

Police Station Will Get New Cameras

■ *Old Ones No Longer Supported*

By Joe Barker
Assistant Managing Editor

The Washington Police Department headquarters is getting some upgrades.

The next phase of electronic improvements to the city's public safety building recently was approved by the city council. The building will be rewired and new cameras installed.

Last year, the city awarded a contract to Eckelkamp Electric Co. to conduct the electric work for the booking room at a cost of \$4,770. Earlier this year, the city again reached a deal with Eckelkamp Electric to rewire the whole building.

Police Chief Ed Menefee said the work was needed to meet the needs of modern technology.

Menefee said the wiring and cables for the old system were original to the building that opened in 2006. As technology has advanced, the current setup doesn't work with newer equipment.

The city had plans to upgrade to new cameras, but couldn't with the original wiring.

"The camera system we have needs to be replaced," Menefee said. "The cameras aren't serviced anymore. The software is no longer being

supported. As of right now, we have nine cameras that are not functioning."

The chief said the city has to upgrade because it can't replace the broken cameras. If another camera goes out, it has to stay out.

NOC Technology recently was awarded the contract for the new cameras. Menefee said Eckelkamp is waiting and ready to go once the cameras are in place.

Some of the new cameras will be "globe" style, Menefee said. Officers will be able to access the cameras from their cars.

Menefee said this is ideal whenever an officer needs to do an inmate check. The officer can simply pull up the camera and observe to see if everything is normal.

The new cameras also will have better audio and video quality.

The deal with NOC Technology was for \$15,843.63 for 36 cameras. The price includes a rack station, server, software, programming and installation. The server will cost \$1,600.

The city contracts with NOC for IT needs, making it the ideal company to work with, Menefee said. He said the company is familiar with the department's system and setup.

"It's silly to have someone from the outside come and do it," he said.

The deal with Eckelkamp from earlier this year was for \$17,425. Menefee said the total project was budgeted for \$30,425 meaning with the two contracts, the project was \$1,235 over budget.

The project in the booking room was intended to make the area safer for officers after they make an arrest and book a person into the holding cells. The project, finished last year, cost \$13,210.50, however there was \$12,000 budgeted, Menefee said.

The chief said \$1,310.50 will be moved from the inmate fund to make up for the difference, and any additional costs during the remodel.

There is a \$2 fee from each ticket issued by Washington police that goes into the inmate fund. Money from the fund has not been used for several years.

Menefee said the jail will be down for some time while the installation takes place. The inmates will be taken to the Franklin County Adult Detention Center.

Menefee called the project a "little interruption."



Receives Elks Scholarship

Robbie Adkins, second from right, received the Donald C. Conrad Special Needs Scholarship Saturday, March 7, at the annual Washington Elks Banquet. From left, are Casey Stick, exalted ruler; Paul Henderson, Elks member; Adkins and his mother Sherry.

Missourian Photo.

Park Board Discusses Changing Meeting Time

By Kristen Dragotto
Missourian Staff Writer

Concerns were raised at the Washington Park Board meeting last Wednesday night in regard to the information flow between the board and city council.

At the February meeting, Councilman Jeff Patke, liaison for the council, proposed moving the meeting. The park board currently meets the first Wednesday of the month.

Patke suggested the board might benefit from having its meetings later in the month. Board members wanted more time to think about the idea.

Parks and Recreation Director Wayne Dunker told the board he discussed the idea with City Administrator Darren Lamb and both feel the current schedule is working fine.

Park board member Tessie Steffens said the suggestion was made so the board would be informed on issues coming before the city council, rather than being told after the fact. Steffens said Jackie

Miller recently was honored by the city council for her donation of land for the Miller Post Trail.

"We knew nothing about that," she said.

Gavin Wooley, park board member, said another example is the council approving an equipment purchase that the board was unaware of.

Dunker explained that equipment purchases are budgeted items and often need to be acted on sooner, rather than later.

"The concern is that by bringing it to the board it has the potential of slowing things down," he said.

Steffens expressed her concern of not knowing about park-related happenings and issues.

"There are times

when things come up that we do not know and are asked about," she said. "I don't care when the meeting is and I think you do a good job, but these things do sometimes come up."

Councilman Nick Obermark, liaison for city council, said these types of concerns seem to be the exception, not the rule of the normal flow of information to the board.

The park board ultimately decided to leave the date the same and if needed will rediscuss the issue at a future meeting.

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Presenters for Parent Summit Being Sought

■ *Sponsored by School District*

The Washington School District will host its inaugural Parent Summit in November and is looking for presenters.

The Parent Summit will take place Tuesday, Nov. 17, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Washington High School.

School officials said

the summit is an opportunity for parents, guardians, caregivers and grandparents to learn more about important topics related to their child's education in a conference-style format.

The summit is an opportunity for parents to learn directly from educators, business leaders and community members about important topics that impact their child's education and social/emotional health.

The district is requesting presentation proposals from teacher experts, community members and others for the Parent Summit.

Volun-Teens

The Washington Public Library is offering volunteer opportunities for teenagers 12 and up on March 11, April 8, and May 15 from 4 to 5 p.m. For more information, call 636-390-1070 or visit www.washmolib.org.

Anyone interested in sharing their knowledge, is asked to submit a proposal by April 3. People should plan for roughly a 45-minute presentation.

More information can be found on the district's website or call 636-231-2000.

Coed Dartball Tournament March 13-14

A coed dartball tournament will be held March 13-14, at St. Vincent de Paul School, Dutzow.

There will be soda, beer and food available for purchase. No outside coolers or outside alcohol, drinks or food will be allowed.

The school is located at 13495 South Highway 94, Marthasville.

For more information or to register a team, call or text Lindsay Kober at 314-852-5692.

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