

RESOLUTION

We, the undersigned Supervisors, request that the topic of Armed Security at the Courthouse be put on the agenda for discussion by the Full Board. The Resolution has been in Committee for more than six months.

Signature

Print

Craig Gramke

CRAIG GRAMKE

Harv Bull

Harv Bull

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Max Hawthorn

Max Hawthorn

Phil Coburn

Phil Coburn

Rich Bostwick

Rich Bostwick

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RESOLUTION

ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

General Services Committee
INITIATED BY

General Services Committee
SUBMITTED BY



Brent Sutherland –
Director of Facilities Management
DRAFTED BY
February 6, 2019
DATE DRAFTED

Amending the Contract with Global Security Services at the Courthouse

1 **WHEREAS**, January 1, 2019, Rock County entered into a 3-year contract with Global Security
2 Services for unarmed courthouse security officers at a cost of \$216,033.20, and;
3
4 **WHEREAS**, research data shows the number of violent incidents in court buildings has
5 increased dramatically in recent years and continues to rise, and;
6
7 **WHEREAS**, contracted security officers, who are responsible for the screening of all persons
8 entering for weapons, are currently unarmed, and;
9
10 **WHEREAS**, according to National Center for State Courts, best practices for Courthouse
11 Security include providing armed security at the front entrance screening station, and;
12
13 **WHEREAS**, Rock County is amending the current contract to increase the 3-year cost by
14 \$45,784.52, for providing armed officers to conduct security services.
15
16 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly
17 assembled this ____ day of _____, 2019, does hereby approve and authorize
18 amending the total contract with Global Security Services of Davenport, Iowa, to
19 \$261,817.72 for armed security services at the Courthouse screening station, starting April 1,
20 2019:

Respectfully submitted,

GENERAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Hank Brill, Chair

Jeremy Zajac, Vice Chair

Tom Brien

Robert Potter

Yuri Rashkin

19-12A-380

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Amending the Contract with Global Security Services at the Courthouse

FISCAL NOTE:

Sufficient funds were included in the budget for the FY 2019 portion of this contract.



Sherry Oja,
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to secs. 59.01 and 59.51, Wis. Stats. In addition, sec. 59.52(29), Wis. Stats. Requires the project to be let to the lowest responsible bidder.



Richard Greenlee
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Rock County's Vision Statement speaks to the importance of both Service ("Service to the public is our fundamental reason for being") and Safety ("Safety is critical to a high standard of living"). I have several concerns about whether adding contracted security guards strikes the right balance between service and safety.

First, it is important that the Courthouse be seen as a welcoming and inclusive environment where residents who need services are comfortable. I am particularly concerned that disadvantaged populations may negatively perceive the increase in firearms at the front entrance in a way that could inhibit residents' willingness to access needed services.

Second, while the intent would be to put contracted security in a better position to respond to an armed threat, I am concerned that the introduction of firearms to contracted security at the front entrance may also increase the likelihood of an incident. With the many members of the public who must use the Courthouse in less-than-ideal circumstances (e.g., court appearance, paying taxes, child support obligations, complaints, etc.), the opportunity for escalated confrontation with disgruntled residents may increase.

There are other issues that could be considered related to the increased cost of the contract and the timing of implementation in the context of the larger Courthouse security project, but I would consider those secondary to the discussion of the issues noted above.

That being said, it is appropriate for the County Board to exercise its policy authority over this issue.



Josh Smith
County Administrator

Rock County, Wisconsin
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Facilities Management
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Executive Summary

Amending the Contract for Security Services at the Courthouse

The resolution before you is amending the 3-year contract with Global Security Services for security services at the Courthouse building screening station. The current 3-year contract is for \$216,000.20 for unarmed security officers. The contract is being amended to providing armed security officers for a total contract cost of \$261,817.72. This is an increase of \$45,784.52 over the life of the 3-year contract.

These are proactive measures being taken due to the National Center for States Courts reporting the increase in courthouse violent acts and Courthouse Security best practices to provide armed security officers at the front entrance screening station.