



ASHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff B. Phil Howell

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For Immediate Release
February 3rd, 2025

Slippin Up the Holler

Creston, N.C. – Sheriff B. Phil Howell announces the arrest of 48-year-old Marice Jo Lipford of Creston. The arrest resulted from an investigation conducted by the Ashe County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Division, Sheriff's Deputies, and N.C. State Bureau Of Investigation and Watauga County Sheriff's Office.

On December 18th, 2024, the Ashe County Sheriff's Office obtained a search warrant for the home of Lipford. K9 deputy Rhino was utilized during the search of the resident and outbuildings. Deputies and Detectives seized illegal drugs, cash, and a firearm from the home. Multiple bags of crystal substance, which was later identified as Methamphetamine, totaling around 4 ounces, and a trafficking amount of Opioids were seized. All substances will be sent to the NCSBI lab for further testing. Lipford was placed under arrest and transported to the Ashe County Detention Center without incident.



Marice Jo Lipford, age 48, of Creston, was placed under a \$300,000 secured bond. Her charges include:

- 2 Felony Trafficking in Opium or Heroin
- Felony Trafficking Methamphetamine
- Felony Possession of Firearm by Felon

