

# JOPLIN

# **POLICE**

303E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street \* Joplin, MO 64801-2274 \* 417-623-3131 \* Fax 417-624-9820

Jason Burns  
Chief of Police

**Date:** April 10, 2015  
**Origin:** Department PIO  
**Contact:** Captain Bob Higginbotham  
**Phone:** 623-3131 #634

## **NEWS RELEASE**

On April 10, 2015 at 3:57 AM, a Joplin police officer was checking suspicious subjects at 3600 S Range Line Road. (Sunrise Inn)

Shortly after arrival, the officer reported that his vehicle had been struck and disabled by a four-door, silver Nissan Sentra and all occupants fled on foot. The officer engaged in a foot pursuit, captured and detained the driver.

The driver was determined to be Michael L. Watson, 37, 531 Kentucky, Joplin. Watson was in possession of a firearm, one a large bag of crystal methamphetamine and one a small bag of methamphetamine, a digital scale, syringe, and spoon.

The other occupants of the vehicle were located within close proximity, interviewed, and released.

Watson was arrested for Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, Possession of Controlled Substance, and a Probation Violation Warrant.

The officer sustained minor injuries in the vehicular attack. He received treatment at Freeman and was released.

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Michael Watson