

A West Salem man accused of killing his parents for their money was in bad financial shape two years ago, according to an accountant speaking at his trial.

That picture of Eric Koula is in sharp contrast to the defense claim that Eric had lots of money available and very few debts. Today, attorney Jim Koby asked accountant Mary Jo Werner if Eric could have borrowed money against his pickup truck or other vehicles he owned in 2010. Werner says auto loan businesses probably would have turned him down, because of their loan conditions, requiring customers to have a steady paycheck.

Investigators say Koula lost large amounts of money in stock trading, was not working, and was behind on his bills when his parents were murdered. The day after the shootings, Eric cashed a \$50,000 check from his father which police think was forged.