



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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STATE DOT ENGINEER-IN-CHARGE ADMITS USING HIS POSITION TO STEAL NEARLY \$10,000 WORTH OF POWER EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES; PAYS FULL RESTITUTION AND RESIGNS FROM STATE SERVICE

ALBANY - New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced the guilty plea and payment of full restitution by 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 and which he falsely caused to be charged to and paid for by the State.

Jerome Lauzon, 42, of Gansevoort, pleaded guilty in Albany City Court today to Official Misconduct, paid full restitution of \$9,692.64 for his thefts and resigned from State service. He was simultaneously sentenced to a one year conditional discharge.

Lauzon, a Professional Engineer 1 at the DOT, used his position as engineer-in-charge of a 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 buy him 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 abused his public position and violated the public trust at the expense of taxpayers,” said Inspector General Leahy Scott. “I will continue to use all available resources to pursue anyone who so brazenly disregards their responsibility to the public, and I will continue to investigate the factors that enabled his crimes to occur.”

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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