KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	23-1846-UF	Version Type:	ORIGINAL VERSION
Report Date:	4/23/2025 2:48 PM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Wise County Sheriff's Office	Agency Address:	200 Rook Ramsey Dr.
Agency City:	Decatur	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	76234		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Sheriff	Director First Name:	Cary
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Mellema		
Reporter Name:	Rex Hoskins	Reporter Email:	hoskins.rex@gmail.com

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Edward

Middle Name: Gale

Last Name: Landers

Suffix: III

Date of Birth: 5/30/1986 Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 37

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 10/9/2023 7:17 PM

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

Death Date and Time: 10/9/2023 9:58 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 are available

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

Manner of Death: Homicide (includes Justifiable Homicide)

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Multiple gun shot wounds in the body

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?: Handgun

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:	133 Honeysuckle Drive	City:	Paradise
County:	Wise	Zip:	76073

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

Location Category: Residence/Home

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 subsequent to 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: Medical facility

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:

Aggravated Assault with Deadly Weapon

Offense 2:

Aggrvated Assault of a Peace Officer X 4

Offense 3:

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

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

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?:	No
Exhibit any mental health problems?:	Yes	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?:	Yes	Resist being handcuffed or arrested?:	No
Physically attempt/assault officer(s):	No	Gain possession of officer's weapon:	No
Verbally threaten other(s) including law:	Yes	Escape or attempt to escape/flee custody:	No
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:

Ref: Officer Involved Shooting involving Edward Lander (W/M, 05/30/1986); Occurred October 9, 2023 at approximately 7:05 PM in the 100 Block of Honeysuckle Drive Paradise, Texas 76073.

Please see the following information concerning the officer involved shooting that occurred in Wise County on October 9, 2023.

On Monday, October 9, 2023, at approximately 7:05 PM the Wise County Sheriff's Office received a call for service in reference to a welfare concern based on a verbal disturbance at 133 Honeysuckle Drive Paradise, Texas 76073. Wise County Communications dispatched Deputies S. Trinidad and Corporal J. Foster (a two-man training unit) along with neighboring City of Boyd Police Officer's J. Gross and C. Caraway. The call was received via a non-emergency phone line from a Brook Kelley (W/F, 07/09/2001; Ph. # (719) 650-5330)). Kelley met Deputies a short distance down the road from the residence. Kelley indicated her brother-in-law,

and sister had been involved in a verbal altercation where she observed he was intoxicated and very agitated. Kelley identified her sister as Brittany Lander (W/F, 09/11/1986) and brother-in-law as Edward Lander (W/M, 05/30/1986).

Kelley indicated she lived in a camper trailer parked behind the residence. Kelley advised, when she arrived home, she observed Britany Lander gathering personal items and preparing to leave to due having been involved in a verbal altercation with Edward Lander. Brittany Lander told Kelley, Edward Lander was intoxicated and then Kelley observed Edward Lander attempting to attach his vehicle to her camper trailer in an apparent attempt to move it. Kelley advised she observed Edward Lander to be intoxicated and agitated, referring to her in a derogatory manner. Kelley indicated she observed no weapons on Edward Lander's person. Kelley indicated Edward Lander does not typically behave in such a manner, but recently began drinking again, which she believed, was the cause for the altercation. Deputies were advised all family members surrounding the incident had vacated the property with the exception of Edward Lander.

Based on the call for service coupled with the previously described verbal altercation and description of Edward Lander's intoxication level, Deputies determined no offense occurred at that time, but a welfare check was necessary to ensure Edward Lander's safety. Prior to accessing the property Deputies contacted a white male who identified himself as Edward Lander's son (this individual was not officially identified at the time due to a lack of involvement). Lander's son inquired if Edward Landers was going to jail; after having been told no offense had been committed and a simple welfare check was to be conducted and, advised Deputies to be careful prior to leaving the area. Deputies responded to the residence along with Boyd Police Officers.

Once on scene, Deputies approached the front door of the residence and rang the doorbell. Deputy Trinidad observed an individual standing in the entryway who (after having been asked) identified himself as Edward Lander. Edward Lander was visibly upset and intoxicated and inquired what Deputy Trinidad wanted. Deputy Trinidad explained he was there to check on him and observed Edward Lander reply to an unintelligible remark and disappear from view. Deputy Trinidad alerted Corporal Foster to the change in direction and indicated which direction Edward Lander walked (toward the master bedroom located left of the front door). Upon Edward Lander's disappearance from view, Deputies heard a single gunshot from the interior of the residence.

Deputy Trinidad retreated to the front yard and occupied hard cover/concealment behind a large tree while Corporal Foster moved to a position where he could look through the northeastern bedroom window. Corporal Foster observed Edward Lander standing in the bedroom facing the interior of the residence, holding a revolver in one hand. Corporal Foster provided loud and clear commands instructing Edward Lander to put his gun down while protecting himself with his department issued sidearm. During this time Boyd Police Officer Gross indicated he was deploying his patrol rifle and began moving toward the residence, near the right side of his patrol car. Edward Lander was observed walking in the main part of the residence revolver in hand, before returning to the master bedroom, where he placed the revolver on a dresser along the wall adjacent to the front door/entryway and disappearing from view.

While Edward Lander moved through the residence, he appeared to be using his cell phone, angrily shouting "You fucking bitch". Edward Lander returned to the master bedroom and retrieved the revolver, while Deputies provided loud verbal commands to "drop the weapon". Edward Lander walked further into the master bedroom (out of the view of Corporal Foster) and fired an additional round out of the window, in the direction of Deputies and Police Officers. Deputy Trinidad returned fire, engaging Edward Lander from his position in the front yard. It is believed Boyd Police Officer Gross also engaged Edward Lander at this time. Corporal Foster was unable to engage Edward Lander due to a lack of sight view. Corporal Foster moved to a greater vantage point; however, by this time Edward Lander was no longer standing and not in view. Corporal Foster radioed Wise County Communications and provided a status update before directing Deputy Trinidad to perform an injury assessment and reload his firearm.

Deputies withdrew from their position in the front yard to the driveway where they were afforded substantially more cover/concealment by their patrol cars. Deputy Trinidad and Corporal Foster met up with arriving Deputies J. Corrao and P. Wilson. After further Deputies arrived on scene the decision was made to make entry into the residence to secure the scene and render aid to Edward Lander. Once in the residence, they moved to the master bedroom, located Edward Lander and began providing medical aid to multiple injuries. During this time, Corporal Foster was able to secure the revolver, render medical aid, and communicate with Wise County Communications while the remaining Deputies ensured the residence was safe. Upon rendering as much aid as possible, Wise County EMS was summoned to the scene and began attending to Edward Lander before he was flown to John Peter Smith (JPS) Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas where he succumbed to his injuries.

By this time multiple members of the Wise County Sheriff's Office, Command Staff, and other Agencies observed the radio communications between Deputies and began arriving on scene to assist. Upon the arrival of extra resources, the scene was secured/preserved for further investigation by the Texas Ranger Division of the Texas Department of Public Safety. Texas Ranger J. Espinoza was assigned the investigation and responded along with Texas Ranger B. Hill. Sergeants B. Yaro and J. Bratcher responded as members of the Wise County Sheriff's Office Crime Scene Investigations Unit and assisted Rangers throughout their

investigation. Numerous items of evidence were collected and retained in the Wise County Sheriff's Office Property Room for further review.

After completing the on-scene investigation, members of the Wise County Sheriff's Office completed a notification of death with Edward Lander's spouse. Members of the Texas Ranger Division conducted multiple interviews in the ensuing days/months and completed a full investigation of the incident. The case was presented to the Wise County District Attorney's Office for a grand jury review. A short few months later, Deputy Trinidad and Boyd Police Officer Gross were "no billed" for their actions that occurred on Monday, October 9, 2025. For more information pertaining to this incident, please see the entire case file and the entire Texas Ranger investigation.