

State of Minnesota  
County of Blue Earth

District Court  
5th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 0070107228  
Court File No. 07-CR-24-572

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

vs.

**LAURA CATHERINE FARRELL DOB: 06/18/1985**

54248 173rd Lane  
Good Thunder, MN 56037

Defendant.

**COMPLAINT**

Warrant

☒ Amended

The Complainant submits this complaint to the Court and states that there is probable cause to believe Defendant committed the following offense(s):

**COUNT I**

**Charge: Traffic - DWI - Refuse to submit to chemical test; Breath or test refusal or failure**

Minnesota Statute: 169A.20.2(1), with reference to: 169A.24.1

Maximum Sentence: 7 years or \$14,000 fine or both.

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 02/13/2024

Control #(ICR#): 24002476

Charge Description: On or about February 13, 2024, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Laura Catherine Farrell did, drive, operate, or was in physical control of any motor vehicle and the Defendant refused to submit to a chemical test of the person's breath upon the request of a peace officer who had probable cause to believe the person to be tested was under the influence and committed the violation with within ten years of the first of three or more qualified prior impaired driving incidents or has previously been convicted of a felony under section 169A.24.

**COUNT II**

**Charge: Drivers' Licenses-Driving restrictions-Drive/operate/control motor vehicle w/o ignition interlock.**

Minnesota Statute: 171.09.1(g), with reference to: 171.09.1(g)

Maximum Sentence: 90 days or \$1,000 fine, or both.

Offense Level: Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 02/13/2024

Control #(ICR#): 24002476

Charge Description: On or about February 13, 2024, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Laura Catherine Farrell did, while holding a restricted license issued under section 171.306, drive, operate, or was in physical control of any motor vehicle that was not equipped with a functioning ignition interlock

device certified by the commissioner.

### **COUNT III**

**Charge: Traffic - Open bottle law; Possession; crime described**

Minnesota Statute: 169A.35.3

Maximum Sentence:

Offense Level: Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 02/13/2024

Control #(ICR#): 24002476

Charge Description: On or about February 13, 2024, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Laura Catherine Farrell, did have in his/her possession, while in a private motor vehicle upon a street or highway, any bottle or receptacle containing an alcoholic beverage, distilled spirit or 3.2 percent malt liquor that has been opened, or the seal broken, or the contents of which have been partially removed.

## STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

On February 13, 2024, at approximately 7:05 p.m., law enforcement from the Blue Earth County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of a motor vehicle accident off of Deerwood Road in Garden City, Blue Earth County, Minnesota. A horse trailer was left at the scene of a crash with a horse inside. When law enforcement arrived, they observed the horse trailer tipped over on its side in the ditch. Witness 1 reported they had heard the crash from their home which was near the crash site but did not see the accident. Witness 1 reported they observed a truck leave the crash scene heading northbound. Witness 2 reported they came down to check on the crash and observed a horse left in the trailer tied up by a rope which appeared to be choking the horse. Witness 2 was able to free the horse and assist it out of the trailer.

The license plate on the trailer showed the registered owner to be Witness 3, the mother of Laura Catherine Farrell (DOB: 06/18/1985). Farrell was known to law enforcement due to a previous DWI arrest less than a week prior. Law enforcement located a Truck that listed the registered owner as Witness 4, the father of Farrell, traveling northbound on County Road 20 away from the crash scene. The Truck matched the description given by Witness 1.

Law enforcement conducted a traffic stop of the Truck for the purpose of investigating the crash. Law enforcement observed damage to the rear bumper area/hitch area consistent with a crash involving a trailer. Witness 4 was driving the Truck. When asked who was driving the Truck when the accident occurred, Witness 4 stated that Farrell was bringing the horse from Redwood to their home in Lake Crystal when the accident occurred. Law enforcement observed a strong smell of alcohol coming from Farrell and when the door opened several empty beer cans fell from the truck.

Law enforcement asked Farrell to step out of the vehicle and come their squad car. Farrell complied and stated that she had been hauling the horse from Redwood to her house when the horse lunged. Farrell admitted to leaving the scene to get a family member. Farrell agreed to complete standardized field sobriety testing. Law enforcement conducted the horizontal gaze nystagmus test, however, did not conduct further testing due to Farrell's recent ankle injury.

Law enforcement transported Farrell to the Blue Earth County Jail on suspicion of Driving while impaired. Deputy Rother read Farrell the Breath Test Advisory and provided Farrell with twenty minutes of attorney time. At 2100 hours Deputy Rother ended attorney time and Farrell agreed to a breath test. Farrell provided two deficient tests during the breath testing. Farrell was provided clear instructions, and she even provided one sufficient sample during the first attempt at breath testing which indicated to Deputy Rother that she was able to follow directions and physically able to provide a sample.

Farrell had a temporary license and was required to have ignition interlock. there was no ignition interlock in the truck.

Law enforcement recovered 14 empty beer cans from the truck.

Farrell has two previous DUI convictions: see 07-CR-20-1594 and 07-CR-18-2692. Farrell also has a prior qualified impaired related loss of license based on the notice of revocation provided to her on February 9, 2024.

Farrell was transported to New Ulm Detox.

## SIGNATURES AND APPROVALS

Complainant requests that Defendant, subject to bail or conditions of release, be:  
(1) arrested or that other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court; or  
(2) detained, if already in custody, pending further proceedings; and that said Defendant otherwise be dealt with according to law.

Complainant declares under penalty of perjury that everything stated in this document is true and correct. Minn. Stat. § 358.116; Minn. R. Crim. P. 2.01, subds. 1, 2.

**Complainant**

Paul Barta  
Captain  
401 Carver Rd  
Mankato, MN 56002-0228  
Badge: 2721

Electronically Signed:  
02/15/2024 11:01 AM  
Blue Earth County, MN

Being authorized to prosecute the offenses charged, I approve this complaint.

**Prosecuting Attorney**

Taylor Fast  
Assistant County Attorney  
401 Carver Road  
PO Box 3129  
Mankato, MN 56002  
(507) 304-4600

Electronically Signed:  
02/15/2024 10:33 AM

## FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE

From the above sworn facts, and any supporting affidavits or supplemental sworn testimony, I, the Issuing Officer, have determined that probable cause exists to support, subject to bail or conditions of release where applicable, Defendant's arrest or other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court, or Defendant's detention, if already in custody, pending further proceedings. Defendant is therefore charged with the above-stated offense(s).

### ☐ SUMMONS

THEREFORE YOU, THE DEFENDANT, ARE SUMMONED to appear as directed in the Notice of Hearing before the above-named court to answer this complaint.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR in response to this SUMMONS, a WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST shall be issued.

### ☒ WARRANT

To the Sheriff of the above-named county; or other person authorized to execute this warrant: I order, in the name of the State of Minnesota, that the Defendant be apprehended and arrested without delay and brought promptly before the court (if in session), and if not, before a Judge or Judicial Officer of such court without unnecessary delay, and in any event not later than 36 hours after the arrest or as soon as such Judge or Judicial Officer is available to be dealt with according to law.

☒ *Execute in MN Only*

☐ *Execute Nationwide*

☐ *Execute in Border States*

### ☐ ORDER OF DETENTION

Since the Defendant is already in custody, I order, subject to bail or conditions of release, that the Defendant continue to be detained pending further proceedings.

Bail: \$

Conditions of Release:

This complaint, duly subscribed and sworn to or signed under penalty of perjury, is issued by the undersigned Judicial Officer as of the following date: February 15, 2024.

**Judicial Officer**

Mark Betters  
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 02/15/2024 11:50 AM

Sworn testimony has been given before the Judicial Officer by the following witnesses:

COUNTY OF BLUE EARTH  
STATE OF MINNESOTA

**State of Minnesota**

Plaintiff

vs.

**Laura Catherine Farrell**

Defendant

**LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RETURN OF SERVICE**  
*I hereby Certify and Return that I have served a copy of this Warrant upon the Defendant herein named.*

Signature of Authorized Service Agent: