

FORT SMITH POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

Date: January 22, 2009

From: Public Affairs Office, Sergeant Levi Risley **Telephone:** 479-709-5141

Re: Arrest of Matthew Barnett – Commercial Burglary (Fort Smith Fire Station)



Matthew Barnett

DOB: 9/22/86

On January 22nd, 2009 at 00:05 hours, officers were dispatched to 4123 Spradling Avenue, (Fire Station #5) in reference to a subject trying to break into the fire station. On arrival the officers noticed two firefighters detaining a white male, later identified as Matthew Barnett. The fireman said they caught Barnett trying to break into the fire station through the back door. Barnett attempted to unscrew the door knob facing with a cordless drill he removed from a fireman's vehicle. Barnett appeared to be intoxicated at the time and told the officers that "he did not know it was fire station and that if he had known this, he wouldn't have attempted to break in." Barnett was transported to the Sebastian County Adult Detention Center where he was booked on one count of Commercial Burglary (Felony) and one count of Breaking or Entering (felony).

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