



FRANKLIN COUNTY **SHERIFF**

PRESS RELEASE

CASE #: 25FRC001990 & 25FRC002213

DATE(s)/Time(s): 08/28/2025 & 09/25/2025

John Tatro:

1. Driving Under the Influence in violation of 23 V.S.A. § 1201,
2. Driving with License Suspended in violation of 23 V.S.A. § 674,
3. Felony Possession of Cocaine in violation of T 18 V.S.A. § 4231,
4. Felony Possession of Cannabis in violation of T 18 V.S.A. § 4230,
Possession of Depressants, Stimulants or Narcotics in violation of
T 18 V.S.A. § 4234,
5. Selling or Dispensing of Cocaine in violation of T 18 VSA
6. Felony possession of methamphetamine in violation of Title 18
V.S.A. § 4234a

Incident Type/Charge(s):

Stephen Wells:

1. Possession of cocaine in violation of Title 18 V.S.A. § 4231

Location of Incident:

Sheldon, VT

Accused:

John L. Tatro, DOB 09/06/1983 & Stephen Wells, DOB 03/01/1976

All persons are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

The Sheriff's Office does not set bail or conditions of release and is not involved in the decision to modify or dismiss cases submitted to the courts. Further, the Sheriff's Office doesn't publish names of minors or victims of domestic or sexual assault.

Summary:

On 08/28/2025 at approximately 10:12 PM, a deputy with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office came upon a Red Dodge truck parked in the middle of the roadway with the operator's door open. Moments later, the deputy observed a male, later identified as John L. Tatro enter the truck and drive past the deputy's location. Observing a defective equipment violation, the deputy conducted a traffic stop on the Dodge.

Investigation revealed that Tatro was operating with a criminally suspended driver's license and was ultimately processed for DUI-Drugs. As there was evidence of drugs in the truck, it was seized while a search warrant was sought. On 09/12/2025, a search warrant was executed on the truck which yielded multiple drugs and other drug related items. As Tatro wasn't able to be located at the time, the deputy applied for an arrest warrant for Tatro for the charges 1-6 above.

On 09/25/2025 at approximately 8:45 PM, the same deputy observed the previously mentioned Dodge truck parked at a store in Sheldon. Observing another traffic violation and believing Tatro, who was wanted in connection of the charges stemming from the 08/28 incident, the deputy conducted a traffic stop on the Dodge truck. Tatro was located inside and was ultimately taken into custody.

While speaking with the operator, Stephen Wells, several drug related items were observed in the truck. The truck was ultimately seized, a second time, while a search warrant was sought.

Tatro was taken into custody and transported to the Franklin County Sheriff's Office before being released on a citation to appear at Vermont District Court in St. Albans on 10/14/2025 at 10:00 AM for charges 1-6 above..

On 09/30, a search warrant was executed resulting in the discovery of more drugs resulting in an additional charge against Tatro for Felony possession of methamphetamine in violation of Title 18 V.S.A. §4234a and a charge of Possession of cocaine in violation of Title 18 V.S.A. §4231 for Wells.

An arrest warrant is currently being sought for both Tatro and Wells.

John Tatro



Stephen Wells

