

Bond could be reduced in marijuana trafficking case

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OZARK — Authorities said they still don't know who called dispatchers on July 8 to tell them a man named Noah Jacob Kibbe would be trafficking a large amount of marijuana through Dale County.

What 34-year-old Kibbe knew on Wednesday, however, was that he would remain in the Dale County Jail under \$1 million bond for at least a few more days.

Dale County District Judge Stan Garner took under advisement whether to reduce Kibbe's bond on Wednesday after testimony from both Kibbe and a relative that he would return from his Fort Myers, Fla., residence for future court proceedings if his bond was reduced to a "reasonable" amount.

An anonymous call led to

A total of 160 pounds of marijuana was found within the wall of a trailer being pulled by Kibbe's truck, Horne said. Street value was estimated at \$192,000.

Kibbe's arrest for trafficking last month after a state trooper stopped him for following too closely, Alabama Bureau of Investigation agent Jackie Horne said.

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The bust has been called one of the largest in the Dale County area. Kibbe had no prior criminal history except for a grand

larceny charge when he was 19, according to court testimony.

Dale County Assistant District Attorney Cathey Berardi said Kibbe, who said he owns a business with contacts nationwide, would have no reason to come back to Alabama if he was released on bond.

"He's got no residence, no contacts here. This is a very serious charge. We're comfortable with the amount set now," she said.

Kibbe told Garner he had "no reason to run."

"I can't go nowhere, never been out of the country. If I gotta come back to court, I'll be here," Kibbe said.

Garner said it would likely be next week before he makes a decision on whether to reduce Kibbe's bond.

A preliminary hearing was rescheduled from Wednesday to Sept. 3.