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Valley Falls Man Pleads Not Guilty to Attempted Murder

A rural Valley Falls man pleads not guilty to attempted first degree murder.

John Hayworth Junior made the plea Thursday in Jefferson County Court.

According to County Attorney Jason Belveal, prosecution is expected to present their case in a jury trial sometime this summer as a date has yet to be set.

A pre-trial conference is set for April 19th.

Hayworth was arrested December 4th by the Jefferson County Sheriff's department after receiving a call earlier that morning that a man had been shot at 6155 142nd Street in rural Valley Falls.

Upon arrival, deputies discovered that 58 year old William Schoonover had been shot and was transported to Topeka, where he later recovered and was released from the hospital.

The department alleges that Hayworth fired the shot following an argument with Schoonover over cattle.

His wife, Bernadine also pled not guilty Thursday to the charges of aggravated battery and obstructing apprehension of prosecution, commonly known as aiding and abetting, related to the alleged incident.

John Hayworth is out on a 50 thousand dollar property bond.