



## POLICE

### NEWS RELEASE

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### DRUG OPERATION NETS LARGE SEIZURE OF NARCOTICS, WEAPONS AND CURRENCY

ATHENS, TENNESSEE – April 15, 2024 – For the past several months the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Drug Task Force has been investigating a methamphetamine and fentanyl distribution operation in Athens, Tennessee.

On April 11, 2024, the Drug Task Force requested the Athens Police Department to stop a vehicle, as part of this investigation. An Athens Police Officer and a McMinn County Deputy with a K-9 partner stopped the vehicle where methamphetamine, Fentanyl tablets, and firearms were located during this traffic stop.

A search warrant was then served at a residence on South Congress Parkway in Athens, Tennessee by the Drug Task Force who was assisted by the Athens Police Department, McMinn County Sheriff's Office and Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. As a result of the traffic stop and search warrant, agents seized approximately nine pounds of methamphetamine, over 3,100 fentanyl tablets, approximately eight grams of fentanyl/Xylazine powder, and three firearms (one of which was stolen).

The following were taken into custody:

**Marc Allen Blair:**

Possession of Methamphetamine for Resale over 300 grams, Possession of Fentanyl for resale over 150 grams, Possession of a Firearm during the Commission of a Dangerous Felony, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

**Jason Keith Lemke:**

Possession of Methamphetamine for Resale over 300 grams, Possession of Fentanyl for resale over 150 grams, Possession of a Firearm During the Commission of a Dangerous Felony, Possession of a Firearms by a convicted Felon, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

**Jeremy Scott Ledbetter:**

Possession of Methamphetamine for Resale

**Beth Lunsford:**

Violation of Probation

This investigation is ongoing, and more arrests and charges are expected.

“This is a fine example of how cooperation amongst our state and local partner agencies is vital in making a difference in our community. The dedication to service is obvious in the results of this operation. We are proud of our contributions to the Drug Task Force and look forward to continued success”. Chief Fred K. Schultz

For more information, please contact the Chief of Police, Fred Schultz (423) 744-2730.