

Former Durant officer pleads guilty in embezzlement case

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By Hannah Gonzales

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DURANT, Okla. (KXII) -Former Durant Police Lieutenant Billy Joe Jones appeared in court Wednesday for his negotiated plea bargain.

News 12 spoke with special prosecutor, Assistant District Attorney Doug Elliot who was assigned to this case.

“We had plenty of proof in this case and there was really no reason to go to trial,” Elliot said.

In total, Jones embezzled more than \$100,000 over a four year period.

“The big thing is to get the money back to the to the people who had the money taken from them,” Elliot added.

Oklahoma Court documents show Jones embezzled about \$67,000 from monies seized while he was a narcotics officer.

And an additional \$37,000 from the local Fraternal Order of Police, where he served as the secretary and treasurer.

Court docs show he was taking the money via ATM withdrawals.

“The withdrawals were in close proximity to the casino on numerous occasions and the playtime that the casino showed was close in time,” Elliot told News 12.

Under the plea, Jones was given a seven-year deferred sentence, meaning he will not go to prison.

However, online court records show, he will serve 30 days in the county jail.

He’s been ordered to pay a little more than \$100,000 in restitution, “during that seven years in installment payments,” Elliot added.

Jones will also not be allowed to serve as a law enforcement officer anywhere in Oklahoma.

“He had to give up his CLEET certification, that was his law enforcement certification that had to be surrendered as part of the plea bargain also,” Elliot explained.

Jones retired three months before OSBI began its investigation.

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