

Brandon Sheriff station gets video surveillance

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BY PHIL FOLEY 5-2-08
STAFF REPORTER

ORTONVILLE — Surveillance and interrogation is going 21st century at the Oakland County Sheriff's Office's Brandon Substation.

With \$2,800 from the township's building and maintenance fund, the sheriff's office is installing a computer-based video mon-

itoring system that will keep an eye on the walk way in front of the substation and the parking area behind it as well as allow investigators to digitally record interviews at the substation.

"It's something we've needed for a long time," said Township Supervisor Ron Lapp.

Sgt. Pete Burkett said it's something he's been talking

about since he was first at the substation in 1995 as a detective.

One of the more interesting features of the new system is that it will allow investigators to attach video interviews to reports filed in the sheriff's office's computer system. That, said Burkett will make it easier for deputies to share information with other substations around the county.

Bill Rogers, vice president of Absolute Security and Investigations, said his firm as installed similar sys-

tems in sheriff's substations in Oxford and Independence townships. "I gave 'em a smoking deal," laughed Rogers.

"This is a great tool for investigations. We've needed it for years," said Burkett.

Rogers said that recording at seven frames per second, the substation's security cameras will be able to store a month's worth of data at a time on the computer.

Burkett said the thing is likes about the new system

is that it follows the "KISS (Keep It Simple Sheriff) principal." He said, "There's just one switch to turn it on and off," noting that in the past there have been times when deputies have accidentally erased VHF video tapes or recorded image without sound.

He said the new system will also save time and money by eliminating the need to transport video tapes between substations.

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