

## **Yankton Police Department Shooting Summary Detailing Events That Took Place December 5, 2024**

On December 5, 2024, the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) was requested by the Yankton Police Department (YPD) to investigate a shooting that occurred in Yankton, SD at 1801 Summit Street. The suspect, Andrew Lee Jondahl, was shot by two Yankton Police Officers after exiting his vehicle with two shotguns. The following is a summary of the events that occurred, and the results of the investigation conducted by the DCI.

### **SYNOPSIS**

On December 5, 2024, at approximately 5:23 PM, Andrew Lee Jondahl arrived at the Yankton School in a black Dodge Ram pickup. A high school wrestling event was occurring inside the school at that time. Over the next hour, Jondahl was seen moving around the gymnasium and hallways, walking in a staggering manner. At one point through video surveillance, Jondahl was seen vomiting on the floor in front of the stands where he was seated. Eventually, Jondahl was seen being assisted out of the gymnasium by a friend and a family member.

Jondahl was later observed outside the school, staggering around while he attempted to locate his vehicle. Jondahl eventually got to his vehicle and sat in the front driver's seat. His cell phone and vehicle keys were taken by a family member. A family friend met Jondahl at his vehicle to speak with him. The friend reported that Jondahl was seated in his vehicle with a long gun across his lap. The friend offered to give Jondahl a ride home, which he refused. Jondahl then made comments about self-harm while the firearm was across his lap. Jondahl also made comments about being a recovering alcoholic.

The reporting party called 911 at 7:43 PM and officers arrived on scene a short time later. Officers spoke with the reporting party, and with Jondahl's family members. From those statements, Officers were told that Jondahl was a recovering alcoholic, that he had firearms in the vehicle, and that he had made self-harm comments.

Officers approached Jondahl's vehicle from behind and gave him loud verbal commands to place his hands outside of the window. Jondahl yelled profanities at the officers and was non-compliant. At approximately 8:21 PM, Jondahl opened the driver's door and exited his vehicle with two shotguns in his hands, facing toward the officers. Two Yankton Police Officers fired several rounds from their duty issued patrol rifles. Jondahl was struck by gunfire and received non-life-threatening injuries. He received emergency medical treatment at the scene and was transported to a local hospital via ambulance.

### **INTERVIEW: YANKTON POLICE OFFICER #1**

YPD Officer #1 was interviewed on December 11, 2024, by a DCI Special Agent in Yankton, SD. YPD Officer #1 advised he was working his normal shift that day, which started at 10 AM and was to go until 9 PM. YPD Officer #1 heard the radio call from dispatch advising there was an intoxicated male threatening self-harm at the Yankton School parking lot. YPD Officer #1 responded to the scene and met with other officers.

YPD Officer #1 had phone contact with a family member of Jondahl's and was told Jondahl was a recovering alcoholic, and that day (December 5<sup>th</sup>) was his birthday. Family reported that Jondahl was on a recent hunting trip, so he most likely had firearms in the vehicle. YPD Officer #1 was also informed that Jondahl no longer had his keys or his cell phone in his possession.

With this information, officers planned to approach the vehicle, as they had no other way to contact Jondahl.

Five YPD Officers approached Jondahl's vehicle from the rear. They positioned themselves on a vehicle, which was parked to the rear of Jondahl's vehicle across a parking lot driving lane. YPD Officer #1 gave loud verbal commands for Jondahl to place his hands outside of the vehicle. Jondahl opened the driver's door partly and yelled profanities to the officers. Jondahl made a statement that they do not get to yell at him and slammed the door.

YPD Officer #1 again attempted to make verbal contact with Jondahl asking to speak with him. Jondahl again opened the door and yelled more profanities at the officers. Jondahl continued to be non-compliant at this time.

A few seconds later, Jondahl opened the driver's door and quickly exited the vehicle. YPD Officer #1 reported Jondahl turned and faced the officers with at least one long gun in his hands/arms. YPD Officer #1 reported that Jondahl held the firearm in a position which would allow him to quickly fire at the officers. At this time, YPD Officer #1 yelled "drop the gun". At this moment, YPD Officer #1 reported that he felt afraid and scared for himself and his co-workers. YPD Officer #1 felt that Jondahl was going to shoot him. YPD Officer #1 fired several rounds at Jondahl with his duty issued patrol rifle. Once he saw Jondahl falling to the ground, YPD Officer #1 stopped shooting.

YPD Officer #1 heard other shots fired as well. Once Jondahl fell to the ground, YPD Officer #1 advised that they moved up to detain Jondahl and render aid. As they rendered aid, Jondahl was still yelling profanities at them and remained non-compliant. YPD Officer #1 was escorted away from the scene by a supervisor, and his duty issued rifle was secured in a patrol vehicle.

## **INTERVIEW: YANKTON POLICE OFFICER #2**

YPD Officer #2 was interviewed on December 10, 2024, by a DCI Special Agent in Yankton, SD. YPD Officer #2 advised that he was working his normal shift that evening, which started at 6 PM and was to end at 6 AM the following morning. YPD Officer #2 was dispatched to the Yankton School parking lot for a report of an intoxicated male who was threatening self-harm. He responded to the west parking lot and located the suspect's black Dodge Ram.

YPD Officer #2 advised that he parked away from the pickup due to the unknown nature of the suspect's location at that time. He met with other officers and received further information from the reporting party. YPD Officer #2 was eventually directed to take a position southeast of the pickup in order to watch the driver's side of the vehicle. During this time, he witnessed the light on the interior of Jondahl's' vehicle turning on and off and he could see some slight movements inside the vehicle.

Several minutes later, YPD Officer #2 was advised that a plan was made to move up toward the vehicle and attempt verbal contact with Jondahl. YPD Officer #2 advised that he was to the rear of the stack of officers as they approached. They set up on the south side of a white SUV that was parked behind Jondahl's vehicle across a parking lot driving lane. YPD Officer #2 advised that he was unable to see the driver's area of the vehicle due to other officers in front of him, so YPD Officer #2 moved to the north side of this parked vehicle.

YPD Officer #2 advised that YPD Officer #1 gave loud verbal commands for Jondahl to show his hands and attempted to get Jondahl to talk with him. Jondahl yelled profanities at the officers

and was verbally aggressive toward them. Jondahl would open the door, yell profanities, told them they were crazy, and then shut the door. He did this two separate times.

Jondahl then opened the driver's door a third time and quickly exited the vehicle carrying at least one long gun. YPD Officer #2 heard another officer yell, "gun". YPD Officer #2 stated that Jondahl was staring at his co-workers and YPD Officer #2 felt concerned for their safety and his own. YPD Officer #2 described seeing Jondahl holding the firearm in a position that would allow him to easily fire upon the officers.

YPD Officer #2 then fired several shots at Jondahl. Once Jondahl fell to the ground, YPD Officer #2 stopped firing. YPD Officer #2 moved up with other officers and assisted in rendering aid to Jondahl.

YPD Officer #2 was then escorted away from the scene by a supervisor and his duty issued patrol rifle was secured in a patrol vehicle.

### **INTERVIEWS WITH ADDITIONAL OFFICERS**

Four YPD Officers and a Yankton County Sheriff's Deputy were present and witnessed this incident. These officers were interviewed on December 5, 2024, by DCI agents at the Yankton Police Department. Statements from these officers were consistent with statements made from YPD Officer #1 and YPD Officer #2 and were consistent with a review of video surveillance.

The statements from these officers included that they overheard or were made aware of YPD Officer #2 being dispatched to the Yankton School parking lot for a report of an intoxicated male with a firearm threatening self-harm. Many of the officers arrived on scene right away with some arriving a short time after the initial call.

Three officers moved up toward the truck with YPD Officer #1 and YPD Officer #2, while the other two remained nearby, observing the passenger side of the pickup. Officers stated that YPD Officer #1 gave loud verbal commands for Jondahl to place his hands out of the window while attempting to communicate with Jondahl. Officers advised that Jondahl was non-compliant and yelling profanities at the officers.

Officers advised that Jondahl eventually opened the driver's door and quickly exited the truck. At least two (2) of the witness officers saw Jondahl exit the pickup with a firearm. YPD Officer #1 and YPD Officer #2 fired several shots. Other officers moved up to Jondahl and assisted in detaining him and rendering aid.

All officers were wearing their duty issued police uniforms, including duty issued vests which contained police badges and patches.

### **SCENE INVESTIGATION**

The shooting scene was processed by the DCI and produced items of evidentiary value that corroborated statements from law enforcement officers. Video was obtained from law enforcement as well as school surveillance cameras.

The two Yankton Police Officers were processed by DCI agents. Officer #1 was wearing his duty vest, which displayed "POLICE" across the front and back. Officer #1's equipment included a duty issued Glock 9MM handgun and magazines with ammunition for the handgun and his rifle.

Officer #2 was wearing his full duty issued uniform, which included a duty issued exterior worn vest displaying a police badge on the front, and Yankton Police patches on the shoulders of the uniform. Officer #1's gear included a duty issued Glock 9MM handgun and magazines with ammunition for the handgun.

The patrol rifles utilized by the Yankton Police Officers were examined following the shooting. Officer #1's rifle contained 19 rounds in the magazine and one round in the chamber. Officer #2's rifle contained 25 rounds in the magazine and one round in the chamber.

Fourteen fired .223 casings were located on scene near where the officers were standing. Ten of these rounds were in the area where Officer #1 was located, and the other four casings were in the area where Officer #2 was located. The casing locations were consistent with officer statements regarding their positioning during this incident.

Jondahl's black Dodge Ram pickup was parked facing west up against a curb in the southwest parking lot of the school. Two 12-gauge shotguns were located outside of the truck, along with several 12-gauge shotgun shells. Both shotguns had live shells loaded into the magazine tube. One of the shotguns had a shell loaded into the chamber. Jondahl's clothing was located outside the truck, to include an orange jacket with several 12-gauge shotgun shells in the pocket. These items were found in locations consistent with officer statements and body worn camera review.

Inside Jondahl's truck, agents located two napkins with handwriting on them. Both napkins appeared to be written to a family member and contained statements of self-harm, police being present, and the words, "I will kill them until they kill me." Another shotgun and several shotgun shells were located within the truck.

Several apparent bullet defects were located on the interior of the front driver's door to Jondahl's vehicle. These defects were consistent with officer statements and video review, showing Jondahl was standing, facing the officers, with an open door behind him when law enforcement fired.

A search of the hillside to the west of Jondahl's truck revealed several impact points in the dirt, with five bullet projectiles being recovered.

## **VIDEO EVIDENCE**

Video surveillance was collected from several different locations throughout the Yankton School, both interior and exterior. Body worn camera (BWC) recordings captured the police response, initial investigation, and the shooting incident.

The videos show Jondahl arriving in the school parking lot at approximately 5:23 PM. Jondahl was seen entering the gymnasium and observing the event. Over the next two hours, Jondahl was seen staggering through the hallways and vomiting in the gymnasium, indicating that he was intoxicated. Jondahl eventually walked outside and got to his truck. This video showed the reporting party contacting Jondahl at his vehicle and talking with him before calling 911.

Video showed officers arriving on scene and several officers making an approach to Jondahl's vehicle. Video surveillance confirmed that Jondahl opened the door of his truck for a few seconds and shutting it, two different times. Jondahl then opened his door a third time and

exited the vehicle. A few seconds later, Jondahl was seen falling to the ground and officers moved to his location.

BWC footage showed Officer #1 giving loud verbal commands for Jondahl to place his hands outside of the vehicle. Jondahl replied with some profane statements and officers identify themselves as Yankton Police Officers. Jondahl again replied with profanities and stated that he did nothing wrong. The officers advised Jondahl they wanted to speak with him, and he again replied with profanities.

Just as Jondahl was seen exiting his vehicle, an officer was heard yelling at Jondahl to put his gun down, then gunshots were heard on the audio. Officers then moved to Jondahl and began rendering aid. At that time, Jondahl made comments about the officers messing up and that they should have shot him in the head. Jondahl continued to yell profanities at the officers as they provided emergency medical aid.

### **SOUTH DAKOTA FORENSIC LAB TESTING**

The South Dakota Forensic Laboratory (SDFL) conducted testing on the two patrol rifles fired by YPD Officer #1 and YPD Officer #2, as well as bullet projectiles located on the scene. Both firearms were found to be functioning properly. Both shotguns found on the scene belonging to Andrew Jondahl were also found to be functioning properly.

The testing concluded that ten of the fired .223 casings were fired by YPD Officer #1 and four of the fired .223 casings were fired by YPD Officer #2.

### **MEDICAL REPORTS**

Jondahl received four (4) non-life-threatening gunshot wounds from the shooting incident. He received first aid on scene and was taken to a nearby hospital before being flown to a Sioux Falls hospital.

Blood and urine sample testing was conducted on Jondahl which showed positive for alcohol, with a blood alcohol content of .152%.

Blood and urine sample testing was conducted on both YPD officers. The testing results showed neither had any amount of alcohol or drugs in their samples.

### **CRIMINAL HISTORY/PREVIOUS INCIDENTS**

A review of Andrew Lee Jondahl's criminal history showed a previous arrest in Watertown, SD for aggravated assault. No other criminal history was noted.

### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the totality of the circumstances, two reasonable officers present at the scene utilized deadly force in a situation that was tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving. Andrew Lee Jondahl was non-compliant with officer directions and was in possession of two firearms. Officers reported Jondahl held the firearms in a manner which would have allowed him the ability to quickly fire at officers. Jondahl demonstrated the ability to be a clear and present danger to law enforcement officers on scene. Yankton Police Officers observed Jondahl holding what they

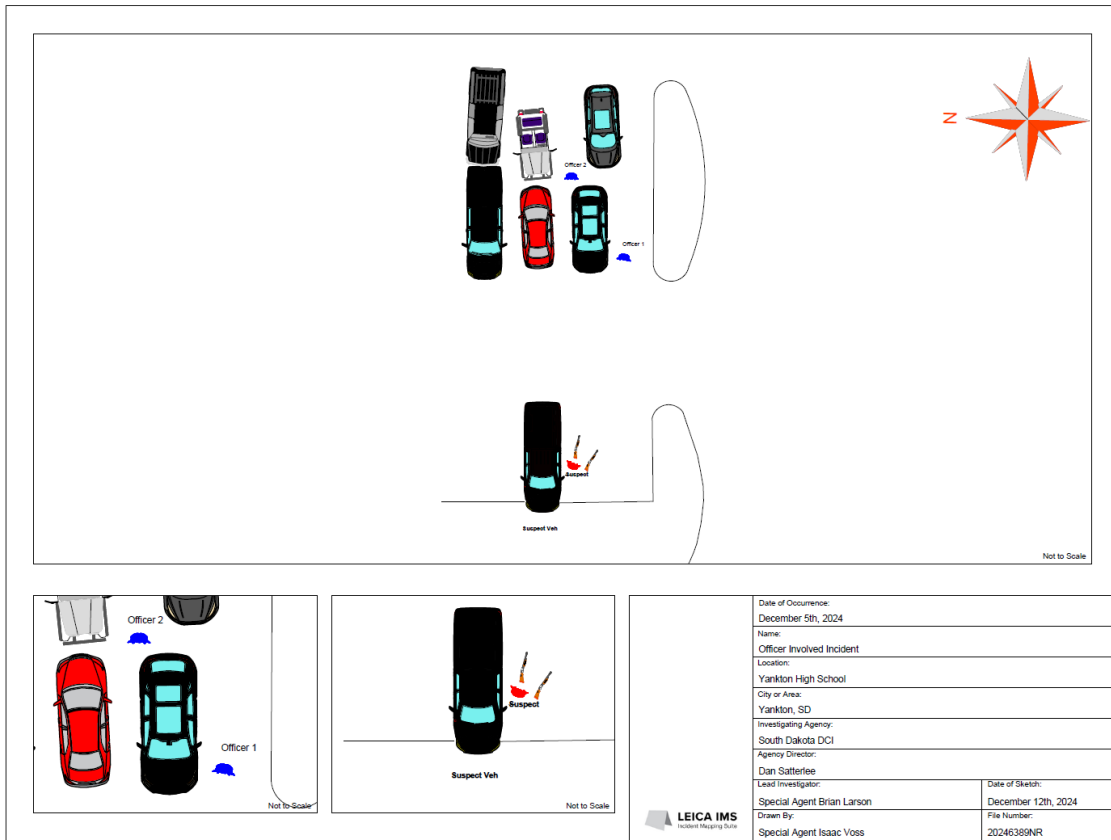
recognized as a deadly weapon, which was held in a manner that gave Jondahl the ability to shoot at the officers.

This information is based on the investigation conducted by the DCI, crime scene processing, law enforcement officers' statements, and lab results. All the information is consistent with the described events that occurred on December 5, 2024, in Yankton, SD.

It is the conclusion of this report and the South Dakota Attorney General that YPD Officer #1 and YPD Officer #2 were justified in firing their weapons and using lethal force.



Two 12-gauge shotguns recovered by DCI Agents at the scene possessed by Jondahl.



Crime scene sketch produced by DCI Special Agents.