



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **CARTHAGE MAN SENTENCED FOR VIOLATING FEDERAL GUN LAW**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Carthage, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for violating a federal firearms law.

**Lonnie W. Lawson**, 46, of Carthage, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith today to eight years in federal prison without parole.

On Oct. 18, 2002, **Lawson** pleaded guilty to being in possession of a firearm while committing a drug trafficking crime. By pleading guilty, **Lawson** admitted that on Sept. 18, 2001, in Jasper County, Mo., he was in possession of a Smith and Wesson 9 mm pistol, while also in possession with the intent to distribute methamphetamine. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for an illegal drug user to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Carthage, Mo., Police Department.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)