



Lafourche Parish District Attorney's Office IN THE NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

THIBODAUX – A Lockport man with five prior felony narcotics convictions pled guilty Friday to another felony, this one involving a weapon, on the eve of his scheduled jury trial in Lafourche Parish.

Yaswanta Lawson, 33, pled guilty to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and was sentenced to serve ten years in prison. Lawson was accused of taking both a cell phone and an AR-style rifle from the victim, who had given him a ride to the Rita community in Lockport. When officers approached Lawson, he tossed the firearm under a residence and attempted to flee before quickly being apprehended.

"Mr. Lawson's history of illegal activities has been well known in the community, and we're certainly glad that he received some significant prison time," said District Attorney Camille A. Morvant, II. "This should send a message not only to those engaged in illegal activities, but also to the law abiding members of the community that their voices matter and will be heard."

Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Richard prosecuted the case against Lawson, who was scheduled to be tried before a jury this week. The defendant's most recent narcotics conviction, and the one alleged as the basis for the enhanced firearm charge, was for distribution of a schedule II controlled dangerous substance in December of 2010.

The crime for which the defendant pled carries a term of imprisonment between ten and twenty years at hard labor, without the benefit of probation, parole or suspension of sentence, as well as a fine of between one- and five-thousand dollars.

Four counts distribution 2000,