002		Fund for Veterans Assistance Program	Audit Completed Report to be issued September 2020
3	Follow-Up on Open Audit Findings	N/A	N/A	N/A	Follow-Up was on-going. TVC is in process of implementing prior audit recommendations.
4	Update Annual Risk Assessment & Audit Plan	N/A	N/A	N/A	Completed
5	Annual Audit Report	N/A	N/A	N/A	Completed
6	Audit Communications,	N/A	N/A	N/A	On-going

#	Description	Report Number	Report Date	Report Title	Audit Status
	Project Management				

Deviation from FY 2020 Plan:


MJ completed the approved fiscal year 2020 Annual Internal Audit Plan as approved without deviations.

III. CONSULTING SERVICES AND NON-AUDIT SERVICES COMPLETED

Internal audit did not provide any consulting and advisory engagements during fiscal year 2020.

IV. EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE REVIEW (PEER REVIEW)

MJ has been a member of the AICPA since 1987 and is subject to the AICPA's peer review process every three years. Our commitment to quality is underscored by the fact that, in our four most recent peer reviews, we have consistently received an unqualified opinion in external peer review reports on the quality of our accounting and auditing practice by the AICPA. After a thorough review of our procedures and work practices, which include reviews of our nonprofit, governmental, and commercial engagements, the reviewers concluded that MJ complies with the stringent quality control standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. We provide a copy of our most recent peer review letter below.



Your Vision Our Focus

Report on the Firm's System of Quality Control

January 31, 2018

To the Partners of
McConnell & Jones, LLP
and the National Peer Review Committee

We have reviewed the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of **McConnell & Jones, LLP** (the Firm), applicable to engagements not subject to PCAOB permanent inspection, in effect for the year ended June 30, 2017. Our peer review was conducted in accordance with the Standards for Performing and Reporting on Peer Reviews established by the Peer Review Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Standards).

A summary of the nature, objectives, scope, limitations of, and the procedures performed in a System Review as described in the Standards may be found at www.aicpa.org/prsummary. The summary also includes an explanation of how engagements identified as not performed or reported in conformity with applicable professional standards, if any, are evaluated by a peer reviewer to determine a peer review rating.

Firm's Responsibility

The Firm is responsible for designing a system of quality control and complying with it to provide the Firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. The Firm is also responsible for evaluating actions to promptly remediate engagements deemed as not performed or reported in conformity with professional standards, when appropriate, and for remediating weaknesses in its system of quality control, if any.

Peer Reviewer's Responsibility


Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the design of the system of quality control and the Firm's compliance therewith based on our review.

Required Selections and Considerations

Engagements selected for review included engagements performed under Government Auditing Standards, including a compliance audit under the Single Audit Act; audits of employee benefit plans and an audit of a non-carrying broker-dealer.

As a part of our peer review, we considered reviews by regulatory entities as communicated by the Firm, if applicable, in determining the nature and extent of our procedures.

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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ACCOUNTANTS AND AUDITORS

Opinion

In our opinion, the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of **McConnell & Jones, LLP**, applicable to engagements not subject to PCAOB permanent inspection, in effect for the year ended June 30, 2017, has been suitably designed and complied with to provide the Firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. Firms can receive a rating of *pass*, *pass with deficiency(ies)*, or *fail*. **McConnell & Jones, LLP** has received a peer review rating of *pass*.

Turner, Stone & Company, LLP

Turner, Stone & Company, L.L.P.

V. INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN FISCAL YEAR 2021

MJ developed the fiscal year 2021 Annual Internal Audit Plan based on results of a risk assessment. The risk assessment included reviewing the agency's strategic plan, the Legislative Appropriations Request, and policies and procedures; analyzing the agency's financial reports; and conducting discussions with management. Our assessment evaluated risk exposures relating to TVC's governance, operations, and information systems regarding the reliability and integrity of financial and operational information; effectiveness and efficiency of operations; safeguarding of assets; and compliance with laws, regulations, and contracts.

MJ will conduct two audits, update the risk assessment, conduct prior audit finding follow-up activities, prepare the Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Internal Audit Plan and prepare the Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Internal Audit Report in accordance with the Texas Internal Auditing Act. These activities are estimated to

require **355 hours**. The approved fiscal year 2021 Annual Internal Audit Plan which provides planned audits, timing and estimated hours are summarized in the table below.

Our planned audits do not include a focus on contract management activities. We are including cyber security controls in the data security audit. There are no high-risk areas that we excluded from the FY 2021 Annual Internal Audit Plan.

Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Audit Plan Activities

Audit Activity #	Description	Risk Rating	Estimated Timing	Estimated Hours
1	Data Security	High	Sept. 2020 – Oct. 2020	148
2	Veterans Employment Services (VES)	High	Jan. 2021 – March 2021	126
3	Follow-Up on Open Audit Findings	Compliance	Mar.2021	46
4	Annual Internal Audit Plan	Compliance	June 2021	21
5	Annual Internal Audit Report	Compliance	Aug. 2021	6
6	Audit Communications, Committee Meetings, Project Management	N/A	Ongoing	8
	Total Hours			355
	Total Fees			\$45,284

EXTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES PROCURED IN FISCAL YEAR 2020

External audit services procured in fiscal year 2020 consisted of the internal audit function.

VI. REPORTING SUSPECTED FRAUD AND ABUSE

The Texas Veterans Commission has implemented measures to comply with Article IX, Section 7.10, the General Appropriations Act (81st Legislature) and Texas Government Code, Section 321.022. These measures include, but are not limited to, the following:

The Texas Veterans Commission includes a link named Report Fraud that links to the State Auditor’s Office (SAO) website for fraud reporting at the footer of the TVC’s website. In addition, information on reporting suspected fraud to the State Auditor is included in the agency’s policies and procedures.

VII. SIGNIFICANT INTERIM CHANGES

Interim changes to the Annual Internal Audit Plan may occur from time to time due to changes in management direction, objectives, business risks, timing of initiatives, and staff availability. In accordance with IIA Performance Standard 2020, MJ will communicate any significant changes of the audit plan to TVC's commissioners for review and approval. Notification of significant changes to the Internal Audit Plan approved by the commissioners will be submitted to the State Auditor's Office (SAO).

This fiscal year 2020 Annual Internal Audit Report was presented to the Texas Veterans Commissions' commissioners.