

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



Evidence Storage Problems Arrested at Moore County Sheriff's Office

CHALLENGE

Prior to moving into the brand new Rick Rhyne Public Safety Center, the Moore County (NC) Sheriff's Office stored all its evidence in an extremely tight room that measured just 12 feet by 12 feet. Standard shelving – along with some homemade additions – was forced to accommodate evidence of all types. It was all stored together in the one small space.

"We had shelves built from the floor to the ceiling and we had evidence piled on top of evidence," said Moore County Sheriff Neil Godfrey. "No matter how hard the evidence custodians worked, finding adequate room for everything was a definite challenge."

SOLUTION

Moving to the newly constructed evidence area in the Rhyne Center increased storage space from 144 square feet to approximately 1000, creating a larger workable canvas. Central to devising, planning and installing the right solution was continuous and open communication. *"We met with individuals from various departments as we went through the entire process,"* said Patterson Pope Sales Representative Les Galloway. *"We wanted to make sure they got exactly what they needed, and Sheriff Godfrey gave us the time we needed."*

Those discussions proved fruitful. To make the most efficient use of the new space, planners utilized a mixture of products – including shelving, drawers and lockers – to better accommodate the different evidence types. There's even a special section where inmates' personal items are safely stored during their incarceration.

Products used include:

- » Spacesaver Eclipse Powered Mobile
- » Spacesaver Shelving
- » Rousseau Wide-Span Shelving
- » Rousseau Drawers
- » Oblique Garment Rails
- » Spacesaver Universal Weapons Racks
- » Penco Lockers

"We needed areas to store long guns and pistols. We needed locked compartments in which we could store valuables. We needed areas for evidence stored in heavy, bulky boxes. We also needed areas where we could store larger things like tires and doors – larger items that had been seized," said Sheriff Godfrey. *"The new design satisfies all of those needs."*



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ACHIEVEMENT

"If we hadn't done this," said Sheriff Godfrey, "we wouldn't have the different components for storing evidence like we have now – the way we have weapons stored, the way we have valuables, and then the way we are allowed to store large items of evidence. It's been a huge change. A terrific change."

The new installation not only allows for more material storage but facilitates better organization and therefore tracking, as well. The installation has helped evidence custodians have more control over developing their own storage system. The improved organization means that proper chain of custody is always

assured – which in turn leads to the best possible outcomes at trial.

Here and everywhere, what law enforcement professionals do is serious business. The installation completed at the Moore County Sheriff's Office is clear evidence of the merit of strong relationships. Working together as a team, Moore County's finest and Patterson Pope were able to pool their expertise and devise a winning strategy.

"In public safety storage especially, efficiency and effectiveness are the name of the game," added Galloway.

