



SHREVEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Shreveport Police K-9 Assists Louisiana State Police in Capturing Violent Felon



On March 6, 2026, at approximately 2:42 a.m., Shreveport Police Department K-9 units responded to assist Louisiana State Police following a vehicle pursuit that ended when the suspect crashed and fled on foot near the intersection of Patzman Street and North Western Street.

Troopers advised that the driver, described as a Black male wearing a white shirt with cutoff sleeves, jumped a barbed-wire fence and fled eastbound into a wooded area. The suspect was believed to be the driver involved in the pursuit and was facing charges related to aggravated flight.

Shreveport Police K-9 **Rudo**, along with his handler, began tracking the suspect through thick brush and wooded terrain. During the track, officers located several discarded items along the suspect's path, including a belt tangled in brush, a pair of shoes, and a single black sock near a steep embankment behind a warehouse facility in the 200 block of North Common Street.

K-9 Rudo continued the track along the south side of the warehouse where he displayed a strong predatory response to human odor. Officers observed flattened grass and additional discarded clothing indicating the suspect had recently moved through the area.

At the southeast corner of the building, Rudo began investigating thick bushes where he located a male suspect lying on the ground attempting to conceal himself. The suspect, later identified as **Matthew Lawson (DOB: 11/07/1988)**, was wearing a baby blue jersey with cutoff sleeves, was barefoot, and had only a single sock.

Officers gave repeated verbal commands for Lawson to surrender. When he refused to comply, K-9 Rudo was deployed and apprehended the suspect. Officers were then able to safely take Lawson into custody.

Shreveport Fire Department personnel responded to the scene and treated Lawson for minor injuries before he was transported to Ochsner LSU Health.

Louisiana State Police advised Lawson was charged with the following offenses:

- DWI (14:98)
- Driving on roadway laned for traffic (32:79)
- Switched license plate (47:536)
- Aggravated flight from an officer (14:108.1)
- Possession of Schedule II narcotics (40:967)
- Possession of legend drug without prescription (40:1060)
- Possession of firearm with controlled dangerous substance (14:95(E))
- Prohibited acts (40:1023)
- Safety belt violation (32:295.1)
- AND Illegal possession of a firearm by a convicted felon (14:95.1)

Further investigation revealed Lawson has an extensive criminal history, that Forbids him for possessing a firearm, including prior convictions for **armed robbery, second-degree kidnapping, narcotics distribution, burglary, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and domestic abuse battery**. In 2019, Lawson was convicted in a case stemming from an attempted second-degree murder charge that resulted in a plea to attempted aggravated battery.

This incident also marks **K-9 Rudo's first apprehension**, an early milestone in what officers believe will be a long and successful career serving the citizens of Shreveport.

The Shreveport Police Department commends the teamwork between SPD and Louisiana State Police in safely bringing this dangerous offender into custody.

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