



WELLSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Statement to Media

On 09-04-2024 the Wellston Police Department responded to a reported single vehicle accident near the intersection of 3330 Road and U.S. 66. While on scene officers determined the driver to show signs of intoxication and was subsequently taken into custody at that time.

The driver refused to participate in field sobriety tests while on scene and refused to take a breath test. The subject was then restrained and transported to the Lincoln County Jail. Upon arrival he became non-compliant with the transporting officer, refusing to enter the facility and attempting to walk away.

Officers were able to control the subject during this time and he was then escorted into the booking area of the jail. While at the jail the subject signed the refusal to take the states test. The Jail staff started the process of attempting change out his clothes and he began to fight with jail staff and officers. During the course of this altercation the subject pulled out a small .22 caliber handgun from his person and began threatening jail staff in an attempt to escape the facility.

The subject was then engaged by the detention officer while the Wellston officer attempted to radio for help. After gaining radio reception and calling for help he returned to the suspect and detention officer still fighting. He stood by while the detention officer and subject continued to struggle eventually aiding by helping shove the suspect into a corner until he grabs the suspect by the right-hand taking control of the firearm and removing it from the suspect's grip. He then left the altercation and secured the firearm in the control room of the Lincoln County jail.

The reluctance to engage when confronted by a hostile suspect during a critical incident is not within the policy, standards or expectations of the Wellston Police Department. The officer involved in the incident was on leave from 09/04/2024 until 09/09/2024. He has resigned as of 09/09/2024.