

## Arizona: Sheriff Spending Criticized

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### **Body**

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The Maricopa County **Sheriff**'s Office, known for efforts against illegal immigrants, inappropriately **spent** \$99 million from two jail funds over the past eight years to pay for other law enforcement operations, including immigration patrols, county budget officials said. The figure released Wednesday is an update to an estimate made in September by budget officials who said the **sheriff**'s office was believed to have used up to \$80 million over four or five years from a jail tax on other purposes. Since then, officials said they discovered that the **sheriff**, Joe Arpaio, had inappropriately **spent** money from a second jail account. The findings were sent to federal prosecutors, who are investigating **Sheriff** Arpaio on abuse of power allegations. He was not at a county meeting on Wednesday where the budget was discussed because he was at an immigration raid. But interim Chief Deputy **Sheriff** Jerry Sheridan blamed an outdated payroll system for the mistake.

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