



ASHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff B. Phil Howell

For Immediate Release
January 8th, 2024

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Bank Robbery Ends with Quick Arrest

Jefferson N.C. – Sheriff B.Phil Howell announces the arrest of 32-year-old Tavares Deshawn Leverett of West Jefferson for felony robbery from LifeStore Bank. Jefferson Police Department will handle the investigation as the robbery occurred within Jefferson city limits.

On January 8th, 2024, at approximately 10:05 a.m., Ashe 911 Dispatch received a call stating that the Jefferson branch of Lifestore Bank had been robbed. A male subject, later identified as Tavares Deshawn Leverett, entered the bank, demanded money, and fled out the front door towards the eastern part of Jefferson. The immediate response from all Ashe County's law enforcement agencies was en route.



Jefferson Police Chief Aaron Reed stated, “We would like to thank West Jefferson PD, the Ashe County Sheriff’s Office, local agents from the NC State Bureau of Investigation, and NC Highway Patrol for their quick response and assistance with the call. Detective Ryan Shepherd will investigate the case further; additional charges may be pending.”

The suspect had fled on foot after exiting the bank and was apprehended after a brief foot chase. The suspect was detained and placed under arrest after a fast response from the Jefferson Police Department, West Jefferson PD, and the Ashe County Sheriff’s Office. This truly was a group effort that included all law enforcement agencies.

Leverett was transported to the Ashe County Detention Center under a \$100,000 secured bond. **Tavares Deshawn Leverett**, age 32, of West Jefferson, was charged with the following:

- Felony Common Law Robbery
- Felony Breaking and Entering

