

# Former Crockett County school employee indicted

Maranda Faris, The Jackson Sun 8:42 p.m. CDT July 27, 2015



(Photo: Submitted)

A former Crockett County Schools technology director has been indicted on charges including theft and official misconduct within the school system.

Ashley Jordan, 42, of Halls, was charged with theft over \$10,000 and misconduct after an investigation determined he had been receiving kickbacks as payment for funneling business to one of the school system's vendors, according to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

TBI spokeswoman Susan Niland said the name of the vendor and other details have not been released due to an active investigation, but will be released during prosecution.

The TBI said Jordan also falsified bids and produced false invoices, and that investigators found equipment belonging to the school system during a search of Jordan's home.

TBI agents worked with the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury during the investigation, which began on June 23, 2014, at the request of 28th District Attorney General Garry Brown, the TBI said in a news release.

Jordan resigned from his position in the Crockett County School System on July 24, 2014.

On July 20 of this year, a Crockett County grand jury indicted Jordan on charges of official misconduct, one count of theft over \$10,000 and one count of tampering with evidence.

Jordan turned himself in to TBI agents on Monday, the TBI said. He has been released from the Crockett County Correctional Center after posting \$10,000 bond.

Messages seeking comment from school system officials and Jordan were not immediately returned.

Niland said the amount of money Jordan is accused of receiving in kickbacks from the vendor, as well as what items were found in the search of Jordan's home, is not being released because the investigation is ongoing.

An audit by the Tennessee Comptroller's Office for the fiscal year that ended in June 2014 — the most recent audit available on the state website — said that the director of schools filed a fraud reporting form advising of a potential problem with computer purchases and that the findings of the investigation would be included in a later report.

In the audit, three instances were found in which schools did not verify sales and collections from outside vendors.

The audit report also shows six instances of purchases being postdated from the actual purchase date. Some purchase orders were not issued in sequential order or the dates were changed after they were issued in two schools.

In another school, money had not been deposited in a timely manner. All these were cases of teachers not depositing funds in the allotted three-day time span, according to the audit.

The school system also had two bank accounts in use that had not been recorded by the school system.

The audit does not name Jordan, or tie these instances to the school system technology department. The effect of these errors, according to the audit, is loss or misuse of funds from vendors in the school system, or unauthorized deposits and disbursements, or understated school assets.

Reach Maranda at (731) 425-9657. Follow her on Twitter: @MarandaFaris

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