



Justin P. Wilson, Comptroller

January 28, 2019

Crockett County Schools Technology Coordinator Indicted for Theft

Misuse of Equipment Results in \$114,000 Cash Shortage

An investigation by the Tennessee Comptroller's Office has resulted in the indictment of Michael Maness, the former technology coordinator for the Crockett County School Department.

Investigators determined that Maness used school district funds to improperly purchase technology equipment and then sold or personally used the equipment. These transactions resulted in a cash shortage of at least \$114,028.52.

Investigators found multiple improprieties relating to purchases made by Maness. For example, he purchased 267 Samsung solid state drives (SSDs) for \$79,015.43. He then sold 265 SSDs at discounted prices for personal gain. The other two SSDs were installed in a computer tower that he designed and fabricated for his personal gaming use.



Investigators also noted other purchases made with school district funds that supported Maness' personal gaming. Additionally, school equipment was located and recovered from Maness' home. Much of the equipment purchased by Maness had no useful purpose for school district.

Michael Maness resigned his employment with the Crockett County School Department on May 21, 2018. He was indicted by the Crockett County Grand Jury on January 25, 2019 on one count of theft over \$60,000, and four counts of official misconduct.

"It's important that school officials across Tennessee provide adequate oversight for anyone entrusted with making purchases," said Comptroller Wilson. "Questions should always be raised about the need and legitimacy of purchases. Crockett County officials should also take steps to improve their inventory records and have someone independent of maintaining the inventory verify its accuracy."

To view the investigative report, go to: <https://comptroller.tn.gov/office-functions/investigations/find.html>

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Media contact: John Dunn, Public Information Officer, 615.401.7755 or john.dunn@cot.tn.gov

