

Man guilty in drug case

Jury recommends 13-year sentence

BY CHRIS DUMOND
cdumond@newsadvance.com
(434) 385-5531

A jury recommended a 13-year sentence for a Lynchburg man found guilty Monday in a drug case stemming from a May 2010 homicide on Floyd Street.



Lewis

Frederick Lewis, 31, was convicted of distribution of cocaine and possession of ammunition by a convicted felon. The jury found him not guilty of a charge of witness intimidation.

Lewis was arrested on the first two charges on May 22, two days after Derrick Lee Payne was killed in a shootout next door to Lewis' home on the 1700 block of Floyd Street. According to testimony in earlier hearings, police set

up a drug buy between Lewis and a police informant with the hope it would lead to a warrant that would allow them to search his home for evidence in the homicide.

He has not been charged in connection with Payne's slaying, although the investigation remains ongoing, according to police and Lewis' attorney, Melvin Hill.

"We're clearly disappointed in the jury's verdict, specifically as it relates to the sentence," Hill said after the trial.

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