



**Jason E. Mumpower, Comptroller of the Treasury**

*September 11, 2024*

## **Clay County Highway Superintendent Pumped 16,200 Gallons of Fuel Into His Truck** *Jason Browning Charged with Theft and Official Misconduct*

An investigation by the Tennessee Comptroller's Office has resulted in the indictment of Jason Browning, the elected Clay County Highway Superintendent.

Investigators determined that Browning misappropriated at least \$56,971.60 in 16,200 gallons of department-purchased diesel fuel for his personal transportation business.

Browning admitted that he used an estimated 150 gallons of department fuel each week from July 2021 through July 2023, to fuel his personal 2007 Peterbilt 379 semi-truck. Browning used the truck as part of his private trucking business, Browning Trucking. He sold the 2007 Peterbilt in July 2023.



Browning's misappropriation resulted in the department operating on and having less fuel on reserve than believed by department employees. His actions put the department at risk of having insufficient fuel supplies in case of a natural disaster or large project.

Based upon this investigation, in September 2024, Jason Earl Browning was indicted by the Clay County Grand Jury on one count of theft over \$10,000 and three counts of official misconduct. The Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference is serving as *Pro Tem* in this matter.

"The Clay County Highway Department should maintain inventory records documenting the receipt, usage, and storage of fuel," said Comptroller Mumpower. "By reconciling the amount of fuel that is purchased to the amount that is used, the department can better detect any improper usage."

To view the investigative report, go to [tncot.cc/doireports](https://tncot.cc/doireports). To view a map depicting Comptroller investigations, go to [tncot.cc/mappinginvestigations](https://tncot.cc/mappinginvestigations)

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