



Investigator: Gene Rambo
Title: Aviation Accident Investigator
Division: OAS, Eastern Region

Date: 22 May 2026

Subject: ERA26LA058, Inspection of Brakes and Tailwheel

Contact: Eric Muro, TPA FSDO, Eric.M.Muro@FAA.Gov

The pilot reported that on takeoff roll the airplane drifted off the left side of the runway and that he was unable to correct the drift with control inputs. He stated that there were no failures or malfunctions found during his preflight or runup. The pilot reported a light crosswind from the right at the time of the takeoff. The pilot was unsure, but questioned whether the brakes or the tailwheel had caused or contributed to the deviation.

Following the accident, an FAA inspector examined the airplane's brakes and tailwheel and found no discrepancies. The inspector stated that he had the wheels lifted off the ground one at a time and the wheels spun freely with no binding or brake dragging. The airplane does not have differential braking but applies both brakes simultaneously. He said that the pilot stated that the brakes were not sufficient to prevent movement at full power on the ground. He examined the tailwheel and found that it operated freely and functioned properly.