

## **Firm to audit DA office accounts at Switzer's request**

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Editor - The Pampa News

### **A Pampa firm has been hired to audit the 31st District Attorney's accounts as part of an investigation of former DA Rick Roach.**

Special Prosecutor David Scott announced Friday afternoon in a press release that he has retained Brown, Graham & Co., CPA, of Pampa to perform an audit of all the accounts of the 31st District Attorney's Office. He said he hired the firm at the request of District Attorney Lynn Switzer.

"The State of Texas has the power to investigate and prosecute any crime regardless of a federal plea by Mr. Roach," Scott said in the release. "The Texas Rangers are conducting a thorough investigation regarding allegations against Mr. Roach.

"Upon completion of the wide-ranging and comprehensive investigation, I will present the results to the grand jury for possible indictments or indictments," he said.

Roach was arrested in the district courtroom of Gray County Courthouse by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Amarillo office on Jan. 11. He was charged with unlawful possession of methamphetamine.

Three more counts, possession with intent to distribute or dispense cocaine, possession with intent to distribute or dispense methamphetamine and a federal charge of addict or unlawful user in possession of firearms, were later added to the initial charge.

Suspected methamphetamine and cocaine, along with 35 firearms, were reportedly found amid Roach's possessions during an execution of a search warrant of his office, an apartment, and his home, according to unsealed search warrant inventories.

A petition for removal filed Jan. 12 sought Roach's removal as district attorney, but was dropped after Roach resigned the position on Feb. 8. On that same day, he entered a plea of guilty to the firearms charge in U.S. District Court in Amarillo.

Roach presently awaits sentencing on the federal charge. U.S. District Attorney officials said recently that they expected the sentencing to be conducted in early May.

Lynn Switzer, assistant district attorney under Roach, was appointed District Attorney by Gov. Rick Perry.

"In keeping with my promises to the people of the 31st District, I have asked the judge to appoint, and he has appointed, a special prosecutor to investigate possible criminal charges against Rick Roach. This investigation will also include an audit of the financial records of Mr. Roach," Switzer said in an interview with The Pampa News published March 28.

- Staff Writer Marilyn Powers contributed to this report.