

Sheriff



Larry Ashley, Okaloosa County Sheriff

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OCSO ARRESTS MAN FOLLOWING DELIVERY OF 36 POUNDS OF MARIJUANA

A Fort Walton Beach man expecting the delivery of thirty-six pounds of marijuana did not expect that the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement officers were part of the package deal.

On March 17th, the Kansas State Patrol discovered approximately thirty-six pounds of marijuana in a vehicle that was intended to be delivered to 23-year old Dustin Cooper in Ft. Walton Beach.

On March 18th, the driver of that vehicle, while cooperating with law enforcement authorities, arrived in Florida, escorted by Kansas law enforcement personnel along with the marijuana.

Cooper was contacted and later observed leaving his home at 505 Surrey Street, Ft. Walton Beach and driving to a meeting location within Okaloosa County. Cooper provided \$24,900 in cash owed from a previous drug transaction. Cooper took possession of the marijuana at which time he was arrested.

Post-Miranda, Cooper advised he arrived at the location to pay for a previous marijuana deal and obtain more marijuana and then pay for it after he was able to sell it. Cooper also advised that any drugs found at his residence or in his vehicle belonged to him and him alone. Cooper admitted to buying and using Hydrocodone as well.

Later a search of Cooper's residence revealed an additional pound of marijuana along with 4 grams of Hydrocodone. Paraphernalia used in the packaging, sale, distribution and use of marijuana was sized as was ammunition and magazines.

Cooper is charged with Trafficking in Marijuana over 25 pounds, Trafficking in Hydrocodone 4 grams or more, Convicted Felon in Possession of Firearm or Ammunition, Driving While License Revoked-Habitual Traffic Offender, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

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"The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office provides equal access and equal
opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate"