



State of Tennessee

Justin P. Wilson, State Comptroller

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Audit Uncovers Numerous Problems in Grundy County Government

Grundy County officials need to correct numerous problems with their management and record-keeping practices, an audit by the Comptroller's Division of Local Government Audit shows.

The audit, which was released today, contains 21 separate findings – that is, serious issues that need to be corrected.

The director of schools' office and the highway superintendent's office were responsible for eight findings each.

In the highway superintendent's office, for example, auditors found deficiencies in purchasing procedures, employee travel and work performed for other governmental entities. The office also allowed an employee to use department funds to purchase fuel for her personal vehicle.

In the director of schools' office, the federal projects and education capital projects funds had cash overdrafts and deficits in their unassigned fund balances. There also were problems with the office's budget operations and its use of federal grant funds, which resulted in questionable expenditures.

In addition to the findings, auditors noted that Grundy County has no audit committee or centralized system of accounting, budgeting and purchasing.

"I am very concerned that Grundy County had so many findings in this audit," Comptroller Justin P. Wilson said. "I'm particularly concerned because 10 of the findings were identified in previous audits, but local officials apparently didn't take appropriate corrective action. If the local officials are serious about reducing the likelihood of fraud, waste or abuse of taxpayer money, then they will take the steps necessary to correct these problems."

To view the audit online, go to: <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/la/>.

If you suspect fraud, waste or abuse of public money in Tennessee, you may call the Comptroller's hot line at 1-800-232-5454 or fill out a report online at <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/shared/safwa.asp>.

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