



# Tupelo Police Department

---

## Press Release

**ALL INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED ARE PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY**

-----For Immediate Release-----

09/11/2023

### **Assault on a Police Officer**

On 09/11/2023 at approximately 08:30 am TPD Officers stopped William Earnest Westmoreland (43 years old, Tupelo) on McCullough Blvd. near Adams Farm Road for a traffic violation. Officers developed probable cause to have Westmoreland exit the vehicle but he refused. As officers attempted to remove Westmoreland he began a physical confrontation with both officers actively fighting officers and attempting to grab one officers sidearm. During that attack officers deployed a taser with minimal effect. Officers and bystanders were able to eventually get Westmoreland handcuffed.

During the altercation one officer was injured and transported to NMMC ER for treatment. Westmoreland was transported to LSO where he was cleared by medics and booked. The officer that was injured will need follow up care for injuries to their back.

An investigation revealed an open container, suspected Marijuana and THC Edibles. Westmoreland was also out on bond from Tupelo Municipal Court for a 06/19/2023 Assault on a Police Officer Charge involving a Tupelo Officer.

On 09/11/2023, Westmoreland was ordered held without bond by Tupelo Municipal Court Judge Weir for Assault on a Police Officer (Felony).

