

## WEATHERFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

# NEWS RELEASE

January 8, 2025



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 11:03 p.m., Weatherford Police Department (WPD) dispatchers received two emergency 911 calls, both stating that two dogs were on their property and both parties reported that the dogs were attacking humans and other animals. Officers were dispatched to the call and animal control was also requested. Animal control reported an approximate 25-minute response time.

WPD policy allows officers to become involved in animal calls before animal control arrives when certain requirements are met. Those requirements include that animal control is unavailable, there is a threat to public safety, an animal has bitten someone, or if another animal is seriously injured. All these conditions were met and the officers responded to the scene as was deemed necessary to stop a threat to the public and prevent further injury.

When Officers arrived, one of the two dogs reported to be attacking the caller's dog had already left the area. The Officers then found two dogs still fighting and covered in blood. The officer utilized a less lethal tool, the taser, to try and allow for the owners to each retrieve their animals safely. The original 911 callers were able to grab their dog and remove it from the fight. The officer encouraged the owner of the other dog, a white pit bull, to get a leash for their dog to gain control multiple times and they did not. Due to the report of injuries and actions observed by the responding officers, they determined that the animal was a threat to the public if not immediately contained. The animal broke free from the taser probes and ran into the neighborhood, posing an additional threat to the public and other animals. Officers ultimately shot the dog to eliminate further threat to the public.

Interim Chief Jason Hayes addressed the complexity of the situation by saying, "This type of call is one that no officer wishes to be a part of, yet we are committed to responding when our community members need help. The safety of the public and our community will always be the priority for our officers. There have been questions and concerns about the incident within our community and we hope this information will help to provide a better understanding of the very complex situation."

WPD Detectives continue to investigate possible criminal charges relating to this incident and are also conducting routine internal reviews relating to the use of force by officers. The Texas Rangers were invited to review the use of force, to provide a neutral opinion on the incident and actions of our officers.

WPD is committed to being transparent about the work that we do and will continue to do so.

Any further media inquiries can be directed to [tvanzant@weatherfordtx.gov](mailto:tvanzant@weatherfordtx.gov)