Committed to Excellence in Court Security
Online Officer Training
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Online Officer Training
In 2003, a Court Security and Emergency Preparedness Committee was convened by the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) and the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ).

The Committee conducted a survey to determine security needs of state courts and to identify effective practices in the area of court security. An analysis of the survey results produced a framework for addressing court safety and security called *Ten Essential Elements for Court Safety and Security*.

The Arkansas AOC used these elements as the guide for the creation of a statewide security and emergency preparedness program.
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Arkansas Supreme Court

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Supreme Court Committee on Security and Emergency Preparedness

The Committee recommended and Act 576 required:

- The AOC to create the position of Director of Security and Emergency Preparedness
- The AOC to create a state-wide policy and procedure manual
- The AOC to establish a court security grant program
- That every court be provided a certified court security officer anytime court is in session
- The AOC to establish a certification and training program for Court Security Officers
- Every county to create a Local Security and Emergency Preparedness Committee co-chaired by a circuit judge and the county executive officer

$1,955,000
Local Security and Emergency Preparedness

The initial funds for the program were awarded to 66 counties in 2007.

| JAN | All 75 counties were required to submit a plan for the security of their courthouses.
| OCT | 66 counties submitted plans to the Emergency Preparedness and Court Security Committee.
| $150,000 | Each county was awarded an initial grant of $150,000 for the purchase of security equipment and training.

2007
Supreme Court Committee on Security and Emergency Preparedness

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Arkansas Supreme Court

Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Court Security and Emergency Preparedness
(judges, legislators, executive agency officers, law enforcement, local officials)

75 local court security and emergency preparedness committees
- one in every county
(co-chaired by a circuit judge and the county executive)

AOC Director

Director of Court Security and E.P.
Local Committees on Security and Emergency Preparedness

The Local Committees were required to submit Security and Emergency Preparedness Plans to the AOC, based on a timetable established by the Supreme Court Committee, to be eligible to receive a portion of available grant funds.

Security and Emergency Preparedness Plans, as developed by the Supreme Court Committee, consist of the following:
- Court Facility Assessments
- Court Security Plan
- Emergency Response Plan
- Continuity of Operations Plan
$1,955,600.00 in Grants Awarded to Local Security Committees

The initial funds from the Court Security Grant program were awarded to the counties based on the submission of Security and Emergency Preparedness Plans.

**JAN**

All 75 counties created Local Committees and submitted Court Facility Assessments; **equally shared $250,000.00**.

**OCT**

66 counties submitted Court Security Plans and Emergency Response Plans; **equally shared $150,000.00**.

**2009**

$1,955,600.00 in Grants Awarded to Local Security Committees

The initial funds from the Court Security Grant program were awarded to the counties based on the submission of Security and Emergency Preparedness Plans.

42 counties created Local Committees and submitted Court Facility Assessments; **equally shared $304,000.00**.
$1,955,600.00 in Grants Awarded to Local Security Committees

The initial funds from the Court Security Grant program were awarded to the counties based on the submission of Security and Emergency Preparedness Plans.

JAN

All 75 counties created Local Committees and submitted Court Facility Assessments; equally shared $250,000.00.

OCT

66 counties submitted Court Security Plans and Emergency Response Plans; equally shared $150,000.00.
$1,955,600.00 in Grants Awarded to Local Security Committees

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2009

42 counties submitted Continuity of Operations Plans; equally shared $100,000.00.
$1,955,600.00 in Grants Awarded to Local Security Committees

The Supreme Court Committee later began accepting applications from the Local Committees. **The amount of funds requested far exceeded the available resources.**

2010

49 counties submitted applications seeking a total of **$868,930.61.**

24 applications were funded (with a max of **$15,000.00 per award**) a total of **$250,000.00.**
$1,955,600.00 in Grants Awarded to Local Security Committees

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2011

23 previously submitted applications seeking more than $400,000.00 were funded a total of $250,000.00.
$1,955,600.00 in Grants Awarded to Local Security Committees

The Supreme Court Committee later began accepting applications from the Local Committees. The amount of funds requested far exceeded the available resources.

2012

47 counties submitted applications seeking a total of $407,573.29.

27 applications were funded a total of $205,600.00.
$1,955,600.00 in Grants Awarded to Local Security Committees

The Supreme Court Committee later began accepting applications from the Local Committees. The amount of funds requested far exceeded the available resources.

2013

49 counties submitted applications seeking a total of $640,339.97.

23 applications were funded a total of $250,000.00.
$1,955,600.00 in Grants Awarded to Local Security Committees

The Supreme Court Committee later began accepting applications from the Local Committees. The amount of funds requested far exceeded the available resources.

2014

44 counties submitted applications seeking a total of $554,145.39.

21 applications were funded a total of $250,000.00.
$1,955,600.00 in Grants Awarded to Local Security Committees

The Supreme Court Committee later began accepting applications from the Local Committees. The amount of funds requested far exceeded the available resources.

2015

50 counties submitted applications seeking a total of $608,933.40.

19 applications were funded a total of $250,000.00.
NCSC + AOC = SJI Grant #1

In partnership with the National Center for State Courts the AOC was awarded a Technical Assistance Grant from the State Justice Institute.

The funds were utilized to develop a Policy and Procedure- Best Practices Manual.

Consultants from the NCSC included Timm Fautsko, Bill Duffy, and Kevin Sheehan.
The Technical Assistance Grant from the State Justice Institute also allowed the NCSC and AOC to develop a Court Security Officer training program. The curriculum is certified by the Arkansas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training.
NCSC + AOC= SJI Grant #1

NCSC consultants held a “Court Security Officer-Train the Trainer” event. Members of the Local Committees attended and were certified as instructors of the CSO training.
NCSC + AOC = SJI Grant #1

2014
Number of officers that have received the CSO training:

1,735
NCSC + AOC = SJI Grant #2

In partnership with the NCSC the AOC was awarded a Curriculum Adaptation & Training Grant from the State Justice Institute.

The grant funded the creation of an online training program which allows the AOC to establish a permanent and efficient way to deliver training that is critically needed by both new and experienced CSOs.

This training is certified by the Arkansas Commission on Law Enforcement and qualifies for training/education credits.
Courthouse security aim of new program

Online course one of a kind in U.S.

Court security training

Faulkner County Sheriff Andy Skaggs (from left), John Stewart, deputy director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, and Justice Rhonda Wood of the Arkansas Supreme Court watch a demonstration of a new online court security training program to be used by law enforcement officers nationwide. The interactive, online program was developed by the Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts.

Wood, a former county judge in Faulkner and Benton counties, is familiar with security problems in county buildings.

"Court security can be particular vulnerable public buildings. "The smaller the county, the more visible the stories," says Wood. "The courthouse represents government to everybody."

Wood noted that the online course could also be used as a training tool for recently hired officers.

"Only when your life is in danger should you become a person looking for trouble."

The course is available for free and can be completed in about an hour. It is available for free and can be completed in about an hour. It is available for free and can be completed in about an hour. It is available for free and can be completed in about an hour.
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