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**CCSO WORKS TO CURB RISING HOMELESS-RELATED INCIDENTS IN NORMAN
Cleveland County Sheriff Personally Responds to Call, Arrests Armed Trespasser**

NORMAN, Okla. — Cleveland County Sheriff Chris Amason has implemented a comprehensive strategy to address Norman’s growing homeless crisis, assigning dedicated personnel to handle dispatches related to homelessness. Demonstrating a personal commitment, the sheriff took a hands-on approach by responding to a trespassing call that escalated to violence in the 300 block of Comanche Monday morning.

Amason, who was close to the area, responded to a call from a local business representative reporting a transient inside their establishment. After alerting dispatch and requesting support, Amason entered the premises and approached an adult male asleep on the floor, surrounded by several accessible weapons.

“I could see right away at least four knives within his reach,” Amason said. “He was lying on his stomach, one of them was positioned directly beneath his body.”

Amason instructed the individual, later identified as Stephan Lance Clements, to wake up and move away from the weapons. Following repeated commands, Clements complied and was subsequently handcuffed and informed he was under arrest. However, as Amason assisted Clements to stand, the arrestee began to display escalating aggression, and attempted to pull away. As Amason worked to control Clements’ increasing resistance he was kicked in the chest and stomach.

“It's never pleasant to be kicked, hit, or harmed while on duty, but I’ve always accepted it as a potential risk in this profession. However, what I can’t accept is witnessing these kinds of interactions affecting civilians in Norman—individuals merely trying to enjoy the area, go to work, or take a walk,” Amason said. “In this particular case, I’m glad I found him first and he’s no longer on the streets, especially since he was armed.”

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Following the brief altercation, a CCSO deputy transported Clements to the Cleveland County Detention Center. There, he was formally booked on five charges: breaking and entering, trespassing, failure to comply with a lawful order, resisting arrest, and assault and battery upon a peace officer.

Amason said the encounter further solidifies his commitment to continuing his efforts to maintain peace and safety.

“I understand that this matter is a significant concern for our community,” Amason said. “We are actively and tirelessly working each day to ensure that people are not only safe, but also feel secure as they walk around, enjoy, and visit local establishments.”

District 2 Cleveland County Commissioner Jacob McHughes commended the Sheriff's actions and dedication, and underscored the value of collaborative partnerships in gaining control over the homeless crisis in the city.

“The entire County is actively addressing this escalating issue,” McHughes said. “As we advocate for legislation to safeguard citizens' property rights and push for the allocation of additional resources for law enforcement to combat the homeless crisis, the Sheriff is playing a crucial role by directly enforcing laws and protecting our citizens on the ground. I'm glad we have the opportunity to collaborate with such committed law enforcement officials.”

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Media Attachment: Yes/Mugshot