

The suspect in a June 18 shooting in Austin has been allowed to post a lower bond and to return home to Alabama.

Michael Lee Jones, 54, a decorated war veteran, had never been in trouble with the law before the incident that occurred on Clay Street in Austin.

He allegedly fired a 12 gauge shotgun loaded with a beanbag charge at Cecil Wayne White, 28, Austin, around 10 p.m. after the men had a verbal confrontation, which supposedly arose from a burglary. Jones, of Phenix City, had been visiting relatives in Austin at the time of the incident.

White was briefly hospitalized after the shooting.

Austin Patrolman Robert Gudgel placed Jones in custody, and Jones was subsequently charged with one charge each of aggravated battery, a Class B felony; battery, a Class C felony; and criminal recklessness, a Class D felony.

His attorney requested a lower bond than the \$100,000 set by Circuit Court Judge Roger Duvall during Jones' initial hearing on June 20. At a hearing held June 26, bond was lowered to \$25,000 corporate surety/10% cash.

Jones filed his 10% cash bond that same day, agreeing to several conditions set by the Scott County Prosecutor's Office.

Those conditions include that Jones will reside at his home in Phenix City; shall not enter Indiana without prior notification to the court and the Prosecutor's Office; shall not have any

contact with the victim; and that he shall attend all court hearing dates.

Jones is now at home in Alabama awaiting his pre-trial hearing on August 13 and his jury trial on October 15.

Ironically, before Jones was released on bond, one of his fellow prisoners at the Scott County Security Center was White. The men were kept in separate cellblocks.

White was charged with a count of intimidation on June 21 in Scott Superior Court for arguing with his ex-wife and then allegedly threatening to shoot her and himself on June 20 in Scottsburg.

According to the probable cause affidavit prepared by Sgt. Steven Herald, the officer was called to an address on West Owen Street because White had said he would kill himself and was destroying property.

Officers got White calmed down.

When White appeared for his initial court hearing, his bail was set at \$10,000 surety/10% cash, and he was given the services of a public defender.

White remains incarcerated. His jury trial date is September 17.