



STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

STATE OF MISSOURI
COUNTY OF Jasper

Date: 5/19/2026

I, Detective Trent McMain, knowing that **false statements on this form are punishable by law**, state that the facts contained herein are true.

1. I have probable cause to believe on May 18, 2026, in the City of Carthage, County of Jasper, State of Missouri, Betty Plopper committed one or more criminal offense(s) of: Making a False Report (RSMo 575.080), Hindering Prosecution (RSMo 575.030) and Robbery First Degree (RSMo 570.023 & RSMo 562.041)

Name: Betty Plopper
Address: 267 Lawrence County Ave, Sarcoxie, MO 64862
Arrested: May 18, 2026, at 10:10 PM

2. The facts supporting this belief are as follows:

On May 18, 2026, officers with the Carthage Police Department responded to an armed robbery at ALDI, 2442 S. Grand Ave., Carthage, Jasper County, Missouri. During the investigation, officers learned a false 911 call had been placed reporting a robbery at a bank on the opposite side of the city, occurring at the same time as the Aldi robbery. Investigators believed the false report was intentionally made to divert law enforcement resources away from the actual robbery scene.

Investigators identified Betty Plopper as being associated with robbery suspect Marvin Ward. I, Det. McMain, contacted Plopper at the Carthage Inn, 2244 S. Grand Ave., Carthage, Jasper County, Missouri. During the contact, Plopper voluntarily allowed me to access her cellular phone. I placed a test call to 911 using the device and later confirmed with dispatch that the number used to make the false emergency call matched the number assigned to Plopper's phone.

Plopper admitted Ward told her he was going to "get some money from a guy" shortly before leaving the area near Aldi. Plopper further admitted she knowingly placed the false 911 call reporting a robbery at a bank in another area of the city in order to draw officers away from the Aldi area and keep Ward out of trouble while the robbery was occurring.

Through the course of the investigation, investigators determined Ward committed a forcible stealing at Aldi while displaying what appeared to be a firearm. Plopper's intentional placement of the false emergency report during the robbery diverted responding officers away from the scene and aided Ward in committing the offense and avoiding immediate apprehension.

Based on Plopper's admissions, dispatch records, surveillance evidence, and the totality of the investigation, I have probable cause to believe Plopper: (1) knowingly initiated a false report of an emergency in violation of RSMo 575.080; (2) knowingly hindered the apprehension and prosecution of Marvin Ward through deception in violation of RSMo 575.030; and (3) acted in concert with and aided Ward during the commission of Robbery in the First Degree in violation of RSMo 570.023 and RSMo 562.041.

3. **MISDEMEANORS AND FELONIES:** I am requesting the issuance of an arrest warrant based on the following:
 - I believe that the defendant will not appear in court in response to a criminal summons because Plopper does not maintain a stable residence and is believed to be transient, alternating between temporary hotel lodging and periods of homelessness. Due to her lack of a fixed address and transient living situation, there is a substantial likelihood she would not reliably receive or respond to a criminal summons if issued.

I believe that the defendant poses a danger to a crime victim / the community or to any other person based on the totality of the investigation. Betty Plopper's actions demonstrate a deliberate effort to interfere with emergency services and obstruct an active felony investigation. Plopper knowingly initiated a false emergency report to law enforcement during the commission of an armed robbery, resulting in the diversion of police resources away from the actual crime scene.

At the time of the robbery, the location was open to the public and occupied by innocent shoppers, including families and children. The false 911 report created a significant risk by delaying law enforcement response and reducing available resources during a violent felony occurring in a public commercial setting.

This conduct demonstrates a willingness to interfere with emergency operations during a violent crime in progress and presents a continued risk to public safety and law enforcement response integrity.

Print Name: Trent McMain

Signature:  _____

Agency Name: Carthage Police Department
Agency Case Number: 26-1259
OCN: Pending