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Casey Crowther admits to faking bank statements, PPP fraud trial moves forward

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LEE COUNTY, Fla. — Southwest Florida businessman Casey Crowther entered a guilty plea for two federal charges stemming from accusations of using COVID-19 relief funds to buy a waterfront house and a boat.

ilty to

Last year, Target Roofing, Crowther's business, applied for a PPP loan in an effort to keep their business stable during the pandemic. The loan was approved and Target Roofing received more than \$2 million from the federal government.

With the guilty plea, Crowther takes responsibility for creating fake bank statements so he could be approved by a lender for a \$640,381 mortgage. The mortgage was used to buy a home in St. James City. He also takes responsibility for depositing more than \$1 million of PPP funding into his own bank account, to make the lender believe he had the money for a down payment on the home when in reality he did not have the cash.

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These guilty pleas come with a penalty of up to 30 years in prison and a \$1 million fine.

Crowther still faces five federal charges, including separate instances of bank fraud, false statement to lending institution and illegal monetary transaction. Jury selection for those charges is expected to wrap up sometime this week.

The businessman is also accused of using the federal funding to buy a 40-foot catamaran. Crowther's attorney has maintained his innocence, claiming the charges are a misrepresentation of the situation.

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