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Press Release

Fatality Crash- DWI Investigation

Media Contact:

Captain William Davis

On July 3rd, 2021 at 8:23 am the Joplin Police Department received a report of a male driver passed out in a vehicle that was blocking a driveway in the 800 block of South Rex Avenue. Officers responded and located the vehicle and observed the driver was not conscious. Officers were able to wake the driver and found that he was showing signs of being intoxicated. While officers were conducting their investigation, the driver fled in the vehicle from officers going northbound on Rex Avenue. While Joplin officers were attempting to catch up to the driver, a Duquesne Police Department officer was nearby and observed the vehicle fleeing and initiated a pursuit that went eastbound on 7th Street. Shortly thereafter, Joplin Officers were notified the suspect vehicle was involved in a crash with two other vehicles at the intersection of 7th Street and Duquesne Road. The driver of one of those vehicles, Robert D. McDermid, age 66 of Joplin, did not survive injuries sustained in the crash. Next of kin has been notified. The driver of the suspect vehicle briefly attempted to flee from the scene and also discarded 94 grams of Methamphetamine under the suspect vehicle. He was apprehended by officers and identified as Kenton C. Cowgill, age 36, of Carthage. Following the incident, charges were filed for Driving While Intoxicated, Resisting Arrest and Delivery of a Controlled Substance. Cowgill is currently being held in the Jasper County Jail with no bond. The Missouri State Highway Patrol is conducting the crash investigation and the Joplin Police Department is conducting the criminal investigation. The investigation into the incident is active and ongoing. Further details will be released as they become available. A mugshot of Cowgill is attached.