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Arkansas sheriff faces federal counts over use of force

by [Thomas Saccente](#) | December 18, 2019 at 7:49 a.m.

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Franklin County Sheriff Anthony Boen leaves federal court Tuesday in Fort Smith after his innocent plea. He was freed on \$5,000 bond, but with conditions. (Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/Thomas Saccente)

FORT SMITH -- A [sheriff in western Arkansas](#) pleaded innocent Tuesday to three federal charges of using "[unreasonable force](#)" against prisoners on three occasions.

The U.S. attorney's office for the Western District of Arkansas accused Franklin County Sheriff Anthony Boen, 49, of [punching one prisoner](#) on the way to jail, [grabbing the hair or beard of another](#) in his office and [striking a third in the head several times.](#)