



DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dale J Schmidt Sheriff **Chad Enright** Chief Deputy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: June 25, 2025

Sheriff Dale J. Schmidt
Office: 920-386-4115
dschmidt@co.dodge.wi.us

Sentencing in the Attempted Homicide of a Sheriff's Office Correctional Officer

Today, Judge Brian Pfitzinger sentenced William Lasalle to 20 years in prison with 10 years of extended supervision after he was convicted of Attempted 1st Degree Intentional Homicide, in which the victim was a Dodge County Sheriff's Office Correctional Officer. Lasalle was also convicted of Aggravated Battery Intended to Cause Great Bodily Harm. The victim in that case was an inmate of the Wisconsin Department of Corrections who was brutally attacked by Lasalle, and even though this victim was an inmate, he also had the right not to be assaulted, and serious accountability was required. Lasalle received an additional sentence of 10 years in prison with 5 years of extended supervision. These sentences are to be served consecutively.

The correctional officer in the attempted homicide incident was Correctional Officer Gregory Oettinger, who is not in a formal supervisory role, but is a true leader at the Dodge County Sheriff's Office. On May 21, 2024, Officer Oettinger was attacked by Lasalle while he was simply doing his job. Officer Oettinger used his training and experience to protect and defend himself against a fashioned weapon which was used against him many times. He not only protected himself and overcame the attack, but once the assistance of other correctional officers arrived, he used his training to take the person into custody quickly, safely, and professionally. He did not allow his emotions in a high-stress situation to override his judgment, but rather professionally and appropriately took the subject into custody. Because of his actions and the way he handled this traumatic situation, Sheriff Dale Schmidt nominated him to be and was selected as the Dodge County Executive Law Enforcement Association's Correctional Officer of the year for 2024.

Thankfully, because of Officer Oettinger's ability to protect himself and the quick response of his co-workers, he was not seriously injured and has been able to return to full duty. However, the effects of this incident will have lasting effects on him, on his family, and on his co-workers.

In the sentencing, Judge Pfitzinger made it clear that attacks on the law enforcement profession will not be tolerated, adding that law enforcement professionals do a job that he doesn't understand why they choose the profession. It is a job that has great risk not only to the officer themselves, but their families, who also accept that risk. Judge Pfitzinger added that these law enforcement officers don't do this job because of the pay they receive, but they are there to simply protect the public.

Sheriff Schmidt and Officer Oettinger sincerely thank the criminal justice system for working in this case. The support by the District Attorney's Office under the direction of District Attorney Andrea Will has been fantastic. In response to Judge Pfitzinger's statements, we very much appreciate the court's sentence in ensuring that those who attack law enforcement are held accountable while also sending a message that these attacks will be taken seriously by the courts.

Indeed, law enforcement professionals do not do this job for the money or the fame. Many times, we face harsh criticism for the work we do, even when the decisions made are legal and appropriate, and there is often a lack of support from a small minority of the community. Law enforcement professionals choose this career because it is A CALLING involving a deep sense of duty and commitment to serving and protecting the community, regardless of risks and personal sacrifice, with a goal of creating a positive impact on our community. Officer Oettinger has answered the call and, because of his experiences, is a co-worker whom many look up to.

The entire staff of the Dodge County Sheriff's Office are incredibly proud of Officer Greg Oettinger for his service and dedication to this profession, and for not only surviving what was intended to be a fatal attack by refusing to give up but responding as a true professional in upholding the mission, vision, and core values of the Dodge County Sheriff's Office.

Questions may be directed to Sheriff Dale J. Schmidt.

###