

Maintaining small town security with Axis.

The Town of Pepperell uses Axis network cameras to keep municipal buildings and intersections safe.



Organization:

Town of Pepperell

Location:

Pepperell, Massachusetts, USA

Industry segment:

Government

Application:

Safety and security

Axis partner:

Exacq Technologies

Mission

Tasked with monitoring the Police Department building and other local sites, the Town of Pepperell Public Safety Complex sought out a solution that would replace its outdated analog cameras. The analog cameras were bulky and required extensive wiring while providing a low-quality image, all of which were factors for the IT Department to research and pick a new solution.

Solution

Landing on a mix of Axis fixed and network cameras, the Town of Pepperell is able to keep watch of its Police Department building, parking lots, downtown area and government facilities with ease. High definition imagery was a top priority in selecting the cameras, and further capabilities like Axis' Zipstream technology and preset locations made the camera choices even easier.

Result

The Police Department has proclaimed continued success with its Axis camera deployment, relying on an exacqVision VMS and recorder on the backend to streamline the systems across town for the Police Chief, Lieutenant and further staff. The Town appreciates its ability to monitor cameras at all hours, saving resources by not having to send police out to remote sites to check in each night, for instance.

“The cameras just don’t break. They’re there in the summer and winter, in low light and bright light – everything. They always work.”

David Stairs, Communications Director, Town of Pepperell.

Safety is top priority

The Town of Pepperell covers just over 20 square miles, spanning a rural area hovering the border between Massachusetts and New Hampshire. The Public Safety Complex with the Police Department (PD) and dispatch, along with a selection of sites across town, utilize a selection of Axis network cameras to maintain the peaceful and supportive community.

Though cameras are often seen as a strong deterrent, they also play a strong role in the reactive measures to address incidents and crimes. The Public Safety Complex begins with multiple exterior cameras that monitor the public and employee parking lots, street view and booking area of the station. A couple of AXIS M3114-VE Network Cameras provide fixed views of these areas while AXIS Q6032-E PTZ Dome Network Camera provides a flexible option that can pivot and zoom as needed.

In one instance, an officer arriving at the building heard a vehicle speeding by in a “no passing” zone. When the officer asked Town of Pepperell Communications Director David Stairs to review the footage, Stairs found that the AXIS Q6032-E had caught the vehicle and was able to identify its full description and license plate. This led to a citation that would have otherwise been missed.

Guard tour capabilities on the PTZ help to scan the area every hour of the day, while preset locations make controlling the camera on a whim much smoother. If an officer arrives with a prisoner, it is easy for Stairs to pan over to that door and watch the interaction.

Pepperell PD further deploys AXIS 214 PTZ Network Cameras around town, like at the local landfill, sewer and water departments, and one remote location. These cameras allow the PD to monitor after hours and be able to react in case of fire or security issues.

Interviews through a lens

Moving further from the town’s old analog camera system, Stairs decided on AXIS P3225-LV Network

Cameras in the police interrogation and interview rooms for its clear imagery and storage saving capability.

“That camera allows us to have a high definition image of the interview going on,” Stairs explained. “It lets us see the interviewee’s facial and body expressions, which is a big deal. We didn’t have that ability before.

Further, AXIS P3225-LV offers the Pepperell PD an added layer of benefits with its built-in Zipstream technology. “Zipstream allows us to compress interviews much more and save hard drive space,” Stairs commented. “Just to keep a half hour interview can be a ton of bandwidth and hard drive space, so the idea of even more compression excited me. That’s one of the reasons I went with that camera. It was highly recommended for this use and has worked extremely well.”

Bringing it all together

Stairs found a common solution that would allow him to continue using the town’s analog cameras while implementing more IP cameras onto their network. Choosing an exacqVision LC-Series NVR running exacqVision Start, Stairs and the staff have a solution that streamlines both network and analog cameras. There is a history of success with the VMS on this recorder for Pepperell’s PD.

“The NVR allows us to add the analog cameras with the IP ones,” Stairs noted. “And with the software, it’s easy to call up an event with a date and time and all of the camera views pop right up. It’s easy to recall and create DVDs or store information when needed. You can make your own custom profiles and view what cameras you want in view. It’s all very easy.”

At the same time, Stairs runs AXIS Camera Station on a selection of computers along with AXIS Camera Management (ACM). With this combination, Stairs sees a couple of benefits: “I keep ACM running in the background because it allows me to see if a camera dropped off or if I need to update any firmware.”

