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News Release

El Dorado resident sought on warrant for vehicle burglary, theft

Blake Michael Bell, 27, accused of breaking into three cars on college campus

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (March 8, 2021) — The Arkansas City Police Department is seeking an El Dorado man in connection with several incidents of motor vehicle burglary and theft prior to Feb. 24.

Blake Michael Bell, 27, has an outstanding warrant for his arrest on suspicion of burglary to a motor vehicle and theft through Cowley County District Court in Arkansas City. No bond has been set yet.

Police were dispatched on the morning of Feb. 24 to Cowley College for a report of vehicle burglary.

Officers learned multiple vehicles on the college campus had items taken from them during the night.

With the assistance of Cowley College public safety officers, police viewed security video showing a male suspect checking for unlocked vehicle doors on the campus around 3 a.m. Feb. 24.

The suspect, later identified as Bell, entered multiple vehicles on the campus and attempted to enter numerous other vehicles. The owners of three of these vehicles reported missing items.

Officers later learned Bell was involved in a pursuit by another law enforcement agency. That pursuit was discontinued and Bell is thought to have fled south into Oklahoma. As a result of the pursuit, Bell was identified as a suspect and linked to the burglary cases. A warrant was soon issued for his arrest.

Anyone with information about these incidents is encouraged to contact the Arkansas City Police Department at (620) 441-4444. Those wishing to remain anonymous also may contact Cowley County Crime Stoppers, which offers rewards of up to \$2,500 for information leading to an arrest. Call (620) 442-7777 in Arkansas City or (620) 221-7777 in Winfield, or visit www.tipsubmit.com or accs.crimestoppersweb.com to make an anonymous report. An anonymous tip also can be submitted by texting ACTIPS to 847411. A defendant's guilt or innocence is to be determined by a court of law.

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