

Leavenworth man who used an axe and a machete to make threats handed sentence

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CASE NUMBER: 2023-CR-000046

LEAVENWORTH, Kan. --- A Leavenworth man who used an axe and a machete to threaten family members and police officers has been sentenced to prison.

During today's hearing, Toms-Gardner was sentenced to 28 months in the Kansas Department of Corrections for aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer.

Justin L. Toms-Gardner, 34, was arrested on January 22, 2023, after officers were forced to use a beanbag round fired from a shotgun to subdue him.

According to court documents, Leavenworth police officers responded to a disturbance call involving Toms-Gardner and two family members at a home located southeast of downtown Leavenworth at about 2:00 p.m. Upon arrival, officers were met by Toms-Gardner, who had an axe and approached them. Toms-Gardner eventually raised his axe and acted like he would throw it at officers. Feeling threatened, an officer fired a beanbag round, striking Toms-Gardner.

County Attorney Todd Thompson said, "Our gratitude goes to the officers who put their lives on the line daily. We're grateful for their actions as they prevented anyone from getting seriously hurt."