KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number:	20-1358-UF	Version Type:	AMENDED
Report Date:	4/6/2021 4:26 PM	Status:	Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name:	Bertram Police Dept.	Agency Address:	PO BOX 1604
Agency City:	Bertram	Agency State:	TX
Agency Zip:	78605		

Director Information

Director Salutation:	Chief	Director First Name:	Leslie
Director Middle Name:			
Director Last Name:	Kyle		
Reporter Name:	Leslie Kyle	Reporter Email:	dkyle@cityofbertram.org

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Scott

Middle Name: William

Last Name: Black

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 10/26/1980 Sex: Male

Race: Anglo or White

Age At Time Of Death: 39

Date/Time of Custody (arrest, incarceration) (mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm AM/PM):

Date/Time of Custody or Incident: 8/8/2020 9:01 PM

Date/Time of Death (mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm AM/PM):

Death Date and Time: 8/8/2020 11:06 PM

Manner / Cause of Death

Has a medical examiner or coroner conducted an evaluation to determine a cause of death?

Medical Examiner/Coroner Evaluation?: Yes, results are available

What was the manner of death? (select only one)

Manner of Death: Accidental

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Blunt force injuries.

Had the decedent been receiving treatment for the medical condition that caused the death after admission to your jail's jurisdiction?

Medical Treatment: Not Applicable

If death was an accident, homicide or suicide, who caused the death?

Who caused the death?: Decedent

If a weapon caused the death, what type of weapon caused the death? (Hold CTRL to select all that apply)

Type of weapon that caused death?: Vehicle-involved death

Was the cause of death the result of a pre-existing medical condition or did the decedent develop the condition after admission?

Pre existing medical condition?: Not Applicable; cause of death was accidental injury, intoxication, suicide or homicide

If death was an accident, homicide or suicide, what was the means of death?

Means of Death: Vehicle accident

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address:	1700 Block E FM 243	City:	Bertram
County:	Burnet	Zip:	78605

What location category best describes where the event causing the death occurred?

Location Category: Roadway/highway/street/sidewalk

What type of custody/facility was the Decedent in at the time of death:

Type of Custody: Pre-Custodial Use of Force

Specific type of custody/facility:

Specific Type of Custody/Facility:

Custody of Law Enforcement Personnel during/fleeing arrest

What was the time and date of the deceased's entry into the law enforcement facility where the death occurred (mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm AM/PM):

Entry Date Time:

Entry Date Time N/A: ✓

Where did the death occur?

Death Location: Scene of incident

General Information

Did any other law enforcement agencies respond to calls for service related to this incident?

Other Agencies Respond?: Yes

What were the most serious offense(s) with which the deceased was (or would have been) charged with at the time of death?

Offense 1:

Evading Arrest in Motor Vehicle

Offense 2:

Offense 3:

Were the Charges:: Not filed at time of death

What were the types of charges or reason for contact? (Hold CTRL to select all that apply)

Type of Offense: Other, specify

Type of Offense, Other:

Traffic violation, suspected driving while intoxicated.

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent display or use a weapon?

Decedent display/use of weapons: No

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

Attempt to Injure Others?: No

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

Appear intoxicated (alcohol or drugs): Yes

Make suicidal statements?: N/A

Exhibit any mental health problems?: N/A

Exhibit any medical problems?: N/A

At any time during the incident and/or entry into the law enforcement facility, did the decedent:

Barricade self or initiate standoff?:	No	Resist being handcuffed or arrested?:	No
Physically attempt/assault officer(s):	No	Gain possession of officer's weapon:	No
Verbally threaten other(s) including law:	No	Escape or attempt to escape/flee custody:	Yes
Attempt gain possession officer's weapon:	No		

Was the deceased under restraint in the time leading up to the death or the events causing the death?

Under Restraint:	No

Summary of Incident

Summary of How the Death Occurred: (max. 30,000 characters)

Summary:

On Saturday, August 8th, 2020 at approximately 9:01 PM, Officer Cotton #530 of the Bertram Police Department attempted to make a traffic stop on a suspected drunk driver. Officer Cotton had observed the vehicle traveling east on State Highway 29 from Burnet, Texas to Bertram, Texas. Officer Cotton noted that the vehicle was swerving and unable to maintain speeds. Upon activating the emergency lights on the marked patrol unit, the vehicle refused to stop. Officer Cotton then activated the siren as well as the emergency lights, in approximately the 1600 block of W SH 29. The vehicle then sped away from Officer Cotton in an obvious attempt to evade arrest/detention. The vehicle turned North on to E FM 243 and continued to evade at a high rate of speed, passing traffic on FM 243. The vehicle, driven by the decedent above, lost control and crashed at approximately the 1700 block of E FM 243,at the intersection of CR 270 and FM 243. The vehicle skidded at an angle into the guardrail on the East curb line of FM 243. The driver suffered massive internal injuries from the steering wheel as well as having both legs severed just below the knee from the fire wall. Officer Cotton attempted to render medical aid by applying a tourniquet to one of the legs while waiting on medical personnel. The decedent attempted to evade in a motor vehicle, lost control of his vehicle and caused a singe vehicle crash resulting in his death. The Texas Department of Public Safety is investigating the incident. The Justice of the Peace pronounced the decedent at approximately 11:06 PM. No other persons were injured during this incident. The incident is captured on dash camera video and documented in Bertram Police report # 2020-00198.