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ST. LOUIS BUSINESS JOURNAL

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Former Moore Automotive CFO sentenced for wire fraud

St. Louis Business Journal - 4:11 PM CST Monday

The former chief financial officer of **Moore Automotive Group**, Julie Lewis, was sentenced to more than three years in jail and ordered to pay \$2.4 million in restitution on wire fraud charges, U.S. Attorney Catherine Hanaway said Monday.

Lewis, who **pleaded guilty Sept. 15** to wire fraud connected to the theft of more than \$2.4 million, was sentenced to 41 months in prison.

Between March 28, 2001, and August 2005, Lewis used her American Express card to pay for groceries, clothing, airline travel and other personal expenses, according to court documents.

The American Express charges were paid by Lewis, who had access to Moore Automotive's bank accounts, enabling her to electronically transfer business funds from her office and home computers, according to a release from Hanaway's office.

Additionally, Lewis used \$93,657 from the Moore Automotive account to purchase property in Warren County, Mo., and subsequently made a false entry in Moore's records indicating that it had been repaid, according to the release.

Lewis, 48, of the 800 block of Waterford Villas in Lake Saint Louis, Mo., appeared Monday for sentencing before U.S. District Judge Richard Webber.

In addition to the prison sentence and restitution, Lewis will be required to forfeit cash; her interest in the Lake Saint Louis residence; a Bonita Springs, Fla., residence; and 12 acres in Warren County, all of which was acquired from the illegal activity, according to the release.

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