

Feds: Lower Brule Sioux Tribe misspent \$2.7M in grants

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SIOUX FALLS — A federal watchdog agency says officials of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe have misspent part of nearly \$2.7 million in federal grant money.

An audit by the Justice Department's Office of Inspector General released Wednesday shows the central South Dakota tribe had about \$937,000 in unallowable, unsupported or unreasonable spending.

The grants were issued by the federal Office of Justice Programs between 2009 and 2012 for efforts including reducing gang-related activities and juvenile delinquency and providing services to child abuse victims.

Acting tribal chairman Kevin Wright said Wednesday he was unaware of the audit, although the federal report includes a response from the tribe in which it acknowledges that it is under scrutiny by several federal agencies, including the IRS.