



Historic Court House Gets Modern Security Measures

If you check the register of historic buildings in Washington State, you will find the Franklin County Court House. With its shining copper dome, it's a beautiful example of the traditional county seat facility you'll find almost anywhere in the US.

When the county launched an \$11 million renovation and restoration project, they were faced with the need to preserve the building's historic appearance while incorporating 21st century security technology.

Old Meets New

The court house campus actually includes three buildings: The 1912 court house, jail, and the public safety building/911 call center.

"This was a real example of old meets new," says Ralph Lynch, President of Advanced Protection Services, Inc. of Pasco, Washington. "The public and employees were used to just strolling in and out. In today's environment, that clearly won't work. We had to put a lock on the facility, controlling and screening visitors just like at the airport."

"But telling the tax payers that they couldn't enter through the front court house steps, to the building they just paid for, was not an option," counters Kevin Scott, Director of Information Services for Franklin County, and the person who led the security system design and implementation.

"Our first and biggest problem was how to secure a historic building with so many entrances. Buildings from that period were built to encourage free access. Buildings today are built with security in mind, with one main point of entry.

"Adding to the problem was the fact that it was a historical building with lots of stone and marble," Lynch adds. "You couldn't just start drilling holes and running cable. We were limited in what we could do inside the building."

Surrounded by Security

To provide strong security with freedom to move once

inside the facility, their solution was to secure the entire campus with sensor fencing around the perimeter.

"Once through the one-and-only security check point, visitors can go wherever needed to conduct their business," Scott says.

Fence security was enhanced with a perimeter photo tower, part of a 64-camera surveillance system. Some cameras are triggered when duress alarms are activated to route the signal for recording by a super-high-resolution video system.

"We were able to bring together security, access control, duress alarms, and video surveillance in a single, robust solution."

Kevin Scott

"If you climb over the fence it trips a sensor that triggers a series of events," says Lynch. "An alarm is transmitted to the monitoring center, while the system directs a camera to spin to the site of the alarm, zoom in and initiate high-quality video recording of the event."

Aside from the intrusion and access control components of the system, Lynch also installed over 50 panic alarms. "We had them installed in most County offices," Scott says, "especially where money is handled or there's potential for volatile encounters with citizens. We also have them in each courtroom so that judges or clerks can summon help if there's an emergency."

The new system replaced the three standalone systems that used to protect each of the facilities. Because they were separate systems, all credentials and schedules had to be programmed three times.

"We installed a single DMP XR500N Command Processor™ panel to do the job," says Lynch. "We were able to create an integrated system combining nearly a half dozen sub-systems, and the DMP technology sits right in the middle managing it all.

"Almost every project changes during the planning and installation," Lynch admits, "but this project really morphed into a bigger and different system than originally conceived. It was almost an evolutionary process. But we knew going in that the XR500N was a capable panel. I had a checklist of things we needed for the Franklin County installation.

I went down the list and said 'It can do that, it can do that, and it can do that.' Especially important were its access control features. They were a bit clunky on the other panels we considered."

Network Connections Enhance Security

Like all DMP panels, the XR500N includes network capability, and it was put to good use. All three campus buildings devices, as well as access control and intrusion detection at two remote locations, are connected via the network to the county's external security building and onsite 911 call center. Using a network enabled the system to operate largely through existing cabling, avoiding the time and expense ...and damage to the historic building ... required to drill holes and pull new cable.

The new system accelerated the alarm response time. "In the past there was a multi-step process before an alarm was processed," Lynch says. "Now they have visible and audible annunciation in real time."

Multiple Benefits From a Single System

Aside from wrapping his campus in a boundary of stronger security, Scott says that bringing all aspects of security management into a single, unified solution has been a real time saver.

"Now we can manage everything as one, integrated system," Scott says. "The DMP solution has been very easy to learn and support. Using DMP System Link™ for programming, account management (adds, moves, changes), and daily use of the access control and security features has exceeded our expectations for ease of use."

"They had no problem learning how to use the system," Lynch says. "They caught right on, mostly because we designed the system to make it simple and seamless for the customer. DMP technology helped us keep it simple."

"As the project progressed," Lynch recalls, "they continued to think of features that they wanted to add, or change the way some of the features would work. The DMP panel had the flexibility to accommodate everything they wanted. The panel is pretty well maxed out now, but there was nothing

they asked for that we couldn't do, including some things it was really never meant to do. That's why we only use DMP panels."



Franklin County Court House - 1912



"DMP dealers are technically capable," says Rob Bayless, the DMP Northwest Regional Sales Manager. "But Ralph and

his team at Advanced Protection Services were really able to use the full spectrum of DMP features in this installation. Advanced Protection is the perfect fit for DMP in that they can handle most any project and know how to use our innovative products and features to provide a cost-effective, total security solution."

A Revolutionary Solution

Lynch proudly describes the Franklin County installation as "revolutionary."

"This was a very complex installation," Scott says, "but everywhere we implemented a DMP solution we had little or no trouble. We were able to bring together security, access control, duress alarms, and video surveillance in a single, robust solution providing our county with rock solid security for our facilities."

Based on the success of the installation, the County is already considering further system expansion.

"The County is looking at adding the DMP Entré Business software to provide greater control over the existing campus system, along with other enhancements," Lynch says. "With the installation of XR500N panels at some additional off-campus buildings, Entré will also let them extend their centralized security and access control system to include other county facilities."

Equipment List

- XR500N panel Command Processor™ Panel
- DMP System Link™ End User Management Software
- 50 Duress Alarms
- 64 Camera Recording Video Surveillance System

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