

Broken Armed Escapee Pleads No Contest to Charges

(KNZA)--A Goff man who escaped from custody in May and then lead authorities on a high speed chase behind the wheel of a stolen Hiawatha vehicle has pleaded no contest to charges.

30-year-old Jonathan Watkins entered the plea Monday in Brown County District Court to three felony counts-- including aggravated escape from custody, felony theft and fleeing or attempting to elude a law enforcement officer.

In exchange for the plea, an additional felony charge--obstructing official duty--was dismissed.

Sentencing is set for January 31st.

On May 10th, Watkins was being transported to the Brown County Jail on a Missouri warrant when authorities say he decided to run and steal the vehicle.

Suffering from a broken arm at the time of his transport, the officer didn't have the necessary equipment to properly restrain him due to the injury. That equipment has since been purchased.

Watkins apparently suffered the broken arm during an April 23rd incident in northwestern Jackson County where he allegedly attacked to male relatives with a shovel and skillet.

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