



## State of Tennessee

Justin P. Wilson, State Comptroller

For Immediate Release: Dec. 19, 2013

### **Former Crockett County Emergency Communications District Administrator Stole Almost \$90,000 in Public Funds**

The former assistant director of the Crockett County Emergency Communications District issued at least \$88,764 in unauthorized payroll checks for her own personal use, an investigation by the Comptroller's office has found.

Over a three-year period, Michelle Smallwood issued herself checks in her own name totaling nearly half of the total amount stolen and deposited them into her own bank account. The rest of the unauthorized checks were issued in her director's name, but she forged his endorsement and cashed the checks without his permission.

The investigation, which was completed by the Comptroller's Division of Investigations, was released today.

A Crockett County Grand Jury indicted Smallwood on counts of theft, forgery and official misconduct this week.

"Violations of the public trust cannot be tolerated," Comptroller Justin P. Wilson said. "I commend our investigators for their work on this case. I also encourage citizens to contact our office when they suspect cases of fraud, waste or abuse of public money."

To view the full report online, go to: <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/ia/>

To report suspected cases of fraud, waste or abuse of public funds in Tennessee, call the Comptroller's toll-free hotline at 1-800-232-5454 or fill out a report online at:

<http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/shared/safwa.asp>

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