

Formal Charges Filed In Jackson Co Pursuit

(KNZA)--Formal charges are now filed against the Topeka man accused of leading area authorities on a pursuit, that ended when he crashed, Tuesday morning.

Jackson County Attorney Shawna Miller says 41-year old Joseph Swazey III is now charged with possession of meth, possession of hydrocodone, possession of drug paraphernalia, felony flee and elude, felony obstruction, criminal damage to property and numerous traffic charges. At the time of his arrest, Swazey was wanted on a Jackson County warrant for ten counts of stalking.

Swazey made his first appearance before a judge Thursday afternoon, appearing by video.

Bond is now set at \$50,000 and he remains in the Jackson County Jail.

A preliminary hearing was set for May 22nd.

The pursuit began around 9:00 Tuesday morning when a domestic disturbance was reported in Whiting. It's alleged that Swazey slashed the tires on a vehicle belonging to the victim. The two were reportedly involved in a domestic relationship.

Fleeing the scene in a pick-up truck, Swazey led Jackson County Sheriff's Deputies on a pursuit that quickly involved Holton, Topeka, and Potawatomi Tribal Police, and the Shawnee County Sheriff's Department. The Kansas Highway Patrol also gave chase, both on the ground, and from above, through use of the agency's helicopter.

Jackson County Sheriff Tim Morse says it was the Patrol that ultimately brought Swazey to a halt. "The vehicle continued south, exited U.S. 75 at 24 Highway," Morse says.

"The Kansas Highway Patrol then intervened and was able to disable the vehicle through a vehicle maneuver. The [suspect] vehicle then left the roadway and struck a guardrail."

The truck was apparently driving on flattened tires, deflated with stop sticks, when the Patrol forced it to stop.

Swazey was not hurt in the crash and was taken into custody at the scene.

Many Signals Communications