

# MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT

STATE OF MISSOURI

COUNTY OF WASHINGTON

MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL  
240537446

OCN:

DATE: October 25, 2024

I, Andrew Woods, knowing false statements on this form are punishable by law, state the facts contained herein are true.

I have probable cause to believe Cody Lee Hunt, date of birth [REDACTED] SSN: [REDACTED] on or about the dates listed below, in Washington County, Missouri, committed the offenses listed below:

- October 22, 2024, F-E, 194.425-001Y20205599.0 – Abandonment of a Corpse
- October 22, 2024, F-E, 569.055-001Y20202099.0 – Knowingly Burning or Exploding
- October 22, 2024, F-E, 575.100-001Y20205099.0 - Tampering with Physical Evidence in Felony Prosecution
- October 22, 2024, F-D, 569.080-002Y20202999.0 – Tampering with Motor Vehicle - 1st Degree
- October 22, 2024, F-C, 571.070-004Y20245212.0 - Unlawful Possession of a Firearm

State the facts that support a finding of probable cause to believe crime(s) was/were committed and state the accused committed the crimes:

On 10/22/24, at approximately 0040 hours, Sullivan Police Officers were dispatched to [REDACTED] to check the well-being on the resident. Upon arrival, the officers met with the reporting party, identified as Witness 1, who lives in the apartments. Witness 1 stated that he was worried about his neighbor who he identified as [REDACTED] date of birth [REDACTED]. Witness 1 identified a white male, Cody Hunt, that had been at [REDACTED] apartment on the night of 10/21/24. At around midnight, he observed Hunt walking quickly toward [REDACTED] apartment, armed with what appeared to be a long gun which he was trying to conceal. He said a verbal altercation occurred between [REDACTED] and Hunt after Hunt had “banged” on [REDACTED] apartment door. A short time after witnessing the verbal altercation, Witness 1 stated he observed Hunt driving [REDACTED] silver Jeep Cherokee before parking it in front of [REDACTED] apartment. He observed Hunt begin loading items from [REDACTED] apartment into the Jeep, at which point he observed Hunt “dragging” what appeared to be a lifeless body out of [REDACTED] apartment and into the front passenger seat of the Jeep. Witness 1 couldn’t tell for sure but believed it was [REDACTED] body because no one else lived with [REDACTED] in his apartment.

After speaking with Witness 1, Sullivan Police Officers attempted to contact [REDACTED] at his apartment. After receiving no answer at the door, they entered the apartment. The entrance door was found to be unlocked, and all the lights were off. The officers entered [REDACTED] apartment and after a search, no one was found inside the apartment. The officers observed evidence of a physical altercation and a possible violent assault. A TV had been knocked off its stand onto the floor, and they observed blood spatter evidence, large blood saturations and blood smearing on the front door frame. The officers secured the scene and requested detectives to the scene for further investigation. [REDACTED] Jeep was formally identified as a silver 2004 Jeep Cherokee bearing Missouri registration [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and his Jeep were entered into MULES/NCIC regarding the missing endangered person investigation.

On 10/22/24, at approximately 1819 hours, the Irondale Fire Department was dispatched to the area of [REDACTED] for a brush fire in the woods. While extinguishing the fire, firefighters discovered a burned Jeep Cherokee amongst the burned forestry. Washington County Sheriff's Deputies responded to the scene and believed it to be [REDACTED] Jeep. The Washington County Sheriff's Office and the Sullivan Police Department requested the assistance of the Missouri State Highway Patrol's (MSHP) Division of Drug and Crime Control (DDCC) to assist in the investigation.

DDCC Corporal Shannon Sitton arrived at [REDACTED] Missouri at approximately 2005 hours. Washington County Sheriff's deputies directed him into a wooded area, approximately three hundred (300) feet behind a residence. While walking along a path, he observed a Jeep Grand Cherokee style sport utility vehicle with extensive fire damage. The area surrounding the Jeep was also heavily burned. Located in the front passenger compartment of the Jeep,

Corporal Sitton observed human bones including a partial skull. The bones were positioned in a manner that the skull was in the front passenger floorboard and the legs were extended onto the front passenger seat, toward the rear of the vehicle. The front passenger seat frame was in a reclined position. Washington County Coroner Steve Hatfield collected the visible human remains from the vehicle and took custody of them. The last five numerical characters of the license plate on the burned Jeep were visible and read [REDACTED]. The vehicle was removed by Elliott Motor Company of Potosi, Missouri and securely stored at their facility until it could be fully processed.

Sullivan PD Detective Don Reed and I contacted a nearby resident on [REDACTED] identified as Witness 2. Witness 2 indicated at approximately 1100 hours, on 10/22/24, a white male came to their residence and asked if he could hunt on their property. Witness 2 indicated they knew the male subject through a mutual friend that lived nearby. Witness 2 identified the white male as Cody Hunt and provided a description of him. He had long hair, in a bun, and was wearing a camouflage shirt and pants. Witness 2 said Hunt had what appeared to be a rifle, an axe and a baseball bat in his possession, along with a backpack. Witness 2 gave permission for Hunt to hunt on their property and observed him driving a silver Jeep Cherokee toward the heavily wooded area where it was later found burned. Witness 2 stated they didn't observe anyone else with Hunt, and that Hunt was the only person they knew of that was in the wooded area where the Jeep was discovered. Witness 2 stated they left their residence at approximately 1400 hours and later returned home. At around sunset, Witness 2 recalled observing the large fire on their property, and after seeing the vehicle on fire, they contacted authorities.

On 10/23/24, at approximately 1030 hours, members of the Washinton County Sheriff's Office took Hunt into custody at [REDACTED]. A resident of the house, identified as Witness 3, indicated Hunt had washed his camouflage clothing while he was there. Witness 3 stated Hunt arrived at his residence at approximately 2100 hours, on 10/22/24. Witness 3 also indicated Hunt confided to him that he had killed "that guy." Hunt's belongings were collected from the residence as evidence. Amongst Hunt's belongings was the .22 caliber rifle which Witness 2 had described, Hunt's clean and folded camouflage clothing, an axe, a hatchet, a machete, and a coat with an apparent blood stain on it.

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For the issuance of a warrant complete the following:

- (a) I have reasonable grounds to believe that the defendant will not appear in court in response to a criminal summons because ( ); or
- (b) I have reasonable grounds to believe that the defendant poses [Insert one or all of the following.]:
  - (1) A danger to a crime victim because ( ); or
  - (2) A danger to the community or to any other person because: the defendant has an extensive violent criminal history that includes assault, weapons, and probation violations. He is familiar with multiple witnesses in the case and knows where they live. The defendant also has an extensive history of substance abuse and drug possession charges.

/s/Cpl. Andrew Woods

Corporal Andrew Woods  
Division of Drug and Crime Control