



KEN PAXTON

ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS

CUSTODIAL DEATH REPORT

Agency Information

CDR Number: 25-793-C

Version Type: ORIGINAL
VERSION

Report Date: 10/3/2025 11:24
AM

Status: Submitted

Agency/Facility Information

Agency Name: Van Zandt County
Sheriff's Dept.

Agency Address: 1220 W. Hwy 64

Agency City: Canton

Agency State: TX

Agency Zip: 75103

Director Information

Director Salutation: Sheriff

Director First Name: Kevin

Director Middle Name:

Director Last Name: Bridger

Reporter Name: Ernesto Zepeda

Reporter Email: ezepeda@vanzandtcounty.org

Decedent Information

Identity of Deceased

First Name: Jason

Middle Name: Lane

Last Name: Lopez

Suffix:

Date of Birth: 1/23/1972

Sex: Male

Race: Hispanic or Latino

Age At Time Of Death: 53

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

Date/Time of Custody or
Incident: 9/2/2025 5:56 AM

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

Death Date and Time: 9/5/2025 10:59 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
pending

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

Manner of Death: Pending autopsy
results

Medical Cause of Death:

Medical Cause of Death:

Pending Autopsy

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?: Unknown whether decedent sustained a fatal injury

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?: Not Applicable

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?: Could not be determined

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

Means of Death: Other, specify

Means of Death Other: Pending Autopsy

Location / Custody Information

Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street Address: 1220 W. Dallas St

City: Canton

County: Van_Zandt

Zip: 75103

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

Location Category: Law Enforcement Facility

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

Type of Custody: Police Custody (pre-booking)

Specific type of custody/facility:

Specific Type of Custody/Facility:

Custody of Law Enforcement Personnel subsequent to 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: Medical facility

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:

Resisting Arrest

Offense 2:

Public Intoxication

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: Alcohol / drug offense

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?: Yes (select all that apply)

Ways Decedent Attempted To Injure Others: Attempted to injure law enforcement personnel; Attempted to injure civilian(s) or other inmate(s)

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?:	No
Exhibit any mental health problems?:	No	Exhibit any medical problems?:	No

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?:	Yes
Physically attempt/assault officer(s):	Yes	Gain possession of officer's weapon:	No
Verbally threaten other(s) including law:	Unknown	Escape or attempt to escape/flee custody:	No
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: Yes, mark which restraint devices were used

Type of restraint

Type of Restraint: Handcuffs; Other device, specify

Other device, specify: Hobble

Summary of Incident

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

Summary:

On Tuesday, 9-2-2025, at approximately 05:58 hours, Wills Point Officers were dispatched to Ben's Mobil, 388 N. 4th Street, Wills Point, Van Zandt County, Texas, in reference to a Verbal Disturbance. A 911 caller reported that a white male was going ballistic by yelling, screaming and chasing everybody off from Ben's Mobil. Wills Point Officer's arrived and contacted the white male who was identified as Jason Lopez, white male. Officers arrested Mr. Lopez for public intoxication and transported Mr. Lopez in a Wills Point patrol vehicle to the Van Zandt County Jail. Wills Point Officers had to pull over on State Highway 64 due to Mr. Lopez being combative and resisting arrest in the patrol vehicle, which resulted in Officers fighting with Mr. Lopez.

On Tuesday, 9-2-2025, at approximately 06:18 hours, Van Zandt County Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched to the location of State Highway 64 and Van Zandt County Road 3418 on an agency assist call (Wills Point Police Dept), where police officers were needing assistance. It was reported that the police officers were fighting Mr. Lopez on the side of the road. A Van Zandt Sheriff's Deputy arrived on scene and assisted the Wills Point Police officers. Mr. Lopez was placed into a Deputy's patrol vehicle to transport him to the Van Zandt County Jail since the Officer's patrol vehicle did not have a transport partition to prevent officer injuries. Throughout this time, Mr. Lopez continuously resisted officers and attempted to kick them. Therefore, a hobble device was utilized to secure Mr. Lopez feet to prevent injuries to himself or the officers. A Van Zandt Sheriff's Deputy transported Mr. Lopez to the county jail and arrived at approximately 06:34 hours. The Deputy was assisted by jail staff, Wills Point Officer's, and other Sheriff's Deputies to assist in removing Mr. Lopez from the Sheriff's Office patrol vehicle, who was actively fighting Officers. As he continued to resist, officers moved Mr. Lopez from the Sheriff's Office patrol vehicle to the book-in area of the county jail. Mr. Lopez continued to resist the officers by attempting to get loose of their grasp and thrashing his body. The officers placed Mr. Lopez on the ground so that the restraints could be removed and he could be placed in a restraint chair. During this process, Mr. Lopez suddenly stopped moving and breathing. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) were immediately called, and Jailers initiated Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), and Jailers also utilized an Automated external defibrillator (AED) on Mr. Lopez while waiting for EMS to arrive. EMS arrived on scene and transported Mr. Lopez to the Canton Emergency Room and then later transferred to the Christus Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler, Smith County, Texas, to receive further care. Mr. Lopez passed, and his death was pronounced on Friday, 9-5-2025, at approximately 21:59 hours.