



SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

SHERIFF'S OFFICE
GARY STEED
Sheriff

141 WEST ELM * WICHITA, KANSAS 67203 * TELEPHONE: (316) 383-7264 * FAX: (316) 660-3248

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOVEMBER 23, 2005

AGENCY

SEDGWICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

LOCATION:

WICHITA/SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

TELEPHONE:

(316) 383-7264

CONTACT:

SHERIFF GARY E. STEED

SHERIFF GARY STEED ANNOUNCES THAT FOURTEEN (14) DESIGNATED CELLS ARE NOW EQUIPPED TO ALLOW REMOTE MONITORING BY VIDEO CAMERAS. THE INTENT IS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS TO POTENTIALLY SUICIDAL INMATES IN THE SEDGWICK COUNTY DETENTION FACILITY. THIS SYSTEM WILL ENHANCE THE ABILITY OF THE DETENTION STAFF TO MONITOR POTENTIALLY SUICIDAL INMATES. PREVIOUSLY SUCH INMATES WERE ONLY MONITORED PHYSICALLY AT LEAST ONCE EVERY FIFTEEN (15) MINUTES. ON AVERAGE, THIRTEEN (13) INMATES PER DAY ARE MONITORED FOR POSSIBLE SUICIDE CONDITIONS IN THE SEDGWICK COUNTY DETENTION FACILITY.

M-O-R-E

IN 2004, THERE WERE THREE SUCCESSFUL SUICIDES IN THE DETENTION FACILITY AND FORTY ATTEMPT SUICIDES. THIS WAS WITH AN AVERAGE DAILY INMATE POPULATION OF 1,387 AND A TOTAL OF 30,157 PEOPLE BOOKED INTO THE FACILITY. FOR THE YEAR-TO-DATE ENDING OCTOBER 31ST, 2005, THERE HAVE BEEN NO SUCCESSFUL SUICIDES AND TWENTY-SIX ATTEMPT SUICIDES. THIS IS WITH AN AVERAGE DAILY INMATE POPULATION OF 1,470 AND 27,349 PEOPLE BOOKED INTO JAIL.

THE VIDEO MONITORING SYSTEM WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH FUNDS FROM A FEDERAL EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL STATE & LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (BYRNE) GRANT AND THE SEDGWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS. THE TOTAL COST OF THE SYSTEM WAS SIXTEEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$16,500.00). TWELVE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$12,375.00) WAS FROM THE BYRNE MEMORIAL GRANT WITH FOUR THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$4,175.00) PROVIDED BY SEDGWICK COUNTY.

THE SHERIFF WILL HOLD A MEDIA BRIEFING ON THIS TOPIC TODAY, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23ND, 2005 AT 11:00 A.M. THE BRIEFING WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE DETENTION ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE ROOM, 141 W. ELM, WICHITA, KS. A DVD WILL BE SUPPLIED TO THE MEDIA AT THIS BRIEFING, SHOWING THE SYSTEM IN ACTUAL USE IN THE SEDGWICK COUNTY DETENTION FACILITY.

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