

A 19-year-old man who broke into more than a dozen cars during a week in August pleaded guilty Tuesday to 16 felonies in Miller County, Ark.

Delma Jatavion Jefferson stole two guns and a debit card from the 13 cars he broke into Aug. 21 through Aug. 24, according to court records. Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Chuck Black said Jefferson initially denied his guilt but decided to accept a plea bargain after being confronted with the statements of witnesses and his image on home-video surveillance footage collected during the investigation of the thefts, many of which occurred in the Sugar Hill area of Texarkana, Ark.

Many of the cars Jefferson were rifled through without any property taken. Handguns were stolen from two victims and one other victim reported the theft of a wallet with a debit card inside. Jefferson was arrested Aug. 28 by the Texarkana, Ark., Police Department and has been in custody since.

As part of his plea agreement, Jefferson was sentenced to six years in prison on each of three counts of theft of property. Those terms will run concurrently. For each of 13 counts of breaking and entering, Jefferson received six-year suspended terms. The suspended sentences will begin when Jefferson is released from prison on parole or after serving the full six-year prison term.

Jefferson pleaded guilty to all 16 felonies with the help of Texarkana lawyer Robert Witterstaetter at a hearing before Miller County Circuit Judge Kirk Johnson. Jefferson also has a pending criminal case in Bowie County, Texas.

Jefferson pleaded guilty in June to evading arrest with a vehicle and received a five-year term of probation. Following his arrest in August by authorities in Miller County, probation officials filed a motion to revoke his felony probation in Bowie County. A warrant remains active for Jefferson's arrest in the Texas case.