

Ex-council candidate jailed

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DICKINSON — A former city council candidate was in the county jail Thursday, after police accused him of attacking a patrol officer investigating the theft of a road crew vest.

Morris Frank Wiley, 43, faces a charge that carries a possible term of life in prison, after a reported struggle in front of Wiley's home in the 3900 block of Wagon Road.

The officer went to the home Wednesday, with a warrant for Wiley's arrest on a misdemeanor theft charge. The charge stemmed from the theft of a lime-green vest worn by Water Control and Improvement District No. 1 road crew workers.

The vest was in a bulldozer, near a work site about a block from Wiley's home. Workers told police that on March 24, a man took the vest and ran off, into a nearby apartment complex, while shouting that he was going to fire all the workers when he became mayor.

Investigators put together a photo lineup and showed it to the workers, who picked out Wiley's picture among five others, said police Capt. Steve Krone.

Police obtained a warrant for Wiley's arrest, and a patrol officer went to his house Wednesday.

The officer reported being hit with a walking cane before calling for help. More officers arrived within minutes, and Krone said they wrestled Wiley to the ground.

The officer had what police reports described as minor injuries, but neither he nor Wiley required hospitalization, Krone said.

Wiley was in jail Thursday, under \$40,000 bond. He faces a charge of aggravated assault against a peace officer, which carries a possible prison term of five to 99 years, as well as a fine of up to \$10,000.

In 2002, Wiley ran for city council position No. 3 in a race won by Mark Townsend.