

JOPLIN

POLICE

303E. 3rd Street * Joplin, MO 64801-2274 * 417-623-3131 * Fax 417-624-9820

Lane Roberts
Chief of Police

Date: February 2, 2015

Origin: Department PIO

Contact: Corporal Chuck Niess

Phone: 623-3131

NEWS RELEASE

On January 31, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. Joplin Police Department officers responded to an address on Markwardt Ave. for a report of an armed robbery which had occurred on the parking lot at 2602 S. Main Street earlier.

The victim, Drew Hunter, reported that as he was exiting the liquor store at 2602 S. Main St. Joplin that he was contacted by the suspect, Jason Watts, age 34 of Joplin for some money to purchase liquor. He then pointed a handgun at Hunter and demanded his money. He took a bottle of liquor that Hunter had and then fired a shot in the air as Hunter was leaving.

Officers were also dispatched to an address on Porter Ave at 9:00 P.M. for a report of Domestic Violence where the victim, Melissa Brumsfield said that her boyfriend had assaulted her with a firearm at her residence located at 3105 S. Pearl Ave. Joplin, MO.

The victim said that her boyfriend became angry with her and demanded she take him to the liquor store to purchase more alcohol. When she refused he pointed a handgun at her and then fired a shot into the wall nearby. She still refused and he fired a second shot into the wall. At this time they drove to the Alps Liquor Store at 2602 S. Main Street, Joplin, MO.

While there, she witnessed him rob a customer in the parking lot and fire a shot in the air. She drove him to an address on West 4th St. in Joplin and dropped him off before contacting the police. Brumsfield told officers that the suspect was still at the address on West 4th Street and they responded there at took him into custody without incident.

The suspect, Jason T. Watts, Age 34 was arrested and charged with the following offenses:

Kidnapping
Domestic Assault
Unlawful Use of a Weapon
Armed Criminal Action
Robbery 1st Degree

Watts also had two Joplin City warrants and a Jasper County Fail to Appear warrant.

Bond on the five offenses has been set at \$1000,000.00. He is currently still being held in the Joplin City Jail.

Photograph is attached.

###



Watts, Jason