

Manhunt continues for suspect in slaying of East Texas trooper 📷

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Law officers today continued an exhaustive manhunt in East Texas for a former law enforcement officer suspected of killing a state trooper at the end of a traffic chase Tuesday night in Marion County.

Brandon Wayne Robertson, 37, is named in a warrant charging him with capital murder.

Robertson was last known to be driving a light blue 1997 Dodge Intrepid with Texas tags 039 LCG, authorities said. He became a suspect after law officers tracked down the owner of the car in jail.

The Rusk County, Texas, sheriff's office said Robertson served as a jailer and a reserve officer with their department in 1996. Robertson also attended the East Texas Police Academy in Kilgore in the early 1990s.

Robertson has prior arrests for theft, weapons violations, and drug possession and delivery, authorities said.

Texas state Trooper Scott Burns, 39, was killed just before 8 p.m. east of Lake O' The Pines after a brief chase that ended at a rural crossroads near the Kellyville community.

Authorities said Burns had just pulled over a car when the driver got out with a shotgun and started shooting before the trooper could get out of his car. Residents who heard the police car's siren and then gunshots called 911.

"The witness who saw the gentleman firing said he was actually firing from the hip with the shotgun," Marion County District Attorney Bill Gleason added.

At least four shotgun blasts are believed to have been fired. The gunman also shot at the trooper's in-car camera that recorded the traffic stop.

Authorities said they don't know why Burns was pursuing the car. They have not said if they know what might have provoked the shooting.

"The officer didn't have time to do anything except stop," Gleason added. "He didn't have time to get out, grab a gun or unbuckle his seat belt. Nothing."

Authorities said a citizen found the wounded trooper and used his car radio to call for help. Burns was pronounced dead at the scene.

Burns had been with the Department of Public Safety for five years. He was married with a five-month-old baby.

