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Deputies Credit BearCat In Standoff's End Teams Approach Armed Man In Armored Vehicle

OKLAHOMA CITY -- The Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office credits its new armored truck for helping to peacefully end a standoff with a man accused of firing shots at deputies.

Deputies said they were called to a home after Freddie Shatswell, 50, was reported to be involved in a possible incident of domestic violence.

"He wanted to commit suicide by cop," said Oklahoma County Sheriff John Whetsel. "When deputies got here, he sat on the porch with a rifle and a shotgun. Every time the deputy tried to make an approach, he would wave the gun or aim the gun at the deputy."

Deputies decided to use the new armored vehicle known as a BearCat to approach Shatswell.

"He actually fired at us while we were in the BearCat," said Sgt. Jim Lilly of the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Department's Tactical Unit.

Lilly said the BearCat saved lives on both sides of the standoff.

"We would have had to approach him at some point," Lilly said. "If we had approached him without an armored vehicle, we would have definitely used lethal force against him."

Officers took him into custody after the five-hour standoff. Shatswell, who has a criminal history of domestic violence, was arrested on charges of assault with intent to kill.

Neighbors said they're glad police arrested Shatswell before he hurt himself or anyone nearby.

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