

Traffic stop in Pike County leads to officer- - Athens Messenger, The (OH) - February 3, 2018

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PIKETON — What reportedly began as a traffic stop on Route 124 near Piketon early Thursday morning became deadly, ending up in the fatal shooting of a man by a Pike County deputy.

On Thursday afternoon, Pike County Prosecuting Attorney Rob Junk confirmed the man shot and killed was **James M. Burks**, 35, of Peebles. According to Junk, Burks had two active warrants through Pike County Court, one for driving under a DUI suspension and one for domestic violence.

The name of the deputy has not yet been released.

According to Pike County Sheriff Charles Reader, the incident began when a Pike County deputy attempted to make a traffic stop on Route 124 early Thursday morning at 3:59 a.m. The sheriff reported the other vehicle pulled off the road and three subjects fled from the vehicle.

"The deputy gave chase on foot where he made contact with one of the fleeing subjects and a physical altercation and/or incident took place that ultimately resulted in an officer-involved shooting where the suspect died due to the injuries he sustained," Reader stated.

Reader said that he was contacted at 4:17 a.m. along with the chief deputy and other deputies to respond to the scene.

"Upon arrival to the scene, I contacted BCI Crime Scene Division and the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (Officer Involved Shooting Investigative Unit) to respond and take over the situation," Reader stated. "The Waverly Police Department, Piketon Police Department, Pike County Prosecuting Attorney Rob Junk and the Ohio State Highway Patrol also responded to the scene."

The sheriff said the deputy was transported to Adena/Pike Medical Center, where he was treated and released. Reader said the deputy has been placed on paid administrative leave as per a union contract until the investigation is completed and it is determined that he can return to work.

A nearby residence was entered by the Pike County Sheriff's Office Special Response Team, Reader said, assisted by the Ohio State Highway Patrol. Two males and three females were reportedly removed from the residence and transported to the sheriff's office to be interviewed, Reader said.

The sheriff said the investigation has been turned over to the BCI Crime Scene and the Franklin County Sheriff's Office.

"This is to insure that the investigation is completely independent of my office," Reader stated. "My thoughts and prayers go out to my deputy and his family and to the family of the deceased."

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