

PRESS RELEASE:

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Office of Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson
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Inmate serving life sentence for killing Kansas sheriff convicted on charge related to contraband cellphone

LEAVENWORTH, Kan. --- An inmate already serving a life sentence has been convicted on a charge related to concealing a contraband cellphone in a homemade knee brace.

Scott Cheever, 44, an inmate at Lansing Correctional Facility, pleaded no contest to one count of attempted trafficking in contraband during a hearing on Friday, March 20, 2026.

Cheever is currently serving a life sentence for the January 2005 shooting death of Greenwood County Sheriff Matthew Samuels.

According to court documents, on Nov. 22, 2024, Cheever was housed at the Lansing Correctional Facility when correctional officers conducted a search of his person and cell. During the search, officers discovered a contraband cellphone wrapped inside a homemade knee brace he was wearing.

“Cellphones can be one of the most dangerous pieces of contraband a resident of a correctional facility can possess simply due to the mere fact that cellphones can be used for unmonitored communication, leading to increased risk of harm to others within the facility,” said Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson.