



## OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Bench Trial & Sentencing**  
**Repeat Offender Sentenced to Prison for Drug and Firearm Charges**  
*State vs. Jeremiah Joshua Cornette*

**CANTON, GA (June 24, 2026)** – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that on June 22 Cherokee County Superior Court Judge Shannon Wallace sentenced Jeremiah Joshua Cornette, 35, of Ball Ground, to 30 years, with the first 10 years to be served in prison and the remainder on probation.

The sentencing hearing followed a bench trial in which Judge Wallace found Cornette guilty of all four counts he faced: possession of methamphetamine, possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony, possession of drug-related objects, and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

The charges stem from a May 15, 2025, incident that began when a Ball Ground Police Department officer observed Cornette sitting on a guardrail on State Route 372 just off I-575. After pulling over to speak with Cornette, the officer determined that he had an active arrest warrant and attempted to detain him.

Cornette became uncooperative and refused to obey repeated commands to remove his hands from his pockets and get on the ground. He stopped resisting after a second officer arrived. While being taken into custody, Cornette stated that he ingested Fentanyl when he saw a Ball Ground patrol car approaching.

During a search, the police officers found two baggies of methamphetamine containing a combined 23 grams of methamphetamine and a methamphetamine pipe. In the defendant's left front jeans pocket, they found a Smith & Wesson .22 caliber pistol.

“This was an extremely dangerous situation for all involved. A convicted felon, under the influence of narcotics and armed with a firearm, refused to show his hands and put lives in jeopardy, including his own,” said Assistant District Attorney Leland McElveen, who prosecuted this case on behalf of the State. “Law enforcement officers know that situations can turn deadly in an instant. The Ball Ground officer demonstrated remarkable restraint and professionalism while facing the uncertainty of whether this defendant would pull a firearm and open fire.”

After Cornette was placed in the backseat of the patrol car, he lost consciousness. The officers administered two rounds of Narcan. Cornette regained consciousness, and first responders transported him to the hospital, where he recovered.

“These officers remained calm under pressure as they administered two rounds of Narcan and provided medical assistance that ultimately saved a life. At the same time, they prevented illegal drugs and a firearm from posing a further threat to our community,” said Ball Ground Police Chief Jamie Gianfala. “I am proud of the swift response

of our department, and I commend these officers for their commitment to the protection and safety of our Ball Ground citizens.”

During the bench trial, the State and the Defense presented facts and evidence to Judge Wallace, who determined the verdict. Judge Wallace sentenced Cornette as a recidivist offender under O.C.G.A. § 17-10-7(a), ordering that he serve the maximum punishment allowed under Georgia law for counts 1, 2, and 3.

“Despite prior felony convictions, this defendant continued to possess illegal drugs and carry a firearm in violation of the law,” said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. “This sentence holds him accountable for those choices and reflects the serious danger posed by armed, repeat offenders. We appreciate the Ball Ground Police Department’s response to this volatile situation and Judge Wallace’s careful consideration of the evidence presented at trial.”

The case was investigated by the Ball Ground Police Department and prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Leland J. McElveen Jr., Office of the District Attorney, Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit.

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*The Office of the District Attorney for the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit is committed to seeking justice, acting with integrity, and collaborating with partner agencies in the criminal justice system in order to protect the citizens of Cherokee County and the State of Georgia.*

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