

CASE STUDY

AURORA MOBILE & SHELVING

KANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
St. Charles, IL

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The Challenges

In 2008, the Kane County Sheriffs Department moved to a new multi-story facility in St. Charles, Illinois, that would house both the department and county jail. During the construction phase requests for bids for storage brought in a variety of local dealers interested in the project including Aurora Dealer Ellis Systems.

The Kane County Sheriffs Department had a severe space shortage in its old facility. Department members resorted to locking essential high-security items in vacant jail cells to cope with the lack of space.

Now the new building would provide an opportunity to organize and consolidate departmental storage, record storage, and evidence storage, plus allow room for growth.

A multitude of different items required specialized storage including hand guns and rifles, regular and oversized evidence, arrest records, inmate records, old records on microfilm, CDs and DVDs, fingerprint cards, booking files, letter and legal files, and 11 x 17 computer print outs.





The Solution

Although there was a basic storage system specified by the architect, Ellis Systems conducted a building walk through after the pre-bid meeting. They pursued a needs assessment with department members to build a list of requirements. This survey allowed them to present the client with several options and produced a better storage solution that was also more cost effective. In total there were three storage areas required and each needed high security.

The evidence room features a locking Aurora Mobile Mechanical Assist system with separate locks on the carriages for hand guns and rifles confiscated at crime scenes. Several challenges facing Ellis Systems were the low ceiling with sprinkler heads and a structural pillar that had to be compensated for in the system design. Extra deep 50" carriages with back to back shelving were used to fit the plastic evidence boxes. An additional bank of free standing Aurora Shelving with locking Quik-Door doors was installed to hold oversized evidence. The new system provides four times the storage capacity for guns and significantly increases evidence storage space. Within the central file room Ellis Systems placed a second Aurora Mobile Mechanical Assist and outfitted select carriages with multiple locking drawers for storing inmate cards, fingerprint cards and microfilm. Other system carriages contain

standard shelving for letter size files and report print outs. Although the system provides plenty of room at this point in time, it can be expanded with additional carriages for future needs. A separate enclosed area within the central file room for high security archives contains Aurora Shelving with Ellis Workfile™ Hanging Compartments.

During installation the Aurora Dealer was faced with a commonplace, but frustrating construction dilemma: no working elevators. Using an industrial fork lift, they picked up the mobile carriages and deposited them over a set of stairs at the building entrance. From that point on the two week installation went smoothly.

Although this project was complicated in terms of accommodating multiple types of media and storage applications, Ellis System put together a well designed solution for the client. Kane County Sheriff's Department went from an antiquated environment with limited storage to a new setting that provides centralized record and evidence storage. With increased efficiency, double the space, and built in spare capacity, the Kane County Sheriff's new system has everyone satisfied.

