



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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STATE DOT ENGINEER-IN-CHARGE USED HIS POSITION TO STEAL NEARLY \$10,000 WORTH OF POWER EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES BELONGING TO STATE

ALBANY - New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced the arrest of a State Department of Transportation (“DOT”) engineer who used his position overseeing a road rehabilitation project in the North Country to obtain nearly \$10,000 worth of equipment and services from the construction company for his own personal use, items that were ultimately paid for by the State as if they were part of the road project.

Jerome Lauzon, 42, of Gansevoort, was charged today with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree and Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, felonies, and Official Misconduct, a misdemeanor.

Lauzon, a Professional Engineer 1 at the DOT, was accused of using his position as engineer-in-charge of a late 2012 highway rehabilitation project in Washington County to have the construction company give him nearly \$10,000 worth of power equipment and services for his own personal use. The company was then reimbursed by the State for the equipment and services as if they were part of the highway rehabilitation project.

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott found that between late 2012 and summer 2014, Lauzon used his position to have the construction company purchase numerous items for his own personal use including a laptop computer and other computing equipment, snow-blower, lawn mower, pressure washer, paint sprayer and car repairs worth a total \$9,692.64. Lauzon further went on to falsify records on the project to make it appear as though all of those purchases were legitimate costs associated with the road rehabilitation project, and therefore passing the costs of the purchases to New York State, which reimbursed the company pursuant to terms of the road project contract. All of the items, however, were delivered to or remained at Lauzon’s home and were never used for the State’s road project.

“This defendant brazenly disregarded his commitment to public service and abused his government role to enrich himself and equip his home with thousands of dollars in computer and power equipment that taxpayers ultimately paid for,” said **Inspector General Leahy Scott**. “I will relentlessly pursue anyone who so shamelessly abdicates their responsibility to the public trust.”

Lauzon was arraigned in Albany City Court and released pending further court action.

The investigation is continuing.

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked the DOT for their assistance with the investigation, the New York State Police for their assistance with the arrest, and Albany County District Attorney P. David Soares and his office for prosecuting this matter.

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