

Securing County Facilities

Marathon County, WI

Lieutenant Tim Burkholder

Why Did We Secure our Courthouse?

Known security concerns.

- Unscreened access to courthouse through multiple entrance points.
- Spring 2017 incidents in community and courthouse focused attention on Courthouse Security.
- Concerns from judges, defense attorneys, prosecutors, courthouse staff
- "Copy Cat" incident, threats to staff, weapons in courthouse

Security Related Incidents

March 22, 2017

Rothschild, Wisconsin shooting

1. 12:59 p.m. Marathon Savings Bank
2. 1:10 p.m. Law firm Tlusty, Kennedy and Dirks
3. 1:30 p.m. Aspen Street Apartments

April 5, 2017

Gun holster incident prompts action on Marathon County courthouse security. Courthouse on lockdown.

What did this prompt?

- Court Security Unit Expansion
- Screening Equipment
- Policy and Procedures for all Courthouse staff
- Implementation of Security Protocols
- Area re-design

Work with County Board

- Meetings with Public Safety Committee
 - Requested recommendations for enhancement of security
 - Attended by county employees and state employees requesting enhanced security
 - Input from family members of employees
- Concerns by local attorney's
- Cost estimates based upon options
- Full County Board Meeting/Education
- Collaboration with US Marshall's Office

Court Security Unit Expansion

January 2017

- 2 full-time deputies
- 4 part-time deputies
- Patrol lieutenant liaison to Court Security

August 2017

- Patrol lieutenant moved to Court Security
- 2 full-time deputies
- 13 part-time deputies

June 2019

- Patrol lieutenant
- 4 full-time deputies
- 7 part-time deputies

Part-Time (Reserve Deputy)

- Mixture of experienced, retired law enforcement officers and new deputies.
- All sworn with law enforcement authority.
- Trained for both Court Security and Patrol responsibilities.
 - Receive court specific training both in courtroom as well as screening point.
 - Not “Security Guards”
 - Subject to same hiring process as full-time (background, psych, etc.)

Screening Equipment

- X-ray
- Magnetometer
- Hand wands

Courthouse Access

- Dependent upon job classification
- Job classification determines access to specific doors at same times
- After hours access for those who don't normally have 24/7 access if facilitated through an online request process.

Implementation of Security Protocols

- Employee Education
 - Multiple sessions detailing new process and what to expect
 - Active Shooter Response presentation for all staff
 - Gradual implementation (slow roll-out)

- Public Education and Notification
 - Media information
 - Signage at courthouse
 - Social Media/Website information

Project Timeline/ Costs

- Approved April/May 2017
- Construction/Modifications began June 2017
- Education to staff June-July 2017
- Slow phase in of security measures August 2017
- Full implementation September 2017
- Cost for construction project approximately \$300,000
 - \$150,000 ADA Ramp
 - \$120,000 Keycard access updates across facility, office construction, etc.
 - \$30,000 glass enclosure
- Annual additional cost for security personnel at the time was approximately \$125,000

Questions?

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