

# Video starts trial for attempted murder of officer

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**OZARK** — A Dale County man charged with attempted murder for allegedly shooting toward a police officer with the officer's own gun was up against video footage Tuesday of the incident.

But defense attorney David Robinson believes the footage shows much more than a rowdy defendant up in arms with a trained, peacekeeping officer.

In the first day of court testimony against 34-year-old Laymond Reynolds, prosecutors showed footage from Ozark Police Officer

Billy Driggers and assisting officer Walt Russell's patrol vehicles during a September 2006 traffic stop on Holiday Lane in Ozark.

Dale County Assistant District Attorney Bill Filmore said Reynolds, who was in the back seat of the vehicle, refused to sit up when Driggers told him to and attempted to go out the opposite side of the vehicle. Filmore said Reynolds cursed at Driggers before punching him when Driggers attempted to pull Reynolds out of the vehicle.

At some point after Driggers shot pepper spray on the side of Reynolds' face, Filmore said

Reynolds pulled Driggers' Glock .40-caliber service gun from his holster and shot once down the street.

The gun was shot a second time when Russell grabbed the gun from Reynolds, according to Filmore.

Reynolds was soon arrested and charged with attempted murder and assaulting a police officer.

Robinson said he believed the evidence would not show Reynolds attempted to murder Driggers because Reynolds didn't shoot toward Driggers and that Driggers did not handle Reynolds with the training he had been exposed to.

Robinson added it was not clear in the footage how Reynolds gained

access to the gun. He and his brothers had been drinking prior to the incident, Robinson said.

"After you hear all the testimony and evidence, the fact remains an officer is trained to handle a situation in a certain way. They're not supposed to pour gasoline on fires.

... See if Officer Driggers' training applied to this circumstance," Robinson said.

Filmore said the incident was evidence of the danger officers face throughout the country.

The incident was at least the third in five years in which an Ozark officer was allegedly assaulted with a weapon involved.

One incident occurred in 2004, when former Officer Chris Ford was shot four times with a .380-caliber semi-automatic handgun by an attempted murder suspect, who was shot and killed by responding officers who returned fire.

Another incident involving former Ozark officer R.C. Covington occurred last year when Derrick Jiles, 28, allegedly attempted to pull Covington's weapon during a traffic stop confrontation.

Covington shot Jiles in self-defense. He was not indicted by a grand jury on any charges. A grand jury indicted Jiles on an assault charge.