

DUPLICATE FILED
AUG 26 2016
DEANA AVERSMAN
LAFAYETTE CO. CIRCUIT CLERK

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF LAFAYETTE COUNTY, MISSOURI

ASSOCIATE DIVISION

COMPLAINT

STATE OF MISSOURI

Plaintiff,

vs.

Archie Strutton

Defendant.

) PA File No. 107020573

)

)

) Case No. **16LF-CR00632**

) OCN:

)

) / DOB: [REDACTED]

) ;

) SSN: [REDACTED]

)

COUNT: I

The Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Lafayette, State of Missouri, upon information and belief, charges the defendant in violation of Section 569.080.1(2), RSMo, committed the class C felony of tampering in the first degree, punishable upon conviction under Sections 558.011 and 560.011, RSMo, in that on or about August 17, 2016, in the county of Lafayette, State of Missouri, the defendant knowingly and without the consent of the owner altered or defaced an automobile, a 2008 Dodge, VIN [REDACTED].

Charge Code: 569.080-002Y20052999.0

COUNT: II

The Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Lafayette, State of Missouri, upon information and belief, charges the defendant in violation of Section 569.080.1(2), RSMo, committed the class C felony of tampering in the first degree, punishable upon conviction under Sections 558.011 and 560.011, RSMo, in that on or about August 17, 2016, in the county of Lafayette, State of Missouri, the defendant knowingly and without the consent of the owner altered or defaced an automobile, a 2013 Dodge, VIN [REDACTED].

Charge Code: 569.080-002Y20052999.0

COUNT: III

The Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Lafayette, State of Missouri, upon information and belief, charges the defendant in violation of Section 569.080.1(2), RSMo, committed the class C felony of tampering in the first degree, punishable upon conviction under Sections 558.011 and 560.011, RSMo, in that on or about August 17, 2016, in the county of Lafayette, State of Missouri, the defendant knowingly and without the consent of the owner altered or defaced an automobile, a 2014 Dodge, VIN [REDACTED].

Charge Code: 569.080-002Y20052999.0

Archie Strutton - 107020573

COUNT: IV

The Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Lafayette, State of Missouri, upon information and belief, charges the defendant in violation of Section 569.080.1(2), RSMo, committed the class C felony of tampering in the first degree, punishable upon conviction under Sections 558.011 and 560.011, RSMo, in that on or about August 17, 2016, in the county of Lafayette, State of Missouri, the defendant knowingly and without the consent of the owner altered or defaced an automobile, a 2013 Dodge, VIN [REDACTED]
Charge Code: 569.080-002Y20052999.0

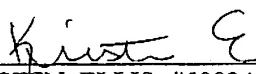
COUNT: V

The Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Lafayette, State of Missouri, upon information and belief, charges the defendant in violation of Section 569.080.1(2), RSMo, committed the class C felony of tampering in the first degree, punishable upon conviction under Sections 558.011 and 560.011, RSMo, in that on or about August 17, 2016, in the county of Lafayette, State of Missouri, the defendant knowingly and without the consent of the owner altered or defaced an automobile, a 2013 Dodge, VIN [REDACTED].
Charge Code: 569.080-002Y20052999.0

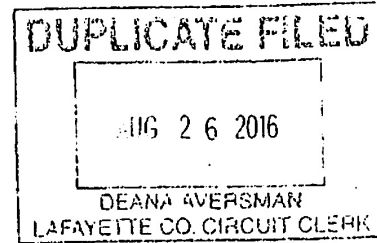
RANGE OF PUNISHMENT: Class A Felony -- 10 to 30 years or life imprisonment in the Missouri Department of Corrections. Class B Felony -- 5 to 15 years in the Missouri Department of Corrections. Class C Felony -- 1 to 7 years in the Missouri Department of Corrections, or 1 year in the County Jail and/or up to a \$5,000.00 fine. Class D Felony -- 1 to 4 years in the Missouri Department of Corrections, or 1 year in the County Jail and/or up to a \$5,000.00 fine

The facts that form the basis for this information and belief are contained in the attached statement(s) of facts concerning this matter, which statement(s) are made a part hereof and are submitted herewith as a basis upon which this court may find the existence of probable cause for the issuance of the warrant.

Wherefore, the Prosecuting Attorney prays that an arrest warrant be issued as provided by law.



KRISTEN ELLIS, #58824
Prosecuting Attorney
County of Lafayette

**PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT FORM****Date: August 26, 2016**

I, *Cynthia L. Schroer*, a sworn officer (detective) with the Lafayette County Sheriff's Office, knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law, state that the facts contained herein are true.

1. I have probable cause to believe that:

Archie Lee Strutton M/W Age 33

DOB: [REDACTED] SSN: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

May have committed one or more criminal offenses.

2. The facts supporting this belief are as follows

On Wednesday, August 17, 2016, at approximately 6:30 a.m., Deputy Ken Lewie was working patrol for the Lafayette County Sheriff's Office when he discovered that numerous tires on the City of Odessa patrol vehicles were flat. Upon further inspection, he found that tires on all five vehicles had been punctured with a sharp object. He reported this to Officer Marti Steelman, who had just come on shift at the Odessa Police Department. Officer Archie Strutton was working the night shift and had left shift at approximately 3:00 a.m. leaving the City of Odessa without coverage except for available Lafayette County deputies. It was determined that the tires were tampered with sometime between 3:00 a.m. and 6:30 a.m.

Several weeks ago, Archie Strutton accused Chief Scott Newhouse of assault, claiming that Newhouse had shut a car door on his leg on purpose. Newhouse was put on administrative leave while the case was being reviewed by the Missouri Attorney General's office. The Missouri Attorney General declined charges. On August 16, 2016, Chief Scott Newhouse was reinstated and Sgt. Chad Cobb, who was sharing Acting Chief duties with Sgt. Christopher Bodenhamer resigned his commission that same day. Officer Marti Steelman and Officer Archie Strutton were both at the police department the evening of the 16th of August, when Sgt. Chad Cobb told them that he had resigned.

Archie Strutton expressed his anger at the disposition of the case involving Newhouse as well as the events at the police department that led to Sgt. Chad Cobb resigning. Also during this time frame, the Board of Alderman and Mayor were openly considering disbanding the police department and contracting with the Lafayette County Sheriff's Office for a two year period for police services based on widespread deficiencies they found within the department. Along with the tires being slashed on each police vehicle, there was urine found in a desk drawer of a desk that had been assigned to Chief Scott Newhouse. Along with the flat tires, the urine was also discovered in the early morning hours of August 17, 2016. Only an individual with a key could access the police department to place the urine in the drawer and Officer Archie Strutton was working by himself from around midnight to 3:00 a.m.






I investigated the matter and learned that an individual that was identified as a good friend of Archie Strutton and who also spent many hours hanging around the police department on the night shift had been talking about this matter and had made statements that appeared guilty in nature. He had told two other reserve officers that Officer Strutton had asked him to follow him out of town to make sure no one could blame him for anything that had happened.

On August 24, 2016, I interviewed S.R. at the Odessa Police Department who advised that he received a call from Archie Strutton at 2:57 a.m. to meet him him at the old Casey's parking lot. I have documentation of that call. When they met, he talked about being unhappy about the Chief being reinstated and Chad resigning. He said that this was his last shift, he was not going back and that he had left them something to remember because he slashed the tires on the police vehicles. He also said if they got caught, he wanted S.R. to take the blame. He talked about taking his personal time off from that day forward and that he had already packed his personal stuff from the police department days earlier. He then asked S.R. to follow him out of town so that they would have proof that he had not gone back and done anything. Deputy Lewie can confirm that Archie Strutton met with an individual in a white truck in that parking lot at approximately 3:00 a.m. He is not familiar with S.R. But, S.R. does drive a 2001 White Silverado. He watched as the two individuals left and traveled in tandem, North on 2nd Street.

Deputy Lewie then made numerous trips driving down the street in front of the police department until Officer Marti Steelman came on duty approximately 3 hours later. He did not see the flat tires from the street because the tires that had been flattened were located on the driver's side and could not be seen from the road. He did not see anyone enter the lot during the 3 1/2 hours that he patrolled the area. He noticed the flat tires when entering the parking lot at around 6:30 a.m.

Officer Archie Strutton had motive and opportunity and confessed his actions to another party. The person he confessed to was very reluctant to give a statement because of his loyalty to Officer Strutton but did eventually give a statement.

The following vehicles were damaged at approximately 3:00 a.m. on August 17, 2016, just as Officer Strutton was going off duty. He has not been back on duty since that day, telling some individuals that he was sick and telling others he was out of the country on vacation.

2013 Dodge		1 tire slashed
2008 Ford		1 tire slashed
2014 Dodge		2 tires slashed
2013 Dodge		1 tire slashed
2013 Dodge		1 tire slashed

Cynthia Schorer
Printed Name

Cynthia Schorer
Signature