

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Acworth Man Sentenced to 20 Years After Armed SWAT Standoff
State vs. Jonathan Lee Patterson

August 15, 2025 – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that, on August 12, Jonathan Lee Patterson, 38, of Acworth, pled guilty to multiple felony charges stemming from an armed SWAT standoff in March 2024. These charges included aggravated assault, obstruction of an officer (2 counts), attempted removal of a weapon from a public official, criminal damage to property in the first degree, and possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony.

At the conclusion of the non-negotiated plea hearing, Superior Court Judge Jennifer L. Davis sentenced Patterson to 20 years, with the first 15 years to serve in confinement.

Assistant District Attorney Elliot R. Stone presented the facts of the case as follows.

On March 28, 2024, Cherokee Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched to conduct a wellness check at the request of Patterson's father, who reported that his son was having a mental health crisis and had a gun. Patterson was inside the home, located in the Owls Creek Landing subdivision on Kellogg Creek Road in Acworth.

While on scene, deputies heard gunshots coming from inside the home. When they were unable to establish communications with Patterson, the hostage negotiation and SWAT teams were called to assist.

During the hours-long standoff, Patterson moved throughout the home, pointed a rifle at deputies, and fired multiple rounds both inside and outside the house. He also fortified his position by blocking a window with a mattress.

In an effort to safely end the standoff, the SWAT team deployed less-lethal gas munitions. A fire started when Patterson covered a gas canister with bedding, causing it to ignite and set the house on fire.

As the fire spread, the SWAT team entered the home. Patterson resisted arrest by attempting to strike SWAT team members and trying to remove a rifle from one of them.

Patterson was ultimately subdued and removed from the burning home. He and two deputies sustained minor injuries and were treated at the hospital.

At the plea hearing, the State introduced evidence including body-worn camera footage in which shots could be heard coming from the house, as well as photographs of the rifle Patterson used and shell casings recovered inside the home.

The State recommended a sentence of 20 years, with 15 years to serve in prison, during which the defendant would receive in-custody mental health treatment through the Department of Corrections' Integrated Treatment Program.

"The evidence in this case demonstrates the significant danger the defendant posed to surrounding neighbors and all those who responded to prevent the situation from escalating even further," said ADA Stone, who prosecuted this case on behalf of the State.

After hearing from both the State and the Defense, Judge Davis acknowledged the dangerousness of the incident for all parties involved, as well as the mental health challenges.

Judge Davis then sentenced Patterson as recommended by the State. Special conditions include mental health treatment while in custody and on probation. Patterson must also perform 240 hours of community service, avoid illegal drugs and alcohol, possess no firearms, and follow other special conditions. Count 6 of the sentence shall be suspended upon successful completion of the Integrated Treatment Program.

"This incident garnered swift response from multiple law enforcement agencies, with dozens of officers on scene at the height of the chaos caused by this defendant," said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. "We are grateful to the brave law enforcement officers who risked their lives, exercised extreme restraint, and safely ended this standoff."

This case was investigated by the Cherokee Sheriff's Office and prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Elliot R. Stone.

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The Office of the District Attorney for the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit is committed to seeking justice, acting with integrity, and collaborating with partner agencies in the criminal justice system in order to protect the citizens of Cherokee County and the State of Georgia.

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