

## St. Paul policeman charged with buying stolen Bobcat

A St. Paul police officer is facing federal charges that he bought a stolen Bobcat loader in Minnesota and hid it at a relative's farm in Wisconsin for more than two years, authorities said Tuesday.

Jeffrey T. Kane, 33, who joined the Police Department in 1999, was indicted in early December on suspicion of transporting a 1999 Bobcat loader from Minnesota to Wisconsin on Oct. 8, 2000. The alleged theft became a federal matter because the loader crossed state lines.

The U.S. attorney's office in Madison, Wis., asserts that Kane hid the tractor at a relative's farm near Blair, Wis., until it was discovered during a search by the Trempealeau County Sheriff's Office three weeks ago.

Kane pleaded not guilty this week in U.S. District Court in Madison. The trial is

expected to be in March.

Wisconsin authorities would not say how they discovered where the Bobcat was or how Kane obtained it. Kane's attorney, Earl Gray, would not comment Tuesday.

Since the indictment, Kane has been working a desk job at the vehicle impound lot, said Paul Schnell, spokesman for the St. Paul Police Department.

He said Kane faces an internal investigation once the criminal case is concluded.

Kane's personnel file includes a medal of commendation from Chief William Finney in 2001 and a one-day suspension in 2001 for poor public relations, Schnell said.

The Bobcat may be valued as high as \$20,000. The four-wheel-drive loader is used on construction sites and farms for lifting and moving things.

*Herón Márquez Estrada*

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