

Sheriff

(352) 569-1600



WILLIAM O. "BILL" FARMER, JR. –

SUMTER COUNTY

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MEDIA RELEASE

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11/19/15

On November 18th, 2015 at approximately 1:30 PM the Sumter County Sheriff's Office responded to 7479 N.W. 18th Way (Lake Panasoffkee Wildlife Management Area) in reference to a deceased person complaint. The complaint was called in by a hunter who advised the body was in a heavily wooded area and appeared to have been deceased for over a week. Deputies arrived and met with the hunters at the check-in station near the north end of the Management Area. The hunters advised that they had been walking through the woods scouting for deer when they discovered the deceased body. They stated that the body was in a heavily wooded area inaccessible by patrol vehicles. Using the Sheriff's Office All-Terrain vehicles Deputies, Detectives, and Crime Scene Units went South on Jones Creek Road over ½ mile then went off path another ½ mile through woods to the location of the deceased body. The deceased was in an advanced state of decomposition lying in a supine position. There was no obvious sign of trauma to the body. The Florida District 5 Medical Examiner's Office was contacted and responded to the scene. The body was removed to the Medical Examiner's Office and an autopsy was conducted this morning. Preliminary results did not show any signs of external trauma. The toxicology results will not be in for four to six weeks.

Through tattoos, the Sheriff's Office identified the deceased person as Chad Lamar Crawford W/M DOB: 12/26/1978. Chad Crawford had been reported missing on 11/07/2015. Chad Crawford had travelled with his girlfriend from Hohenwald, Tennessee to Lake Panasoffkee on 11/07/2015. Crawford was last seen on 11/08/2015 at the TA Truck Stop I-75 and SR 44. Chad Crawford and his girlfriend had gotten into an argument inside the truck stop and Crawford walked out. When the girlfriend exited the store Chad Crawford was gone. Chad Crawford was described as acting erratically just prior to his disappearance.



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