

Man sentenced for attacking officer

By Matt Busse

mbusse@newsadvance.com

(434) 385-5533

A Lynchburg man was sentenced Friday to serve two years in prison for attacking a police officer who had to use pepper spray and twist the man's genitals to end the fight.

Derek Rashad Jones, 28, pleaded guilty in July to one count of assault and battery of a law-enforcement officer.

On March 11, Lynchburg Police Officer Brian Smith was

Jones on an unrelated warrant on the 1300 block of 16th Street, according to deputy commonwealth's attorney Chuck Felmlee.

Jones tried to run, and Smith grabbed Jones' shirt. Jones spun around, punched Smith in the face and the two fell to the ground swapping blows. Smith shot Jones with pepper spray and twisted Jones' genitals twice, subduing him, Felmlee said.

Smith suffered bruises to his head and upper body and pain in his right thumb.

bragging about the fight, telling Smith, "I got you with my right, didn't I? You're feeling that," Felmlee said.

Felmlee called it "not your typical assault" of a police officer.

Jones has previous convictions for drug, sex and other offenses, Felmlee said.

Jones' attorney, assistant public defender Andrew Childress, said Jones is functionally retarded and has psychological problems.

"Mr. Jones responded inappropriately and violently, but not because he hates the police or is desperate but

because he's confused and doesn't know what's going on," Childress said.

Before he was sentenced, Jones said, "I do apologize for fighting with the officer."

His total sentence was five years in prison with three years suspended. That means he could be sent back to prison for up to another three years in prison if he violates probation or other terms of his sentence after he's released.

Jones received credit for time he has already spent in jail, which is about seven months. Childress said.