

Taser, loaded shotgun allegedly used in reported sexual assault

By RYAN SMITH
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A Jefferson City man faces up to four life sentences after being charged with forcing a 15-year-old girl to have sex with him by repeatedly shocking her with a taser gun and threatening her with a loaded shotgun.

Brice L. Walther, 19, was arrested Tuesday for the May 26 incident and is currently being held in Cole County Jail on \$1 million bond. He is charged with the multiple felonies of forcible rape, two counts of forcible sodomy, felonious restraint, and armed criminal action.

"We have left the potential for four life sentences in response to our feelings on this case," said Prosecuting Attorney Bill Tackett.

On May 26, around 1 a.m., police allege Walther picked up the victim at the Cole County Fair-

grounds in his pick-up truck and drove her to a small field east of the 3400 block of North Ten Mile Drive.

Walther then allegedly pulled a pump action shotgun from behind the seat of the truck and told the victim to take off her pants.

When she refused, he reportedly loaded the shotgun, pumped a round into the chamber, and repeated that he wanted her to remove her pants.

After she complied, he then put the shotgun away and brandished a Taser gun from the glove box.

Walther then allegedly used the taser on the victim and forced her to climb into the back of the truck and perform various sexual acts on him. The victim told police Walther shocked her between five and 10 times when she would refuse or attempted to resist.

Following the incident,

Walther also allegedly has verbally threatened the victim, the victim's stepfather, and to shoot any policeman who attempted to arrest him.

Walther's arraignment has been postponed until 9 a.m. Tuesday before Judge Thomas Sodegren.

Walther also faces second-degree arson charges for a Feb. 5 barn fire at 2313 State Route J. Walther, who was then a firefighter trainee with Osage County Fire Protection District, is accused of setting fire to the barn, which belonged to former State Rep. Bill Gratz.

The arson case is scheduled to go to a jury trial Aug. 11 in front of Judge Richard Callahan.

Walther also has a previous conviction in 2003 for stealing a motor vehicle. He was sentenced to 5 years of probation in that case.