

EYES OVER BIXBY

Story by Denise S. Dieser, Marketing Communications Writer

WHEN THE CITY OF BIXBY, OKLAHOMA, WANTED TO DRAMATICALLY REDUCE VEHICLE CONGESTION AND IMPROVE TRAFFIC CONTROL ALONG ITS MAJOR ARTERIES, THE POLICE DEPARTMENT EYED THE SKY. A NETWORK OF PELCO ESPRIT POSITIONING SYSTEMS DELIVERED THIS CAPABILITY - AND MORE.

In conjunction with a DX8000 recording solution, the eyes over Bixby proved invaluable for enhancing public and officer safety. "The cameras have greatly increased our ability to protect Bixby citizens and visitors. The system allows us to put 'eyes' on an area before an officer can arrive. It also lets us watch multiple intersections without having an officer at each location," said Lt. Paul Tryon, and 18-year veteran on the force. "They are using the video for police back up, Amber Alerts, stolen vehicles, domestic violence and public safety."

"The system has been used in all of these situations successfully and gives them video backup of intersections and real-time video so police can act in a timely fashion to incidents," said Steve Vandervort, President of Direct Communications, the Pelco Dealer who installed the system, primarily consisting of Esprit positioning systems and a DX8000 digital video recorder.

Tryon said that Police Chief Anthony Stephens, Bixby Mayor Joe Williams, and other city representatives initially traveled to Texas to look at a police department's mobile computer system and records management system, but also happened to see the cameras covering the city streets. "They thought that it was a good program and wanted to implement it in Bixby."

Impressive System, Easy to Use "I am very impressed with the range and clarity of

the Pelco cameras, and the recording feature allows us to go back and search for an event," Tryon said. "They work extremely well and have helped increase our ability to cover many more areas of the city." Communications Officer Paula Cottongim, who is one of the main operators of the camera system, said the search capabilities of the DX8000 are working out great for them. "I like the feature where you can go back to a specific time period and check for something – and the system is very easy to learn and use." Tryon said that the overall community response has been very favorable.

Video Doesn't Lie Vandervort said there's an Esprit at every traffic intersection and one to monitor traffic on the bridge over the Arkansas River. Lt. Tryon clarified that the cameras are not used for traffic enforcement, though. "We don't use them to issue tickets for traffic violations and can't because there is no provision for it in city or state law." Tryon said the city does plan further expansion for cameras to cover city hall, the police department and two city parks. "We have already expanded the system to have cameras view the city jail, which has helped in cutting down vandalism in the jail cells."

Tryon also mentioned that the Pelco cameras were especially helpful after a recent traffic accident was caught on tape. "Shortly after the cameras were installed, there was a traffic accident near one of our main intersections. The driver who caused the accident denied causing it and gave an entirely different version of what really occurred. The camera recording showed what really happened."

