

Suspect in Jeep Theft Appears in Court

(KTNC) - A woman accused in the theft of a vehicle from a Falls City car dealership was in court for a bond hearing this week.

Erica Beethe is charged with theft by unlawful taking and false reporting. She was arrested last Friday in connection with the theft of a Jeep Wrangler from Armbruster Motor Company last Thursday afternoon.

Beethe and a man, identified only as "Brad," test drove two vehicles. They first test drove a pickup, which they returned, before test driving the Jeep.

Beethe told Falls City Police that they drove the Jeep south to the state line where Brad made her get out of the vehicle. She said she called the Richardson County Sheriff's Department to report what had happened, but the Sheriff's Department had no record of the call. Cell phone records indicated that Beethe had called the Sheriff's Department – 21 days earlier.

Beethe's bond was set at \$3,500, and she remained in the Richardson County Jail as of Thursday afternoon. She will be arraigned in Richardson County Court on June 3rd.

The Jeep has not yet been recovered. The Falls City Police Department is continuing to investigate the theft, and more arrests are possible.