KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	24-1691-UF	Version Type:	AMENDED
Report Date:	1/7/2025 1:38 PM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Desoto Police Dept.	Agency Address:	714 E. Beltline Rd.
Agency City:	Desoto	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	75115		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Chief	Director First Name:	Joe
Director Middle Name:	W.		
Director Last Name:	Costa		
Reporter Name:	Ryan Jesionek	Reporter Email:	rjesionek@desototexas.gov

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Arthur

Middle Name: Lee

Last Name: Armstrong

Suffix: Jr.

Date of Birth: 6/8/1998

Sex: Male

Race: Black or African American

Age At Time Of Death: 26

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

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 12/13/2024 11:01 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 12/13/2024 12:30 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:

Perforating rifle wound of the trunk

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

Medical Treatment: No

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?: Rifle/shotgun

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:	1022 Hunter's Creek Dr.	City:	DeSoto
County:	Dallas	Zip:	75115

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:

N/A

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: Dead on arrival at 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:

Texas Penal Code Sec. 22.02 (b) (2) (B) Aggravated Assault on a Public Servant - F1 (times 2)

Offense 2:

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; Medical / Mental Health assistance call

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: Displayed other weapon, specify:

Specify Weapon Displayed:

Displayed a folding blade knife in his right hand and a fixed blade knife in his left hand

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):	Yes	Make suicidal statements?:	Yes
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?:	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:	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:

On 12-13-2024 around 1039 hours, DeSoto PD dispatch received a call from 1022 Hunters Creek Dr., Desoto, Dallas County, TX. The caller initially identified himself as Arthur Armstrong, Jr., who made threatening statements over the line, to include saying “I Kill Police Officers,” and “pull up I kill police officers, I don’t need anything!”. Through a series of several contacts with dispatch, additional information was acquired,

to include that Armstrong was armed with a knife and that several other individuals were present at the location and possibly in danger. Armstrong additionally at some point stated to dispatch that someone at the scene had already been injured.

DeSoto PD patrol division officers responded to the location, and the first arriving officer arrived at approximately 1100 hrs., parking his patrol vehicle several houses down from Armstrong's residence. The first arriving officer observed Armstrong, holding a large knife with a blade "several inches long," seated in the front yard of 1022 Hunter's Creek. The first responding officer exited his patrol vehicle, and from his position several residences away, attempted to engage Armstrong in dialogue in order to attempt to deescalate the situation. Armstrong stood up and advanced on the officer's position in "an aggressive manner," yelling something to the effect of “I’ll kill yo ass I ain’t gonna calm down.” The first responding officer reported over the radio that Armstrong was advancing on his position with a knife in hand and the officer then proceeded to get back in his patrol vehicle and back the vehicle slowly away from the scene.

Cover officers began to arrive from the opposite end of the street, having heard the first responding officer's report over the radio of an advancing Armstrong. Upon the first Cover Unit's (occupied by two officers) arrival, it took up a position near the front of Armstrong's residence. Armstrong stopped his advance on the initial responding officer and shifted his focus to the unit containing two cover officers stationed down the street. Those two officers observed Armstrong now approaching upon their position with a knife in each hand. The officers, with firearms drawn, gave Armstrong multiple commands to stop advancing and to drop the weapons. Armstrong continued to advance, tell the officers to "do it" or he would "kill" them. Armstrong continued to advance beyond a vehicle separating the officers from himself, and at that time, approximately 1102 hrs., an officer fired one round from a patrol rifle, striking Armstrong in the chest. Armstrong fell to the ground on his back in the front yard of the residence. Cover officers immediately disarmed him of the two knives, and officers immediately began lifesaving measures. The scene was cleared for DeSoto EMS, who was already staged nearby, to advance. Armstrong was transported to Methodist Central Dallas at approximately 1116hrs. by DeSoto EMS, but was pronounced deceased a short time later. Investigators from the Grand Prairie Police Department and from the Dallas County District Attorney's Office Public Integrity Unit were summoned to the scene to conduct separate independent investigations of the incident.