



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

August 31, 2005

AGENCY

SEDGWICK COUNTY SHERIFF' OFFICE

LOCATION:

WICHITA/SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

TELEPHONE:

(316) 383-7264

CONTACT:

SHERIFF GARY STEED

ON AUGUST 31, 2005 THE SEDGWICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE COMPLETED THE INSTALLATION OF TWELVE ADDITIONAL BEDS IN THE SEDGWICK COUNTY WORK RELEASE FACILITY LOCATED AT 701 WEST HARRY WICHITA, KANSAS. THE INTENT IS THE ADDITIONAL BEDS WILL REDUCE THE NUMBER OF INMATES CURRENTLY HOUSED IN THE MAIN FACILITY OR ARE HOUSED OUT OF COUNTY DUE TO OVERCROWDING.

THE FIRST WORK RELEASE CENTER OPERATED BY THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE OPENED IN 1988 WITH ONE HUNDRED AND TWO BEDS. IN 2003 THIS WAS EXPANDED TO ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-FIVE BEDS.

M - O - R - E

WITH THE CURRENT ADDITION OF TWELVE BEDS, THE HOUSING CAPACITY OF THE WORK RELEASE CENTER IS AT A MAXIMUM. THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL TO ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-SEVEN BEDS.

WHILE THE WORK RELEASE PROGRAM WAS ORIGINALLY DESIGNED TO HOUSE ONLY THOSE INMATES SENTENCED ON MISDEMEANOR CHARGES, THIS HAS BEEN EXPANDED TO INCLUDE CONVICTED TRAFFIC FELONS THAT ARE HOUSED IN A COUNTY JAIL RATHER THAN PRISON AS A RESULT OF CHANGES IN STATE LAW.

IN 2004 THE WAITING LIST CLIMBED AS HIGH AS THIRTY-FIVE INMATES WHO WERE ON THE LIST FOR AS LONG AS TWO WEEKS. CURRENTLY THERE ARE SIXTEEN INMATES ON THE WAITING LIST.

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