

# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



## Forest Park Police Department

### Doing Justice to Police Department's Storage Needs

*Police officers are committed to protecting quality of life and preventing crime in their community. The job also requires processing a high volume of evidence. Storing everything from drugs, guns and money to sexual assault kits or lost property can be an administrative and organizational challenge. This Ohio police department turned to Patterson Pope to improve its processes and streamline its storage space.*

#### THE PROBLEM

*"We're pretty busy. We take in a lot of property,"* said Detective Phil Crowley, the officer in charge of the department's property room. *"It was pretty tough to find things. It got unorganized really quickly."*

Stuck in a small, older space, the department had issues with accessibility and chain of custody. The storage solution in place for decades saw officers placing property or crucial evidence in plastic bins on metal office shelving for processing. This did little to secure or preserve sensitive materials. Plus, keeping

track of where to find evidence or property again for a court date or release following police procedures was challenging.

After attending a conference on evidence best practices, Crowley decided an evidence room upgrade was necessary. The department invested in new technology to track property and evidence to increase security and accountability. At the same time, it needed to evolve its physical storage space.

#### THE SOLUTION

The department turned to Patterson Pope to design and build new storage for its expanded space. The department turned over a second room in its building to house evidence. Adding high density mobile storage in addition to stationary shelving that took advantage of vertical space helped the department nearly triple its available space. Plus, Patterson Pope was able to customize an evidence pass-thru locker to fit the available space.

With Patterson Pope's storage solution, the police department:

- » Gained space to divide evidence areas for easier management
- » Improved security of its evidence processing drop-off
- » Added ability to keep biological samples in refrigeration beginning at drop-off through to long-term storage
- » Increased ease of access with mobile high-density storage
- » Nearly tripled room for storage by taking advantage of vertical storage space too



**Watch Now**  
P2 Talks Public Safety Video

**“There’s plenty of room to grow, which is great because we do take in a lot of property. Upgrading storage with Patterson Pope was definitely the way to go.”**

Detective Phil Crowley  
Forest Park Police Department

## THE OUTCOME

This suburban Cincinnati town police department has improved its property and evidence practices from drop-off to storage to eventual release, disposal or destruction.

Patterson Pope’s account executive Gordon Kwiecinski and our design team didn’t just maximize the storage space, they helped design the evidence drop-off space as well. So, in a room adjoining the evidence storage, police officers can process property or evidence, enter information into the computerized tracking system, package the items appropriately, and then deposit the packages in a locked pass-thru locker.

On the other side of the wall, property officers can access the separated, tracked evidence and properly store it for future use. The mechanical assist mobile storage means officers can work in a wide aisle when dealing with certain types of storage, but enjoy more room to move around when those aisles are not in use.

Plus, each category of evidence has its own distinct area of storage, and with room to grow. Property that could be collected or be returned has its own area too. That all makes it easier to find what’s needed and keep track of when things should be released, disposed of or destroyed.

*“This system allows us to easily locate things” Crowley said. Plus, “the whole system has allowed us to make the most of the space that we do have.”*

We don’t need a badge to do the work we do, but Patterson Pope is proud of helping public safety officers perform their duties more efficiently, with greater morale. It’s a lot easier to protect and serve with the stuff organized.

## ABOUT THE CLIENT

This 38-person police department is focused on crime prevention in suburban Cincinnati, Ohio. Since 1961, this department has been pursuing its mission to improve quality of life, develop a safe community and reduce crime in its community.

