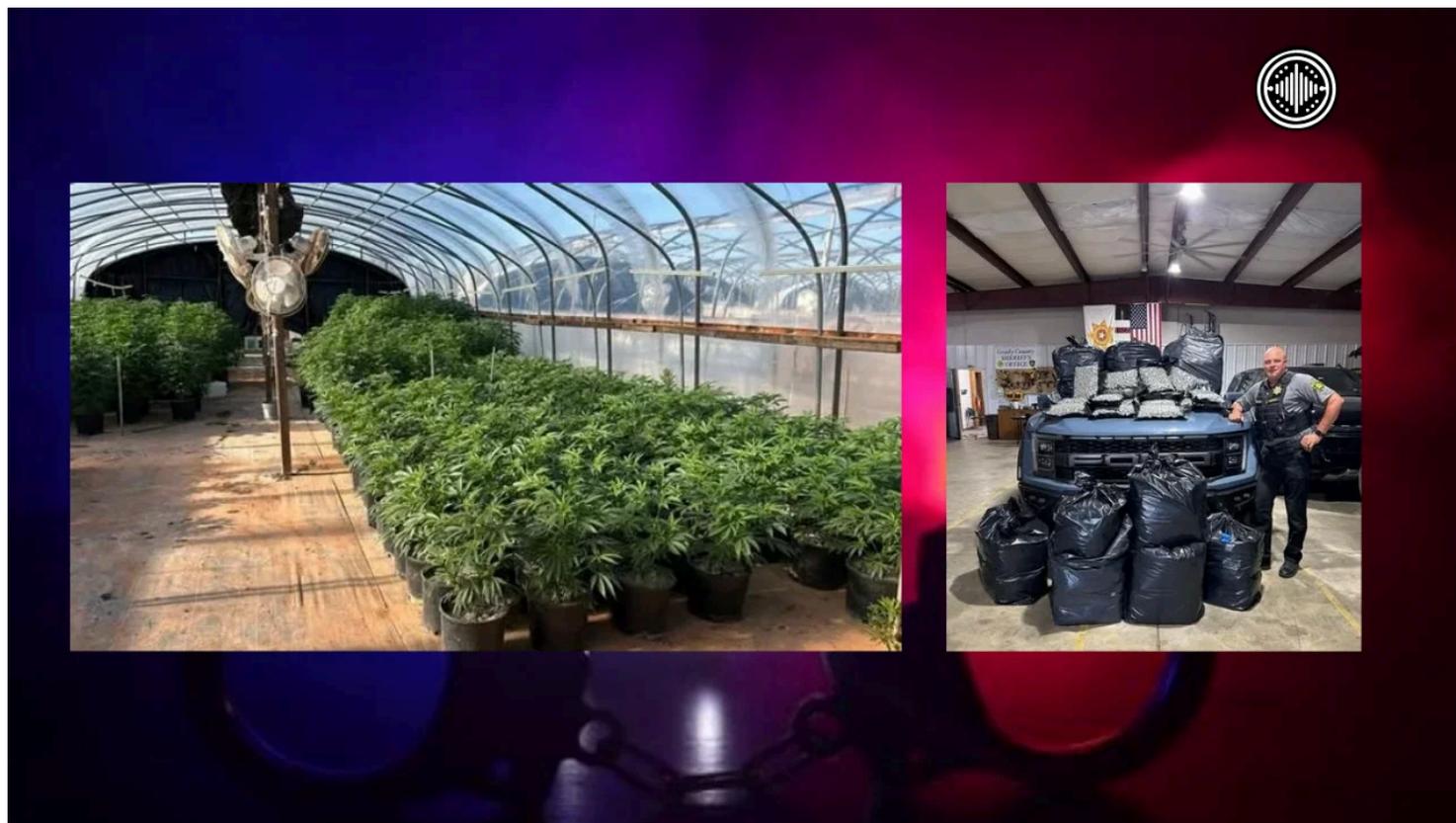


## Two Arrested in Grady Co. for Illegal Marijuana Grow

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– Categories: Crime



GRADY COUNTY, Okla. – What started as a routine traffic stop in Grady County turned into a major drug bust last week, as law enforcement uncovered an illegal marijuana grow operation tucked away in the back of a minivan.

Authorities say the arrest happened near the intersection of Highway 81 and United States Route 277, where a van was pulled over for failing to stay in its lane. While that may have seemed like a minor violation at first, the situation quickly escalated when deputies approached the vehicle.

According to court documents, officers immediately noticed the strong smell of marijuana coming from inside the van. That odor led to a search, and what they found was far beyond what a typical traffic stop would reveal. More than 500 suspected marijuana plants were packed into the back of the vehicle.

Investigators also reported finding roughly \$3,000 in bundled cash stored in the center console, money they believe was tied to the illegal grow operation.

The two men in the van were promptly taken into custody. Both now face serious felony charges, including cultivation and distribution of a controlled dangerous substance and unlawful possession of proceeds derived from drug activity.

Although the case is still under investigation, officials say the bust highlights the ongoing efforts of law enforcement in Grady County to crack down on illegal drug operations. While Oklahoma has legalized medical marijuana under strict regulations, illegal cultivation outside of licensed facilities remains a major concern for local and state authorities.

This incident serves as a reminder that even seemingly minor traffic stops can lead to major discoveries. In this case, it wasn't just a case of a vehicle failing to stay in its lane; it led to the discovery of a potentially larger illegal operation that might have otherwise gone undetected if not for a sharp-eyed deputy and a routine patrol.

No further details about the suspects have been released at this time, and authorities have not confirmed whether additional arrests or charges could follow as the investigation continues.

As the legal system takes its course, officials are urging residents to stay alert and report suspicious activity. With the rise of both legal and illegal marijuana-related enterprises in Oklahoma, law enforcement agencies say community involvement remains crucial in helping them enforce the law and protect public safety.

The men remain in custody as they await further court proceedings.

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