KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	22-818-UF	Version Type:	AMENDED
Report Date:	6/30/2022 12:05 PM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Atascosa County Sheriff's Dept.	Agency Address:	1108 Campbell Ave.
Agency City:	Jourdanton	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	78026		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Sheriff	Director First Name:	David
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Soward		
Reporter Name:	Matthew Miller	Reporter Email:	matt.miller@acso-tx.org

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Gonzalo

Middle Name: Artemio

Last Name: Lopez

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 8/23/1970 Sex: Male

Race: Hispanic or Latino

Age At Time Of Death: 51

Date/Time of Custody (arrest, incarceration) (mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm AM/PM):

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 6/2/2022 10:18 PM

Date/Time of Death (mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm AM/PM):

Death Date and Time: 6/2/2022 10:18 PM

Manner / Cause of Death

Has a medical examiner or coroner conducted an evaluation to determine a cause of death?

Medical Examiner/Coroner Evaluation?: Yes, results pending

What was the manner of death? (select only one)

Manner of Death: Pending autopsy results

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Unknown as of 06/20/2022

Had the decedent been receiving treatment for the medical condition that caused the death after admission to your jail's jurisdiction?

Medical Treatment:	Not Applicable

If death was an accident, homicide or suicide, who caused the death?

Who caused the death?:	Law enforcement/correctional personnel

If a weapon caused the death, what type of weapon caused the death? (Hold CTRL to select all that apply)

Type of weapon that caused death?:	Unknown

Was the cause of death the result of a pre-existing medical condition or did the decedent develop the condition after admission?

Pre existing medical condition?:	Not Applicable; cause of death was accidental injury, intoxication, suicide or homicide

If death was an accident, homicide or suicide, what was the means of death?

Means of Death:	Firearm

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address:	807 Cypress	City:	Jourdanton
County:	Atascosa	Zip:	78026

What location category best describes where the event causing the death occurred?

Location Category: Roadway/highway/street/sidewalk

What type of custody/facility was the Decedent in at the time of death:

Type of Custody: Pre-Custodial Use of Force

Specific type of custody/facility:

Specific Type of Custody/Facility:

Custody of Law Enforcement Personnel during/fleeing arrest

What was the time and date of the deceased's entry into the law enforcement facility where the death occurred (mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm AM/PM):

Entry Date Time:

Entry Date Time N/A: ☑

Where did the death occur?

Death Location: Scene of incident

General Information

Did any other law enforcement agencies respond to calls for service related to this incident?

Other Agencies Respond?: Yes

What were the most serious offense(s) with which the deceased was (or would have been) charged with at the time of death?

Offense 1:

Capital Murder

Offense 2:

Aggravated Assault Public Servant

Offense 3:

Escape

Were the Charges:: Not filed at time of death

What were the types of charges or reason for contact? (Hold CTRL to select all that apply)

Type of Offense: Violent Crime Against Persons; Other, specify; Crimes Against Child(ren); Crime Against Property

Type of Offense, Other:

Escape from TDCJ, Capital Murder involving children and Robbery

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent display or use a weapon?

Decedent display/use of weapons: Yes, mark all that apply

Decedent Display or Use Weapon Details: Discharged firearm

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

Attempt to Injure Others?:	Yes (select all that apply)
Ways Decedent Attempted To Injure Others:	Attempted to injure law enforcement personnel; Killed civilian(s) or other inmate(s)

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

Appear intoxicated (alcohol or drugs):	Unknown	Make suicidal statements?:	Unknown
Exhibit any mental health problems?:	Unknown	Exhibit any medical problems?:	No

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

Barricade self or initiate standoff?:	No	Resist being handcuffed or arrested?:	No
Physically attempt/assault officer(s):	Yes	Gain possession of officer's weapon:	No
Verbally threaten other(s) including law:	Unknown	Escape or attempt to escape/flee custody:	Yes
Attempt gain possession officer's weapon:	No		

Was the deceased under restraint in the time leading up to the death or the events causing the death?

Under Restraint:	No

Summary of Incident

Summary of How the Death Occurred: (max. 30,000 characters)

Summary:

On June 02, 2022, Sheriff David Soward, was alerted that a
TDCJ prison escapee was believed to be responsible for a quintuplet homicide in

Leon County earlier this day. The suspect was identified as Gonzalo A. Lopez, DOB/08-23-70, who had escaped from a TDCJ bus on May 12, 2022, in Leon County near Centerville, Texas. Information on Lopez was provided by Investigator Freddy Alvarez with TDCJ Office of Inspector General. A pickup truck description and license plate number was provided that had been stolen from the victims and believed to be driven by Lopez. At approximately 9:57 p.m., officers spotted the stolen truck southbound on Texas Highway 16 several miles north of Poteet. In a coordinated effort among various law enforcement agencies, the truck was intercepted one half mile north of Jourdanton where the tires were spiked by law enforcement. The driver of the truck displayed a rifle out of the window and shots were heard. After the truck crashed, the driver engaged with law enforcement where several shots were fired resulting in the death of Gonzalo A. Lopez at the scene.

DETAILS:

Sheriff David Soward was contacted on June 2, 2022, by Inv. Freddy Alvarez with TDCJ OIG, regarding prison escapee Gonzalo Artemio Lopez, who had escaped from a TDCJ bus near Centerville, Texas on May 12, 2022. Information provided by Inv. Alvarez was that Lopez was suspected of murdering five (5) people from a family at a rural residence in Leon County earlier in the day. Inv. Alvarez provided a photograph of the pickup stolen from the murder victims which depicted the license plate number, Texas #DPV4520. It was suspected that Lopez may be en route to the Rio Grande Valley where he is originally from.

Sheriff Soward immediately notified all law enforcement personnel with the Atascosa County Sheriff's Office, the Communications Division, and police departments in Pleasanton, Jourdanton, Poteet, and Lytle. Approximately 20 minutes later, Captain Max Peralta was notified by Deputy US Marshal Mejia that Lopez was believed to be in San Antonio. Reporting officer consulted with Captain Peralta and Chief Deputy Jake Guerra, and it was decided to put officers out on all the major highways at full alert for the wanted person.

Officers were present on IH 35 in Lytle, Texas
Highway 16, US 281 and IH 37. After checking US 281, north of Pleasanton, reporting officer proceeded to IH 37 and met with other officers who were monitoring southbound traffic.

At approximately 9:57 p.m. Chief Investigator Henry Dominguez with Atascosa County Animal Control Authority, called in a license plate inquiry on license #DPV4520. Reporting officer informed Chief Dominguez by radio that was the truck that was the subject of the BOLO. Chief Dominguez stated he was about 5 miles north of Poteet and that Deputy Sheriff Devin Wilborn was about a half mile behind him. Chief Dominguez and Deputy Wilborn were advised to keep back from the truck a safe distance as to not alarm the driver. Chief Dominguez was driving an unmarked vehicle and Deputy Wilborn was driving a sheriff's patrol unit.

Chief Dominguez continued to provide the location of the truck as it traveled southbound on TX 16. All the other units were immediately deployed to Jourdanton to intercept the suspect. Sheriff Soward directed a unit with spikes get to TX 16 north of Jourdanton. Jourdanton Police Chief Eric Kaiser reported he would attempt to get to a location about one half to one mile north of Jourdanton to deploy tire deflation spikes in front of the truck. The rest of the units were to wait on FM 3350, just east of TX 16, blacked out. Chief Kaiser set up to deploy spikes about a half mile south of FM 3350 towards Jourdanton.

Chief Kaiser deployed a spike strip and reported that the tires on the truck had been hit with the spikes.

The pickup truck, which had reduced speed, turned right on Spur 162 beside the Tex Best Exxon Station, and traveled west before turning right into the east side of the Animal Control Facility. The truck could be observed driving through the field east and north of the facility. Chief Dominguez reported by radio that the truck was traveling east through the open field back towards TX 16.

The white Chevrolet pickup headed south on TX 16 into Jourdanton with several units in pursuit. Chief Dominguez reported the driver had a rifle stuck out the window. Sheriff Soward had the driver's door
window down and observed law enforcement units behind the white truck at which

time what appeared to be gunshots were heard. At around the same time, Chief Dominguez reported the truck had left the roadway and struck a utility pole but continuing eastbound back onto the street.

At 10:14 p.m., it was reported by radio that the truck was coming to a stop at Campbell Avenue and officers reported shots fired.

Several officers enter a yard at 807 Cypress and yelled that the suspect was down and in custody.

At approximately 10:17 p.m. At this time Captain Peralta and Sergeant Investigator Stephen Wilson began CPR on the suspect as it was determined he was not breathing. EMS was also summoned to the scene. Officers picked up a handgun which was laying under Lopez's body. An AR-22 semiautomatic rifle was dropped by the suspect when he was shot. The suspect was pronounced dead at the scene.

Texas Ranger Terry Snyder arrived at the scene to conduct the investigation. All four officers who fired their weapons, which included Captain Peralta, Lt. Wayne Stratton, Deputy Sheriff T. Chia and Chief Dominguez, were sent to the sheriff's office to be photographed and to relinquish their weapons to the Texas Rangers for investigative purposes.

Atascosa County Sheriff's Investigators Gavin Lindsay, Robert Newman, and Daniel Gamez, who were called to the scene post shooting, were assigned to assist Texas Rangers where needed. Deputy Sheriff I. Quintero was securing the entrance into the yard at 807 Cypress. Sergeant Investigator Daniel Gamez was tasked with recording the names of all personnel at the scene.