

Ex-BA firefighter gets 10 years

By **BILL BRAUN**
World Staff Writer

A former Broken Arrow firefighter faces a 10-year prison term after being convicted of assaulting his wife's ex husband, who was shot in the head.

Tulsa County jurors found Jack Ray Watson guilty of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, linked to the severe wounding of Marc Lorrin on May 8, 2005, in Bixby.



Watson

"This is a murder, but for a miracle", Assistant District Attorney Jack Thorp said.

The jury returned the verdict 1 a.m. Saturday, about five hours after it began deliberations in District Judge Clancy Smith's court. Along with the 10-year sentence, Watson received a \$10,000 fine.

Watson, 44, stood trial on a charge of shooting Lorrin with intent to kill. He was found guilty of a lesser assault offense.

Watson, who had been free on \$1 million bail, was jailed following the trial.

Prosecutors maintained that Watson intentionally put a gun to Lorrin's head and shot him with a .45-caliber pistol about 1:30 a.m. after the defendant found Lorrin with Watson's wife, Lara, at the Watson home.

The defendant did not testify. He previously indicated that he arrived home and heard sounds of distress from his wife, got his gun, and saw Lorrin attacking her.

Watson said the gun went off but he doesn't believe he pulled the trigger, a Bixby police detective reported in 2005.

Lara Watson, also referred to as Lara Lorrin during the trial, told jurors that "Marc wasn't doing anything at all."

She said she did not think her life was ever in danger during the episode.

At a 2005 preliminary hearing, she said that while on the patio with her ex-husband, Marc Lorrin "had his hands around my

neck and shoulder area and pushed me to the ground."

At the trial, Lara Watson said

she was previously "scared to tell the truth" and that Jack Watson had told her what to say about the shooting.

Defense lawyer Jim Goodwin asserted that his client acted in lawful defense of his wife.

"From his point of view, Lara was in harm's way," asserted Goodwin, who said Lara has "no regard for telling the truth."

Assistant District Attorney Brian Kuester said Watson tried to get rid of evidence after the shooting and acted out of jealousy of Lorrin, who had maintained a friendship with Lara after they divorced.

The Watsons were married less than two months prior to the shooting, and divorce proceedings have been initiated.

Lorrin, now 40, attended the trial. He sustained brain damage and his vision, memory, speech and sense of feeling are impaired, prosecutors said.

Watson was placed on leave by the Broken Arrow Fire Department after the shooting. He eventually lost his job.

Bill Braun 581-8455
billbraun@tulsaworld.com