

Summary: Investigation of Bureau of Land Management's Office of Law Enforcement and Security

Report Date: August 14, 2014

OIG investigated allegations that a Special Agent in Charge (SAC), Office of Law Enforcement and Security (OLES), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), wasted Government funds and violated BLM policy when he ordered a Chevrolet Tahoe at a cost that exceeded vehicle purchasing guidelines. We received an anonymous complaint raising concerns about the purchase of the Tahoe and alleging that the SAC spent \$16,500 to outfit the vehicle with aftermarket accessories.

We found that the BLM OLES Director gave the SAC an exemption to purchase the Tahoe. We also found that the SAC spent approximately \$9,900 to outfit his vehicle, not the \$16,500 that the complaint alleged. BLM policy sets only minimum requirements for outfitting unmarked vehicles and permits SACs to install additional equipment using discretionary funds.

During our investigation, we discovered that between July 26 and October 28, 2014, BLM made three payments totaling more than \$7,200 to Premier Vehicle Installation Incorporated for the purchase and installation of aftermarket law enforcement equipment (e.g., lights and siren) for the SAC's vehicle, which gave the appearance that the purchases had been intentionally divided into three invoices to avoid exceeding the purchase threshold.

We provided this report to BLM for any action deemed appropriate. BLM responded to our office stating that BLM's Procurement Chief did not believe the purchases violated contracting policy.

This is a summary of an investigative report that was issued internally to the U.S. Department of the Interior. This summary was posted to the web on December 2, 2015.

