

# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



## Locust Grove Police Department

New Public Safety Building Brings Fresh Look and Fresh Commitment

### CHALLENGE

The Locust Grove Police Department serves a population of approximately 6,000 in a small town about 40 miles outside Atlanta. After leaving City Hall in 2007, the department called various locations its "headquarters." In its most recent location – a collection of three small buildings – evidence intake, processing and storage were a challenge. Items were logged in at one location, processed in another, and stored in a third.

With only one individual charged with maintaining the entire collection of evidence – of all kinds – in a 500 square foot space, adequate storage, security and accessibility became an issue.

*"Our evidence storage situation was creating some chain-of-custody issues for our team, and really, we just knew it was time to modernize,"* said Police Chief Jesse Patton

### SOLUTION

With the help of the Locust Grove City Council, architects and engineers, the Locust Grove Police Department and the Municipal Court decided to build a new, state-of-the-art building that would house both vital functions. Getting in on the early stages of planning was Patterson Pope. Their similar work done for other public safety institutions in the region had garnered the attention of city leadership and of Chief Patton in particular.

*"I was – and I think we all were – really pleased with just how down to earth they were,"* said Chief Patton. *"Patterson Pope listened to what we wanted and made sure that those opinions counted. Their willingness to listen and their openness to what we had to say was very rewarding."*

Getting in on the design from the ground floor allowed Patterson Pope to work with the client

to come up with ideal solutions at every turn. They included Spacesaver shelving and five ranges of mechanical-assist high-density mobile shelving in the main evidence storage room, evidence lockers (standard and refrigerated) in the evidence intake area, along with shelving with Universal Weapons Rack (UWR) Doors for storage of more sensitive evidence. Rousseau drawers, rack shelving with bicycle hooks and Personal Duty Lockers were also installed.

In the front part of the police department, Hamilton Casework was used for copy/mail stations, and laboratory area casework with solid surfaces. Through KI, the department also received office furniture (i.e., desks, lateral file cabinets, bookcases, conference room tables, work tables, breakroom tables, and various seating).

A new space meant an opportunity for a renewed vision



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Jessee Patton  
Police Chief  
Locust Grove Police Department

## ACHIEVEMENT

*“The big thing is the versatility of all this stuff. You can upgrade things and make it fit what you need it to do,”* said Locust Grove City Manager Tim Young, who helped oversee the project. *“We’re very happy with it. I think we felt like vagabonds for so many years. To finally have a place to call home – and to have it feel so good and be so functional, really feels like a win.”*

*“With this project, I really enjoyed the cooperation and the input,”* added Chief Patton. *“This building has an historic look on the outside, but inside is incredibly modern. And everything is so organized and functional now. The expandability in that evidence room is*

*endless – from the storage areas to the lab. It can be smaller or it can be larger. If we need to add refrigeration units, we can. That flexibility is a real perk.”*

Chief Patton is happy to be enjoying his department’s new digs.

*“The whole process was fairly easy,”* he said. *“There are always challenges of one kind or another, but in the end, we feel as though we’d achieved all our goals. Patterson Pope played a big role in that.”*

Said with conviction, don’t you think?

