



Forsyth County SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Ron H. Freeman

FORGERY SUSPECT APPREHENDED

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Date September 21, 2021

On Tuesday, September 21, 2021, at approximately 11:05 am, Forsyth County Sheriff's Office Deputies were dispatched to a business in the area of Georgia Hwy 400 and Hubbard Town Road. Deputies were notified that a male, later identified as Edward Belle of Alabama, was attempting to use a stolen credit card to purchase \$12,000 of landscape equipment from the business. Belle noticed law enforcement arrive and fled the parking lot in a Dodge Ram, driving erratically and nearly striking the Sheriff's patrol car. Belle fled onto GA Hwy 400 southbound, later striking a vehicle in the area of the Settingdown Road intersection, causing damage to the car but no injuries to the other driver, and continued southbound now with a flat tire.

A second Deputy was at Bottoms Road, less than a mile from the business, and was able to deploy a tire deflation device that flattened a second tire. Belle continued south on GA 400, driving on two flat tires when he approached traffic at Browns Bridge Road. Belle lost control of the truck, rolling over and striking two vehicles at the traffic light. One driver complained of injury.

Belle fled the crash scene on foot, running into the woods near Browns Bridge Church. Belle was taken into custody after a foot pursuit and search by over a dozen Deputy Sheriff's, Sheriff's Drone Unit, and an FCSO K9 unit.

Edward Belle of Alabama is held in the Forsyth County Jail with the following charges: Identify Theft, Forgery in The First Degree, Criminal Attempt to Commit a Felony, Criminal Attempt to Commit A Theft, Reckless Driving, Failure to Maintain Lane, Disregard for Traffic Control Device, Felony Fleeing and Attempting to Elude, Failure to use Seatbelt, Improper Erratic Lane Change, Driving in a Gore or Median, Tire Requirements, Three counts of Hit and Run, Party to a Crime, and Obstruction of a Law Enforcement Officer.

Belle already had an active arrest warrant for Failure to Appear for Robbery out of Alabama. The Forsyth County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Division continues to investigate, and additional charges may be forthcoming.

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Public Information officer
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