Public Safety

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



Green Township Police Department

From Dealership to Duty-Ready: Green Township PD's Storage Overhaul

The Green Township Police Department had been working out of a former car dealership since 1991. That space was never meant to support a modern police force, and it showed. So, when Green Township PD got the green light for a brand-new station, they saw it as more than a building project. It was a rare shot at getting things right, not just for today, but for the next 30 years.

THE PROBLEM

By the time Captain Mitch Hill joined the force in 2005, the locker room was already full. *"I started in a locker that was in a hallway,"* he said. Two decades later, not much had changed. The department had nearly doubled in size, and officers were still making do with stopgap solutions.

"We didn't have space for lockers or offices, and our property area was full," said Captain Hill. *"We had really maxed out everything we could out of this building. We'd almost doubled in size, so we had a significant number of problems as far as space-related issues."*

The pass-through evidence lockers were routinely maxed out after long weekends. Gear for the SWAT team was stashed wherever there was room: on top of shelves, under benches, tucked into corners. Even refrigerated evidence was stored in a dorm fridge secured with a padlock.

So, when Green Township PD finally got the go-ahead to build a new police station, they weren't just chasing more square footage. They were chasing breathing room — breathing room that would hold up for decades to come.

"This is a once-in-a-career thing," said Captain Hill. *"New police departments don't come along all that often, and when you've got one, you're stuck with it for 30 years. So, we really wanted to make sure we did it right and did it right the first time."*

ABOUT THE CLIENT

Green Township is the second-largest township in Ohio and the second-largest jurisdiction in Hamilton County, home to Cincinnati. Its new police station includes two holding cells, a community room, a video redaction suite, and a modern crime lab, all designed to serve more than 60,000 residents.

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Captain Mitch Hill, Green Township Police Department

THE SOLUTION

You only get one shot to build a new police station. Green Township PD wasn't about to wing it.

They wanted to build a future-proof home base. One that could keep up with their team, their growth, and their mission. That meant no more short-term fixes. No more gear crammed onto shelves or lockers shoved into hallways. This was the department's shot to solve problems for good.

Captain Hill detailed their biggest pain points: *"Making sure we had enough evidence storage for the future, making sure our lockers could handle all the property we get…we wanted solutions that would meet our needs for now, but also for the foreseeable future,"* he said. *"We're not going to get to do this again anytime soon."*

They brought in Patterson Pope early — before the first shovel hit the ground — to help design a storage system that worked for now and for whatever was next. P2 Rep Gordon Kwiecinski walked the old building, got a feel for the pain points, and started mapping out options.

"We got to design all the critical areas for the PD," said Gordon. *"Including the locker rooms, the evidence room, temporary evidence storage, and the armory, as well as the Sally Port gun lockers and SWAT team facility."*

(cont.)





"Tour some other places that seem to have got it right. Go out and take a look and see what's out there in the market. You might find that there's products and options you don't even know exist."

Captain Mitch Hill, Green Township Police Department

The new setup replaced make-do shelving with high-density mobile systems and tall vertical storage. *"That high-density system helped us greatly increase our capacity,"* said Captain Hill. *"Along with the tall shelving units…those two things combined at least doubled our effective storage space."*

The pass-through locker system was redesigned with expanded capacity to handle large amounts of evidence and busy weekends. SWAT gear, once stacked wherever it could fit, now lives in properly fitted lockers. And the evidence room added refrigerated lockers near the lab to improve the chain of custody and day-to-day efficiency.

Throughout the entire process, the approach was collaborative and hands-on: *"I felt I could always talk to Gordon, and run some ideas by him,"* said Captain Hill. *"And I feel like I got some honest, good advice. He walked us through every stage; he stayed involved from the very beginning when we were just planning this new building, and he came out during construction."*

From the first tour to the final install, it was a partnership built on getting things right the first time.









"We'll have things come up over the next decades that we don't even know about yet. But from where we're sitting today, I think we've positioned ourselves very well going forward."

Captain Mitch Hill, Green Township Police Department

THE OUTCOME

It didn't hit all at once. But the moment the gear was unpacked and the systems clicked into place, Captain Hill knew they'd done it right. *"Now that we're here and I see it, we have plenty of space," he said. "Everything's settled. Everything's in its place. Everything's functioning."*

For the first time in decades, every piece of equipment had a spot. From evidence intake to SWAT gear storage, everything worked the way it should. The systems flowed. The layout made sense. *"I have a locker now, and it's in a locker room, and it can hold all my equipment,"* said Captain Hill.

Refrigerated evidence lockers now sit right across from the processing lab. SWAT gear is secured and easy to grab. And property comes in straight from the garage, ready to be logged or examined, no backtracking required. Officers can spend less time hunting for things and more time doing their jobs. *"It's created quite a bit of efficiencies,"* said Captain Hill.

And it's not just about now. The new building is designed to handle what's next — whatever that turns out to be.

"(The building) looks like it'll meet our needs for decades, and that was the goal," Captain Hill said. *"We'll have things come up over the next decades that we don't even know about yet. We'll make those modifications as they come. But from where we're sitting today, I think we've positioned ourselves very well going forward."*



