



Justin P. Wilson, Comptroller

December 1, 2015

Investigation of Gibson County Sheriff's Department Results in 12 Indictments

Former Gibson County Sheriff Charles Arnold and former Chief Deputy Jeffrey Maitland are just two of the 12 people facing indictment after an investigation by the Tennessee's Comptroller's Office in conjunction with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

The investigation details a long list of abuses including falsifying payroll records, questionable payroll expenses, improperly disbursing drug funds, missing equipment, and purchasing prescription drugs that never reached jailed inmates.

The Comptroller's investigation revealed a cash shortage of at least \$109,429, which includes the following:

- Seven department employees falsified payroll records to receive salary compensation totaling \$88,550 for time not worked. Several of these employee's claimed the former sheriff directed them to falsify timesheets.
- Former Sheriff Charles Arnold paid \$1,000 in drug funds to a confidential informant. The case number used by the sheriff cannot be found in any court documents, and the person noted on the drug form who witnessed the transaction says his signature was forged.
- 41 prescription drug purchases that were supposedly for inmates never reached the jail. Nearly all of these prescriptions were for controlled substances and were delivered to former Chief Deputy Jeffrey Maitland's office. These drugs totaled \$1,107.
- In addition to prescribing painkillers to inmates without examining them, medical service provider Renea Terrell improperly inflated her invoices to the county by \$9,536. Ms. Terrell said she inflated these invoices at the direction of former Sheriff Arnold and, in turn, paid him \$7,500 in cash.
- Former Sheriff Arnold exceeded his uniform allowance in 2013-2014 by \$923, and a county owned-handgun that was assigned to him, valued at \$979, could not be located.

Investigators also questioned \$98,016 in payroll expenses to former Chief Deputy Jeffrey Maitland and the former sheriff's administrative assistant Darla Crenshaw.

At the end of his term in office, former Sheriff Arnold and other former employees also submitted false payment requests for various leave accruals in the amount of \$62,041.

"I am proud of our investigators for their diligent work in uncovering these widespread issues," Comptroller Justin P. Wilson said. "I encourage Gibson County officials to take immediate and forceful steps to recover any stolen money or property, and evaluate internal operations to ensure these activities won't happen again."

For more information on the indictments, view the investigation online at: <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/ia/>

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