



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 3, 2009**

**Contact: Bill Phelan  
(479) 587-3580**

***RE: OFFICER'S ARRIVE WHILE ROBBERY IN PROGRESS***

Fayetteville Police Chief Greg Tabor announced today Fayetteville officers were involved in the fatal shooting of a robbery suspect.

On Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 at approximately 3:29 PM Fayetteville officers responded to a report of a robbery at Arvest Bank located at 1113 N. Garland in Fayetteville. The subject, while in a white passenger car in the bank's drive through, presented a note to the employee demanding money. Upon the officers' arrival they located the suspect near the drive through window and announced their presence. The suspect began backing away from an officer blocking the front side of his vehicle. In doing so, the suspect nearly struck two other officers who had responded to the scene. Despite officers' warnings to stop and show his hands, the suspect then began ramming an occupied vehicle behind his car several times in an apparent attempt to escape. Due to the suspect's reckless actions with seemingly no regard for the safety of those around him, an officer fired his service weapon at the suspect to stop the threat. The suspect was wounded as a result of the shooting and his injuries proved fatal. No officers were injured during the altercation.

The Washington County Sheriff's Office is conducting the criminal investigation into the shooting incident at the request of Chief Tabor. The suspect has been identified as Matthew L. Anderson, white male, age 29 of Elkins.

Per departmental policy, Chief Tabor has placed one officer on paid administrative leave pending the results of an internal investigation. The Fayetteville Police Department will continue to provide information regarding this incident as it continues to develop.

#####