

**LEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
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Lee County Sheriff's Office

Public Safety and Court Services Committee

April 9, 2024

In the month of March, the Lee County Sheriff's Office logged 790 calls for service.

As far as notable calls for the month of March, the following incidents occurred...

On March 15<sup>th</sup> at approximately 3:26 p.m., a Lee County Deputy conducted a traffic stop on Illinois Route 26 near South Eldena Road in rural Dixon. The vehicle was pulling a small utility trailer with no visible registration. After a K-9 alert and consent search of the vehicle, Deputies located 10.5 grams of Methamphetamine. Through the investigation, the driver was identified as Amy J. Allison, age 45, of Dixon. She was subsequently arrested for Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine, a Class 2 Felony.

A passenger in the vehicle was identified as Albert J. Brooks, age 40, of Dixon. Brooks provided Deputies with a false name during the investigation as he was wanted on an outstanding arrest warrant out of Ogle County. He was additionally charged with Obstructing Justice, a Class 4 Felony, for providing false information.

Previously, the arrest of Lucas W. Underhile was reported to this committee that took place on January 26<sup>th</sup> after deputies conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle. Through the deputy's investigation, Underhile was arrested and charged with the following offenses after a loaded firearm was located in his vehicle:

- Possession of a Firearm Without Requisite FOID Card – Suspended, a Class 3 Felony
- Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Weapon (3 counts), a Class 4 Felony
- Unlawful Use of a Weapon, a Class A Misdemeanor
- Possession of a Firearm Ammunition Without Requisite FOID Card, a Class A Misdemeanor

In accordance with pretrial release provisions, Underhile was released from custody later that same day on January 26<sup>th</sup> with a court appearance date. On March 21<sup>st</sup>, Underhile failed to appear, and a warrant was issued for his arrest. This is a prime example of the failure of the Illinois SAFE-T Act.

**CORRECTIONS/WARRANTS**

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On March 23<sup>rd</sup> at approximately 10:16 p.m., Deputies from the Lee County Sheriff's Department conducted a traffic stop on Illinois Route 2 near Mound Hill Road. The driver of the vehicle was ultimately identified through the investigation as Winston R. Wilbanks, age 36, of Rock Falls. Wilbanks had provided the Deputy with a false name and date of birth as his driver's license was revoked. Wilbanks was also on Parole / Mandatory Supervised Release from the Illinois Department of Corrections from charges out of Winnebago County for Manufacture of Ecstasy (15 to 100 grams). He had received a sentence of 7 years, 6 months in April of 2020 on the Ecstasy charges. On June 15, 2023, Wilbanks was released from the Department of Corrections on Mandatory Supervised Release conditions. He was arrested and charged with the following offenses as a result of the traffic stop:

- Obstructing Justice, a Class 4 Felony
- Driving while License Revoked – Subsequent Offense, a Class 4 Felony
- Resisting / Obstructing a Peace Officer, a Class A Misdemeanor

The Illinois Department of Corrections – Parole Division was contacted and advised of the new offenses. They did not issue a parole violation on Wilbanks, and he was released in accordance with pretrial release provisions of the Illinois SAFE-T Act.

As far as staffing for the month of March, the Sheriff's Office is down two correctional deputies with a third correctional deputy being off under the Family Medical Leave Act. This has caused some overtime issues with minimum mandatory staffing.

The Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board recently implemented minimum in-service training mandates that typically must be maintained over a 3-year rotation for professional proficiency. The winter months tend to be slower with call volumes so the local mobile training unit schedules them accordingly. During this month, deputies attended various trainings on Leadership, High Risk Traffic Stops, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, and Suspicious Death Investigations.

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