



Justin P. Wilson, Comptroller

April 18, 2017

New Market VFD Chief Stole from Department

An investigation by the Tennessee State Comptroller has resulted in the indictment of New Market Volunteer Fire Department Chief Frank Solomon.

Investigators determined that Solomon stole at least \$1,105 from the fire department by charging personal purchases to fire department accounts at multiple auto parts stores.

Solomon bought auto parts and accessories for his personal vehicles, for a family member's personal vehicle, and for vehicles owned by private individuals which Solomon had contracted to repair. All of these charges were paid with fire department funds.

Additionally, investigators found that Solomon misused the fire department's sales tax exemption and vehicle title registration discount when he registered a Dodge Charger that he purchased with his personal funds in the fire department's name. The vehicle was to be used "exclusively for fire protection purposes."



Chief Solomon, who is also an elected constable in Jefferson County, placed decals and other markings identifying the Dodge Charger as a constable car and used the vehicle for both constable and fire department duties.

Chief Solomon admitted to investigators that he charged personal purchases to the fire department accounts. He also acknowledged that he used the Dodge Charger for constable duties as well as for fire department purposes.

In April 2017, Frank Solomon was indicted by the Jefferson County Grand Jury on one count of theft over \$1,000, one count of sales tax fraud over \$500, one count of theft under \$500, and two counts of official misconduct.

"It's important that volunteer fire departments require and retain detailed invoices and receipts for purchases," said Comptroller Justin P. Wilson. "These documents should be carefully reviewed to ensure that inappropriate charges are promptly detected."

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

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